

2018 Citizens for a Fair Ferndale Candidate Forum

Library Board Candidate

Saturday, November 3rd, 2p-4p at the Ferndale Area District Library

Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

1. **NAME:** Kevin Yezbick

2. **PHONE OR EMAIL WHERE CITIZENS CAN REACH YOU:**

(248) 259-4410

3. **Why are you running for Library Board?** I believe libraries are integral anchor institutions that strengthen communities through the services they provide and the fostering of a welcoming third place for people to gather and exchange ideas. That place extends beyond the library walls, however, through outreach into the schools, senior living, and events where we can empower those who aren't in our physical building. Committing to service on the Library Board utilizes my strengths and passions to best serve my community as I'm committed to ensuring the Library has the strongest foundation on which to build on Its mission *to strengthen the community by providing access to materials and services that inform, enrich, entertain, and empower.*

4. **What specific experience have you had that prepares you to serve on the Library Board?** I worked at the Farmington Community Library for ten years in multiple roles before moving into my current position managing digital assets in the private sector. I have experience as an Interlibrary Loan volunteer, a Paraprofessional, a Reference Librarian, and a Young Adult Librarian. Each of those positions include several different responsibilities not limited to programming, collection development, and opportunities in professional development through committee work and membership in both the Michigan Library Association and the American Library Association. I am also a regular patron of the Ferndale Area District Library. I believe these experiences provide me with the insight needed to recognize the strengths and opportunities we have to strengthen the service we provide Ferndale.

5. **What are the two most pressing issues facing the Ferndale Area District Library at this time?** We are currently finalizing the purchase of the building

from the city which will complete our transformation into a District Library in line with our strategic plan. Secondly, telling our story. Getting our message out into the community and raising awareness of the services we offer is always going to be a priority. Letting people know how far we've come over the past few years - the successes we've had and that we continue to strive for.

6. **How is the library responding (or how would you like to see the library respond) to the changes in information technology?** Physically - we will be updating our computers very soon. We also have a very popular wifi hotspot partnership that allows patrons to check out personal hotspots. Philosophically - we are committed to the professional development of our staff - who in staying current with trends in information technology are able to utilize those skills in educating and assisting with our patrons as well as themselves.
7. **What do you see as the strengths of the library?** Community support. Our professional staff and their wonderful programming and engagement with the community and outreach. Our centralized location.
8. **What aspects of the library do you see as needing improvement?** The Library is constantly looking to improve. I think in the very near future you'll be seeing an improvement in aesthetics and maintenance of the building.