

**CFF Candidate Questionnaire
Mayor and City Council Candidates
November 2019 Election**

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Please provide responses to the following prompts:

Describe your community involvement.

I am a community activist supporting and talking to neighbors about Medicare For All, ballot proposals, and candidates for office like Abdul El-Sayed and Robert Wittenberg

Why did you decide to run for City Council/Mayor? What has prepared you to hold a City Council/Mayor seat?

I knew I needed to run for mayor when I saw the same people running that voted to allow big developers to make huge profits off of our city resulting in the unaffordability crisis we are in now. I will not allow Ferndale to continue to be transformed from a working class community into a bourgeoisie playground, all in an effort to increase the city revenue coming from property taxes.

What is the most productive relationship between Council and the City Manager?

I believe the democratically elected mayor and city council sets guidelines for the city manager and acts as a check on the actions of city hall. This is key to the city functioning in the best interests of the residents.

When there is disagreement on any issue among members of the City Council what is the responsibility of each individual Council member?

Disagreement is healthy and serves to offer varying perspective. It is up to each member of city council to respectfully listen to varying perspectives of the others to effectively lead the community and decide the future actions of city hall.

What role do Boards and Commissions play in Ferndale's Government? How should members be recruited/screened?

The boards of commissions play a key role in democratic planning of the city functions. They brainstorm ways for the city to better serve the community and act as a gatekeeper for related proposed actions before the city council decides. Members should be chosen to ensure that the diversity of the community is incorporated into the body.

How will you work to promote inclusion of populations that might feel excluded in this community?

I strongly believe that the best functioning community is one that truly seeks out the needs and potential effects of actions on the whole community as well as how the current state affects everyone. Everyone needs to know they are welcome in Ferndale, whether they live here now, or want to move here in the future. I plan to listen and carefully consider everyone's perspective on matters in the community.

Describe the type of development that you see as most beneficial to Ferndale.

I do not see all development as bad. However, the primarily luxury housing agenda the city has had for the past 5-10 years or so. We cannot have development just for developers' sake. Development must address the needs of the residents as a whole, and must consider equity in the community.

What specific ideas do you have for reducing expenditures while maintaining city services?

The city must stop wasting money on studies and consultants to tell us what we already know or what our own city employees should be doing. The goal of increasing property taxes has led to an increasing rate of gentrification in Ferndale. Housing cost and rent is skyrocketing and needs to be controlled. The city can start with recouping unnecessary tax breaks to wealthy out of town developers. Our tax dollars must not be spent to subsidize the developers helping to gentrify the community.

Describe one program you would champion to help foster community.

I will champion a local Green New Deal in Ferndale. This is a broad policy to focus on economic and ecological sustainability. We will focus on developments and infrastructure improvements that will target zero waste and zero fossil fuel emissions. These projects will be targeted for the most vulnerable communities (elderly, poor, flood and storm zones, etc.). This ties into the goal of permanently affordable housing. By making housing truly affordable, residents will be able to have the freedom to remain in the city they love and have the ability to sustain their lives in the community.

Where do you see Ferndale in five years?

Ferndale is a very progressive community that is welcoming to everyone. I see the community demanding that these values are displayed in the actions taken from the city, guided by the mayor and city council. I believe the country will see another financial downturn and we must be prepared to weather it, by creating permanently affordable housing.