

**CFF Candidate Questionnaire
Mayor and City Council Candidates
November 2019 Election
(2 year Term)**

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Please provide responses to the following prompts:

- **Describe your community involvement.**

Over the years I have attended, participated and volunteered in many of the city's events, festivals, and fundraisers. As a supporter of the arts, I have attended fundraisers for the DDA's public art projects for multiple years. I have also led and facilitated fundraising efforts through the Detroit Curling Club (located in Ferndale) that have benefited Ferncare and THAW. As a supporter of living and shopping locally, I frequent many of the business within the city's borders.

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

I have lived in Ferndale for almost two decades and now that I have put down roots with the recent purchase of my first home, I want to take this opportunity to better serve the community and its residents. My driven nature and strong work ethic, combined with my passion for this community, will provide for some new perspectives when considering Ferndale's future.

For the past 20 years, I have worked as a graphic designer for a small, female-run business in Royal Oak supporting local businesses with their advertising and promotional needs. My role has allowed me to wear many hats over the years, including purchasing and supply management, client interactions, and office management support.

I have also been a long-time member of the Detroit Curling Club, where I served as a 10-year member of the Board of Directors and a three-term president. During my tenure, I have collaborated with local community groups on fundraising initiatives and community outreach efforts. This role also required me to coordinate and interact with numerous vendors, contractors and city employees. In addition, I chaired many local and national events coordinating with both U.S. national curling organizations. I gained further board experience while holding a seat on the Advisory Board for the Clawson YWCA for 3 years where we raised funds for programs that focused on supporting women's health and wellness, as well as youth community outreach.

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

The relationship between Council and City Manager should be that of a partnership. The City Council should maintain and set policies, explore new programs, oversee the progress of the community and listen to the concerns of its residents. The City Manager should oversee the day-to-day operations of the city and employ good communication with the council. This partnership is crucial in providing the best services for our residents.

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

When there is a disagreement it is the responsibility of each council member to treat each other with respect and consideration. The members should listen to all points of view and provide a healthy discourse. Ideally, this should resolve the issue and provide the best solution to benefit the community.

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

Boards and commissions play an integral part in the planning and development of a community. They are a great opportunity for residents and business owners to participate in the political process.

Any resident who has an interest should be able to apply. The application process should be easily accessible and open to all. If the Board or Commission have multiple openings or a specific purpose, a targeted search for members could be acceptable to fill the positions.

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

I would promote the city's vast amount of community programs, as we have a wonderful variety to meet the needs of any resident, be they youth, adult, or senior. Additionally, I see promoting Ferndale's various social and cultural organizations as a key to success. The city is such a vibrant and uniquely diverse community that maintaining this diversity requires a sincere commitment to inclusiveness. I see this vibrancy as the lifeblood of continued progress in Ferndale.

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

A practical and sustainable mix of residential and small business developments are essential in managing the amazing growth we have seen over the last few years. We need to ensure the Council is making choices that benefit all of Ferndale's residents and business owners. We are in a good position to attract large development; however, there comes a point where we need to critically examine the growth we are experiencing to affirm the core values of the city and preserve the amazing sense of community that Ferndale possesses.

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

One of Ferndale's many strengths is our great city services and it is vital that we continue this excellence by making educated decisions on budgetary issues. The Council should strive to approve fiscally responsible proposals and contracts that reduce excess while streamlining city processes. Investing in city infrastructure in the present will reduce maintenance expenditures in the future and help ensure the quality of our city services to the community.

- **Describe one program you would champion to help foster community.**

I would like to do more to support the non-profit Ferncare. I feel that affordable health care, or the lack of health care, is a very important issue that we struggle with locally as well as nationally. Ferncare is a great resource for the area and provides a beneficial service to the community at large.

- **Where do you see Ferndale in five years?**

I believe that Ferndale will continue to be the vibrant and diverse community that it currently is, provided there is effective leadership working towards this ideal. However, we need to be mindful not to alienate or under-represent any of our residents, nor the small business owners who serve them. We need to make sure that the great strides in development we have been making do not change our "small town" feel. We are a beacon of Southern Oakland County and I hope we can continue to live up to the current vision for our community: "Ferndale: The benchmark for a modern community that embraces the richness of diversity and brings inclusive hospitality to life."