

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

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Please provide responses to the following prompts:

- **Describe your community involvement.**
For many years I have been an activist fighting for racial justice, women's rights and against climate change. This work has taken me to various parts of Metro-Detroit where I have fought for people's right to live a dignified life.
- **Why did you decide to run for City Council/Mayor? What has prepared you to hold a City Council/Mayor seat?**
While I have cared and fought for rights at a national level of politics, the longer I have been a resident in Ferndale, the more I have learned of the importance local politics have in our day-to-day life. I can no longer sit by and watch as our city falls to developers and pushes people out due to affordability. My work as an activist and my job in healthcare have prepared to be an advocate for others when they are at their most vulnerable.
- **What is the most productive relationship between Council and the City Manager?**
Productive relationships occur when both groups are responsive to one another's needs. The City Manager promptly implementing City Council's policies and requests, and City Council being open to the ideas and suggestions of our City Manager. Both groups must trust that they have the best intentions of the city in mind and feel safe to speak up about concerns and needs.
- **When there is disagreement on any issue among members of the City Council what is the responsibility of each individual Council member?**
Disagreements happen, but when they do it is necessary that each member actively listen to what is being said and work to empathize and understand one another. Each member should ensure that all members feel comfortable speaking up to ensure healthy and effective debate during disagreements.
- **What role do Boards and Commissions play in Ferndale's Government? How should members be recruited/screened?**
Our Boards and Commissions play a vital role in giving our residents a voice in our government. By covering a variety of topics and concerns, we are able to hear the diverse concerns and recommendations needed to keep our city thriving. More outreach must be done to educate our residents regarding the existence of these Boards and Commissions and the ways they may get involved. For example, our Boards and Commissions could have a presence at festivals and other events. This would serve as an excellent opportunity for education and recruitment. Also more

transparency is also needed regarding the screening process and expectations of members.

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

First, groups feel included and welcomed when they see representation in our city. This is the result of our policies, but more importantly, our businesses. Currently, many groups feel excluded by our downtown due to a lack of diverse businesses. This must change. We need diverse businesses in our downtown and throughout our city. Secondly, we need more sustainable affordable and public housing options that will encourage socioeconomic diversity into our city.

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

Ferndale is in the midst of a housing crisis we need to invest in building sustainable, green public housing that can meet our desperate need for affordable housing.

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

Taking back our streetlights! The city of Ferndale only owns 36 of 1839 streetlights with DTE owning the remainder. We can take these lights back, and use renewable energy sources to power them. This would also create well-paying jobs that our city needs since most people that work in Ferndale are unable to afford living in Ferndale.

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

Ferndale is composed of 40% of renters which is higher than the state average. Many renters feel they do not have a voice in Ferndale politics. I would fight for the creation of a Tenant's Union to bring these renters together, ensure they are aware of their rights and have a collective voice that will be heard by our community.

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

Ferndale is at a critical intersection. If we continue down the path we are currently on, in five years' time, we will be overrun with luxury developments that will push families out and encourage high turn over rates of renters. We will lose our sense of community and fall prey to gentrification. I do not want to see that happen. That is why I am running for city council. I want to ensure that we take the other path where we put people over profit by building green sustainable public housing, push for ownership of our utilities, and foster a lasting sense of community where both home owners and renters have a voice.