



Citizens for a **Fair Ferndale**

2023 City of Ferndale Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

1. What has led you to run for Mayor of Ferndale? What experience do you bring to this position?

I have been a public servant for the last 11 years and have been a resident of Ferndale for over 30 years. I served on the Ferndale School Board from 2012-2015 and serve on the Ferndale City Council, elected in 2016-present. During my 11 years of service, I have built strong relationships within the community and have applied all of experience to smart, policy making and trusted leadership. I have been a dedicated a committed public servant and would like to apply my school board and council experience and skillset as the Mayor of Ferndale.

2. What is your position on affordable housing in Ferndale?

I am a champion for affordable housing. I speak with people daily, who suffer from housing insecurity. I recognize the need to have such resources within a community. I am proud to be in a position to help bring affordable and accessible housing to Ferndale. I serve on the Ferndale Incentives Committee and the Ferndale Accessibility, Advisory, Inclusion Commission, both of which allow me to assess Ferndale's housing and accessibility needs from the perspective of someone who works with seniors and disabled adults and sees firsthand , a need for more housing resources in the community.

3. What is your vision for the future of development in Ferndale?

I see Ferndale's future as becoming an even more vibrant, welcoming community that embraces affordable, accessible housing, supports a multigenerational community, becoming more diverse in terms of regional transit, more investment in our recreational space, smart, responsible development conducive to our community's needs and a place where those of all income levels can call home.

4. What are the ways in which you see Ferndale moving toward racial equity?

The City of Ferndale adopted an Anti-Racism Declaration Policy in 2020, affirming the city's commitment to racial equity. The city has also adopted the "ban the box" policy in 2016, an initiative brought forth by me and supported by the council. The city proudly celebrates Black History month by the raising of the Pan African Flag for the entire month of February; the Pride Flag is raised during the entire month of June and acknowledges Juneteenth as a holiday. In addition to this, the City of Ferndale has brought forth a Citizen's Police Advisory Review Board, with the intent to promote transparency, accountability and open communications between law enforcement and community members. I am proud to have been able to support these actions supporting racial equity and look forward to supporting more initiatives that will continue to promote a welcoming environment to all who reside, work in or visit our community.

5. What is your position on climate sustainability as it relates to city government?

I am proud to have been able to have been able to support steps that the City of Ferndale has taken in regards to climate sustainability.

We hired a sustainability planner to oversee climate initiatives. As a result, the city has participated in city-wide composting, distribution of rain barrels, recycling bins for and incorporating recycling initiatives for apartments as well. The city encourages residential, native landscapes and has adopted an integrated Climate Action Plan with a focus on climate resiliency pertaining to extreme weather conditions, global health crises, how to curb carbon emissions and a waste reduction and recycling master plan for our downtown area and more.

6. What is your position on the financial state of the city, and the Headlee Override?

The Headlee Override is due to sunset in 2025. The City of Ferndale has appointed a group of community member to a financial task force that will decide whether or not to put the Headlee millage initiative on the 2024 ballot for voters to decide on. This millage is responsible for 30% of the property tax revenue, which equates to about \$3.7 million. A loss of this revenue will greatly affect the level of city services that we have grown to appreciate over the years. As a current council member and mayoral candidate, I support this ballot initiative to go to the vote of the community; as a resident, I love my city services and intend to support this initiative.

7. What do you think will be your greatest challenge if you are elected to this position, and how do you see yourself overcoming it?

If I am elected to be the Mayor of Ferndale, I believe that my biggest challenge will be to accept the way in which I know how to lead and that it is ok to be different. When you are fortunate enough to have been able to learn and grow from others in leadership, as I have had the privilege

of doing, it is important to recognize your leadership style and embrace that, to realize that a change in leadership style can bring about new ideas and further promote city progression from a different perspective. Change + vision=new ideas!