



Citizens for a **Fair Ferndale**

2023 City of Ferndale Councilperson Candidate Questionnaire

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

I am running for City Council to continue my decades-long tenure of public service. I served a temporary term as a council member in 2019. While serving this term, I was able to accomplish three big goals in five months (criminalizing conversion therapy that is harmful to our LGBTQ+ youth), drafted and received unanimous support for the ordinance prohibiting sales papers from being thrown on the streets, in our yards, etc., and drafted the resolution against the uprising white supremacy movement in 2019. I am a licensed attorney, an emergency management coordinator, a retired whistleblower police officer, and currently an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. I have attained the following degrees: Master of Public Administration, Juris Doctor, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, and an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts.

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

We must enact policy, when we are legally able, that approval for new projects must have a portion allocated to affordable housing. We should also support any other ordinances, resolutions, or policies that would support making Ferndale affordable.

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

Any future development must fit within community standards. Many times, the law does not require city council approval; however, for those instances that do (for zoning variances, tax incentives, etc.), then the city council must not permit development that takes away from the character of Ferndale or does not fit within affordable housing. Additionally, I recently stood against a car wash being built on Woodward as most all of the neighbors were against it and it simply did not fit within Ferndale standards.

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

I see Ferndale moving forward toward racial equity by encouraging all persons, regardless of background, race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, physical limitations, etc., to locate here or visit Ferndale. The city council must be vigilant in enacting ordinances, resolutions, and policies that strive toward racial equity in

employment and housing. We must be vigilant in reviewing any current policies or ordinances that cause inequity based on race.

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

Climate sustainability must be a priority, not only for Ferndale, but everywhere! We must mandate the use of new technology to conserve energy and use energy more efficiently. Additionally, I am proud to be endorsed by The Sierra Club.

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

Ferndale, like other cities, has experienced the state further decreasing state-shared revenue. The Headlee Override was last passed in 2015 to maintain the tax levels to provide services. This year, the Headlee Override expires. Currently, there is a citizens committee to reexamine all aspects of the budget, seek our resident priorities, and report back to council. If the Headlee is placed on the ballot, it will not be the city council that passed it or rejects it, it will be a vote of the residents. More importantly, a city council member must be prepared to wisely spend any tax dollars if the Headlee were to pass or fail.

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?

I think the greatest challenge for me will be maintaining our city services within the confines of a reduced budget. I will overcome that by listening to residents' priorities on which services are most important to them and set budgeting priorities and allocations based on these views.