

2026 Ferndale Area District Library - Library Board Candidate Questionnaire
FairFerndale.org

1. What experiences have led you to run/rerun for Library Board?

An informed and well-read community is a smart and creative community – libraries play an important role in this, providing access to essential tools and materials. My personal experiences with libraries affirm this, and I hope to continue serving our community to ensure everyone has access to such resources.

2. What do you see are the strengths and weaknesses of the Ferndale Area District Library?

FADL's greatest strength is its community of supporters. This coupled with a staff that loves our city and embodies everything that makes Ferndale such a vibrant, desirable place to be is our superpower. Having support like this, both inside and out, allows us to offer diverse programming and materials that reflect the community.

Our weakness is building maintenance and upkeep. Because FADL is an independent entity from the City of Ferndale, we don't have a facilities team to respond to day-to-day and long-term building and site needs; this falls under the responsibility of our director, who is a librarian (not a contractor). Having an independent district library is not a weakness, it just means sole responsibility for our aging building – and lots of upkeep and service contracts to manage. I'm so grateful to Ferndale voters, who seem to understand this – with the passage of the Capital Improvement millage in August, we can now address major building issues we anticipate in the coming years.

3. Ferndale voters recently voted to approve a library millage. How does this affect library operations? How can voters expect to see this millage used?

The renewal of the Operations Millage ensures FADL's doors stay open, the lights stay on, our staff gets paid, existing resources and technology remain accessible to the community, our materials and collections stay fresh relevant, and our programs remain free. Restoring that funding means Ferndalians and library card holders from around our district will continue to get the same (if not improved) level of service they've come to expect. Without that millage, the library would've lost 99% of its funding. The passage of the Capital Improvements millage allows us to address costly issues we've experienced with the HVAC system, replace carpeting and portions of the roof, and improve technology throughout the library.

4. How do you see collaboration between the Ferndale Library and city governments/ other local stakeholders?

FADL has a collaborative relationship with Ferndale Public Schools and City government, even though we are a separate entity from both. We will continue participating in school-related events and activities, as well as the city events that

make sense. One successful collaboration with Ferndale Parks and Recreation is the Story Trail at Martin Road Park. It would be great to have more of these throughout the city. A good example of our collaboration with FPS is the Battle of the Books program, Both of these are managed by our spectacular youth librarian team, which is extremely active in our schools.

Our library director and department heads often present to the Ferndale City Council and FPS School Board about events, new programs and other important library activities to ensure the community is informed and collaboration remains priority.

5. What are your thoughts on the way FADL provides accommodations for patrons and others with disabilities (physical/mental/emotional)?
 - a. *Accessibility is at the forefront of our mission. Our staff and board work hard to create neuroinclusive programming and environments, making sure everyone feels welcome, heard, seen and respected. At the board level, we regularly review and update our policies and procedures to ensure our staff and patrons get the respect they deserve, and we encourage feedback from patrons with disabilities or accessibility challenges to let us know how we can improve.*
6. What role does AI (artificial intelligence) have in library operations?
 - a. *Good question. It seems nearly all technology has been impacted by the emergence of AI. Outside of general AI engines that make analyzing data more efficient, I cannot point to any specific tool at the library that's been positively or negatively impacted by AI. I anticipate AI will play a greater role as technology and resources continue to evolve, and our library policies will have to follow suit to ensure privacy is protected.*
7. In what ways do you see FADL working toward racial equity?
 - a. *Equity is a core value of FADL and any acts of racism, passive or direct, are not tolerated at our building or events. Our policies reflect this, as well as a general stewardship to maintain an inclusive, accessible environment for all. We also take pride in our collections, which include materials that inform and educate about societal challenges with racial inequity, unconscious bias, and world history related to civil injustice.*
8. How do you see FADL working toward climate sustainability?
 - a. *Sustainability is incredibly important to our community and as a reflection of that, FADL continually works to reduce its carbon footprint. Our building is LEED Silver certified, in part due to our green roof and geothermal energy system. Most recently, we've converted all of our building lighting to LED. Thanks to the recently passed millages, we're able to maintain this level of climate responsibility.*
9. Are there any additional thoughts you would like to share?
 - a. *I encourage everyone to vote in this incredibly important upcoming Mid-term Election. My fellow candidates and I are planning an informal "Get Out the Vote |*

Meet the FADL Board Candidates” event, currently set for Oct. 17 at the Corner Shop on Woodward in Ferndale. Hope to see folks there!