

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

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

I have lived in Ferndale for 23 years and use the library regularly. The library has had such a positive impact on me and my family that I applied to be appointed when a vacancy occurred several years ago. I was appointed at that time and then elected in the next election cycle. My intent has always been to serve the institution and the community that has made such a difference for me.

I work as an elementary school principal. Literacy, especially early literacy and support of struggling readers, is a major professional focus for me.

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

The library's staff is highly qualified, motivated and creative. They always seem to be asking "what more can we do?" The result is a library that is responsive to the community. I see the recent strategic plan as a strength as well. This plan was based on lots of community input and helps us focus our efforts on the the materials, programs and facilities our community values the most.

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 first millage will fund continued operations. Voters can expect to see a continuation of the engaging programming and up-to-date materials. This includes ever-changing (and growing!) digital and online materials. The second millage will fund capital improvements, including new carpeting, repairs to the roof, replacement of several geothermal pumps and more.

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

As a district library, the Ferndale Library partners with the Ferndale Public Schools. This is a strong partnership. The library holds a Battle of the Books for 5th grade students, visits preschool classes for storytime, offers curriculum support to teachers, takes student groups on tours of the library and hosts book clubs in the secondary schools. The result is a sense of welcome and service for the children of our community.

5. What are your thoughts on the way FADL provides accommodations for patrons and others with disabilities (physical/mental/emotional)?

I think the library does a nice job on this- and is always looking for more ways to make sure everyone can benefit from the library. Currently, they do home deliveries on a regular basis for several homebound patrons. The building itself is designed to accommodate patrons with many types of disabilities: high contrast signage, no-contact checkout stations, etc. I have found the staff to be exceptionally helpful, patient and kind.

6. What role does AI (artificial intelligence) have in library operations?

AI presents an opportunity and a challenge: the opportunity of greater access and intelligibility of information but the challenge of digital literacy and avoiding stereotypes. I predict the role of professional librarians will be more important as AI becomes a bigger part of our lives.

7. In what ways do you see FADL working toward racial equity?

I see FADL working toward equity by building physical and digital collections that represent characters, points of view and life experiences. But, even more importantly, the FADL provides a space where everyone is welcome and people of all races share space, resources and conversation. I think of the FADL as the living room of our community, where everyone is welcome and everyone has access to the resources of our community.

8. How do you see FADL working toward climate sustainability?

The building itself has several features that are climate-friendly: geothermal heating, green roof, etc. The second millage that voters approved in August will allow these features to continue. But, the very concept of a library is climate-friendly: we are sharing resources instead of each of us buying it ourselves. This is true for books- but also the library of things, puzzles, games and so much more!

9. Are there any additional thoughts you would like to share?

Thanks for leading this effort!