

2020 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Please respectfully consider answering the below questions and return them to Karyl@HBAofIC.org by Monday, September 21, 2020.

The Greater Iowa City Area Home Builders Association Legislative Committee will review this questionnaire and may request a follow up interview to ask you to elaborate on some of your answers.

1. Why are you running and what are your priorities if elected?

I love Coralville, the place I have called home for the last 20 years. This is where my husband and I are raising four beautiful children. This is where we have spent countless hours enjoying Coralville's many amenities and devoting ourselves to its school and community organizations. I have served my community in the last 20 years in many different ways and now I realized I am ready to serve in a new way. I have heard countless stories about a lack of resources and support in Coralville. For a while now, I have sensed there are policies that are not serving all of our residents. As we faced new and difficult challenges, I became more compelled than ever to take the next steps into service. Volunteering and listening no longer seemed like enough. I decided I need to become one of the decision-makers and be a voice of representation that is often missing at the discussion table, with the power and influence to make positive, real change for our most vulnerable neighbors.

My plan for Coralville's future is to collectively create a Coralville that puts people first. I believe all who call Coralville home should be able to live safe, healthy, and dignified lives regardless of race or class. That means we must take bold action to advance racial and economic justice. I believe everyone who wants to live in Coralville should be able to afford to do so, which means we must invest more public funds in affordable housing projects and champion equitable community development strategies. I believe all of our neighbors should be able to safely and efficiently travel to work, medical appointments, the grocery store, and other essential destinations – we need a transit system, streets, and walkways that make that possible. And finally, I believe we must continue to build resilience as a community to withstand future climate disasters that will unfairly impact our most vulnerable neighbors.

I do my homework, I work hard, and I have been a problem-solver all my life and I know I can apply these skills to ensure our local government makes decisions that benefit all of Coralville. A city's leadership should reflect the community it represents. I believe my history and vast experience working with people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds gives me a unique understanding, compassion, and insights into the true and often unseen need of our community.

2. How would you facilitate a continued favorable economic environment for your community?

Coralville is a wonderful place with many amenities, but most are out of reach for a large portion of its citizens. So with every decision-making opportunity that we, as a city have, we need to consider who does this benefit and whether it reflects the needs of all who called Coralville home, or does it just cater to the well-resourced? Our local economy has suffered greatly at the hands of COVID-19. As a community, we need to do everything we can to limit the spread of this disease and ensure that support is available for all. We need to stimulate and diversify our economy, whether it be coming up with strategies to help our small businesses keep their doors open or collaborating with public and private partners to create jobs and bring in tax revenue. We need to identify new strategies for neighborhood outreach and include more voices, especially the most vulnerable ones, in the community development-making process. Being one of the most diverse cities in Iowa, Coralville should and need to establish a fund to support businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, Latina/o/x, and other people of color who call Coralville home. We need to re-imagine the Southeast Commercial District to protect and improve existing affordable housing and investing in new affordable housing projects, along with preserving businesses owned by communities of color. We also need to develop future-focused strategies to accommodate the changing needs for families and young professionals such as building partnerships with private and public entities to offer affordable cultural and entertainment activities, more shared work/meeting spaces, and affordable high-speed internet for all.

3. How do you feel about the current government regulatory environment and how might you improve what is currently in place?

I believe the government, whether local, state, or federal, should have regulatory protections in place to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors do not fall through the cracks. I am a believer in local control—for example, cities, counties, and other municipalities should be able to establish their own minimum wage or protect renters from eviction during COVID. When it comes to regulations of interest to the HBA of Iowa City such as building code, I am admittedly under-informed--but vow to do my research. Clearly, there are and should be universal standards in place, but each local community should have some degree of flexibility to determine what is best for their unique community.

4. What are your thoughts on TIF funding for projects that enhance economic growth and are you favorably disposed as to how this has been utilized by current and past councils?

TIF has its advantages and disadvantages. Because of TIF, Coralville has seen huge economic growth in the last 20 years. A few examples of a TIF project that I could get behind would involve bringing a vital business like a grocery store or food market to an under-resourced neighborhood, or creating an accessible green space, or improved roads that offer access to essential destinations for our marginalized neighbors, or clean up a contaminated area and turn it into a business area that provides jobs and bringing in tax revenue. Going forward, I want to make sure every new development projects, whether funded by TIF or not, benefit everyday people, not just developers.

5. How do you plan to address the issue of affordable housing in your community?

In the last 20 years, I have proudly lived in a mobile home community, a subsidized apartment, a duplex, and a single-family home. I am here today because I have these options available to me. My experience gives me a true understanding of the need for affordable housing and the positive impact it has on our most vulnerable neighbors. I want everyone who wants to call Coralville home should be able to afford to live here. I believe housing is a right, and every single one of our neighbors deserves a home that's safe and affordable. As a city, we need to protect existing affordable housing options and invest in new affordable housing projects. If we want the future in Coralville to be accessible to all, we need to make affordable housing a priority. We need to make it illegal for corporate landlords to refuse to rent to section 8 and assist private landlords in the process of renting to section 8 to ensure that the need for affordable housing in our community is being met quickly and safely.

Home building generates substantial local economic activity, including new income and jobs for residents, and additional revenue for local governments.

The estimated one-year impacts of building 100 single-family homes in a typical local area include: \$28.7 million in local income, \$3.6 million in taxes and other revenue for local governments, and 394 local jobs.

The additional, annually recurring impacts of building 100 single-family homes in a typical local area include: \$4.1 million in local income, \$1.0 million in taxes and other revenue for local governments, and 69 local jobs.

6. How do you plan to engage our membership to further enhance our area?

Coralville is a rapidly growing city in the last 20 years and has to accommodate the expanding needs of its residents. To ensure all needs are being addressed, we need to actively engage in conversations with community members. Listening is important and I will continue to listen and learn if elected to the City Council. I would be interested in

sitting in on HBA of Iowa City meetings, especially those that involve discussing future development strategies and opportunities for the Coralville community.

Your answers will be shared with the members of The Greater Iowa City Area Home Builders Association.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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