



City of Ferrysburg Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Daniel S. Ruiter

Employer: Retired from Herman Miller Inc (Project Manager - PMP, Customer Relationship Manager). Employed City of Ferrysburg_(Mayor)

*Please feel free to attach a separate sheet if the space provided is not sufficient.

General

1. What qualifications/experience do you feel you possess that will enable you to fulfill the responsibilities of the elected office you are seeking?

- My education: BS Business Administration from Aquinas College majoring in Accounting and Information Technology. Graduated Cum Laude.
- My 13 years city experience: 8+ years on City Council and my 5+years as Mayor
- My history of effective leadership

2. Have you ever run for political office before? If yes, please explain.

Yes 2 times for Ferrysburg City Council (I was initially appointed), and another 3 times for Mayor of Ferrysburg.

3. If elected, what would be your top priorities and why?

- Safety and security of our residents
- Financial stability (Control expenses, doing everything possible to be able to finance future expenses without selling city assets)
- Smith's bridge. Current inspections expose serious issues with the bridge that will require repair or replacement
- Local street conditions
- Effective leadership considering 2 senior council members are term limited and will not return after November.

4. What is your vision for the next 10 years for the City and how will your leadership help accomplish that vision?

My vision for the next 10 years is to continue the accomplishments of the last 10+ years, under my leadership, to have a positive balance sheet and a balanced budget that does not depend on savings.

Economic Development, Tax and General Policy

1. As Mayor what do you consider your role in retaining and attracting new business and industry to the City?

Ferrysburg in essence is a bedroom community, there is very little available land or vacancy to support current business expansion or attract new business to our city. I will use the Chamber's resources to advice and recommend alternatives.

2. What is the number one challenge facing business growth and development in the City?

As I stated before - The lack of vacancy and land

3. What is the number one area that the City should invest in financially?

I believe it should be in infrastructure; local streets, and water\sewer facilities. Modern and effective fire and police equipment is also essential.

4. Do you support the use of tax abatements and /or special tax incentives to create jobs and spur economic growth? Why or why not?

As stated before I don't believe our community is in a situation where those are needed. If in fact a TIF or a brownfield would be an effective tool in the future I am more than eager to utilize them.

5. As we move to a more regional community and in the face of continued fiscal constraints, what are your thoughts on consolidation of services (police, fire, schools, transportation to name a few)?

Under my leadership I have encouraged collaboration when ever possible:

- Police services
- Mutual aid for fire
- Community water and sewer (NOWS)
- Chamber services
- Harbor transit
- Senior services
- Library
- Museum
- Schools
- There are many many more

Talent Attraction

1. Local business and industry has identified that barriers to growth are lack of affordable housing, regional public transportation and qualified employees. As Mayor, what role would you provide in helping to address these issues?

- We rely on faith based organizations (too numerous to list)
- Neighborhood Housing Services on a referral basis
- We could use a PUD to establish an inventory to supply some needs
- The Chamber's boomerang program is an effective program to retain talent
- Linking transportation services with neighboring communities

Environmental Policy

1. How would you suggest green space be preserved while at the same time sustaining economic development and growth?

I encourage preservation of green space, in Ferrysburg we enjoy a large amount of parks and recreation areas. That inventory doesn't include our water resources that we also enjoy during all seasons.

Transportation Infrastructure

1. In your opinion, what role do you think local/state government may play in further expanding the regional transportation services throughout West Michigan?

I encourage and support our Harbor Transit program and am thrilled that it now includes service to a wider audience in the townships

I would like to see linkages established between the transportation services provided in neighboring communities, especially to our north and south.

Please attach additional information regarding your community and business affiliations.

-Member Ferrysburg Community Church

-Executive Board Member – Friends of Grand Haven State Park

-Salvation Army Capital Campaign

-Advisory Board – Lakeshore Pregnancy Center - Positive Options

-President Holiday Condominiums HOA

-Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

-Mayor's Breakfast – On July 4th every year

-PMI - Project management Institute

-American Legion