



Iowa City Area
Business Partnership's
2021 Voter's Guide
to the Coralville Mayoral
and City Council Elections

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Coralville Mayoral Candidate 2021



Meghann Foster

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Community Service: Coralville City Council (elected in 2017)
Johnson County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Johnson County Juvenile Justice and Youth Development Policy Board (JJYD)
East Central Iowa Council of Governments (2019-2020)
Vice-Chair, Coralville Food Pantry Board of Directors

What do you love most about the community? I love that our community values inclusion and compassion. We are fortunate to have many resources and amenities that demonstrate this commitment to caring for our neighbors. I believe these values, and the resources we have devoted to them, are why Johnson County continues to grow.

With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the council? I want Coralville to be a place where everyone feels welcome and has access to the resources they need to build a safe and happy life. I'm extremely proud of the progress we've made in Coralville. My focus will be on building on our successes by making sure our community safety net is strong. I will continue to prioritize affordable housing, increasing access to resources, and making sure we are reducing as many systemic barriers as we can.

How do you define economic development? Community development and economic development go hand-in-hand. If we want to attract new businesses to a community, we have to build up our social infrastructure. Childcare, housing, access to services, livable wages for all, and transportation are key

factors for economic development. These are things that will help fill the workforce shortages we're currently facing. We also need to make sure we are providing education, funding and outreach for BIPOC entrepreneurs and business owners. Making sure that EVERYONE has the tools to start and grow businesses not only contributes to the economic growth of our area, but it also aids in reducing larger systemic barriers.

Our community continues to grow. How should the city plan for future growth? We are very fortunate to live in an area that is experiencing growth. As I stated above, I believe expanding our social infrastructure is key for future planning.

What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the city support them? Workforce shortages are a challenge for business owners of all sizes right now. Cities can help by making sure our communities are attractive places to live, work and play.

How can the city help attract and retain a diverse workforce? We are fortunate to live in an area that values diversity of all kinds. Cities and employers can retain a diverse workforce by making sure we are sincere in our efforts not only to bring different voices to the table, but centering and elevating leaders from a variety of backgrounds. We also need to make sure we are creating a community culture that acknowledges the challenges our BIPOC neighbors have faced in the workforce (microaggressions, systemic barriers) and works to eliminate those challenges.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the council? I serve on the Coralville City Council. This experience gives me an understanding of the challenges our community is facing and the nuances of how local government works. I've served on several boards, commissions, and community groups. Currently, I serve on the Coralville Food Pantry Board of Directors. I've served on the Johnson County Metropolitan Planning Organization since 2018, the East Central Iowa Council of Governments 2019-2020, and the Johnson County Juvenile Justice & Youth Development Policy Board since 2019. My work with these organizations gives me an understanding of the interconnected nature of our community's issues and systems.

Coralville City Council Candidate 2021



Laurie Goodrich

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Community Service: Coralville City Council, Jo County Metro Planning Org, Coralville Hospitality Committee, Iowa CEMO, Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Jo County Access Center Steering Committee, 2019-2020 Class Community Leadership Program, various city, school and church leadership roles.

What do you love most about the community? That's easy! I love the people! We live in a progressively diverse city, with a friendly small-town atmosphere.

With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the council? Economic stability and growth are my primary focus. Recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic— Amid great losses and daily uncertainties Coralville leadership has adapted to continue city services such as public safety, water, sewer, garbage pickup, transit service, and street maintenance. We adjusted schedules and put stringent safety protocols in place. Unlike many cities, Coralville even provided recreation opportunities (keeping pools and library accessible) and offered childcare for employees and essential workers. I stand in support of our 'Can do spirit' and will continue to support initiatives to stay the course while we navigate pandemic variables. I am an advocate for business brick and mortar best practices during these challenging times, as well as an innovative local online business world. Believing in 'retail therapy', I shop locally and attend open house/ribbon cuttings to meet and visit with owners to encourage their success in our community for many years to come.

How do you define economic development? I read that economic development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a local community are improved according to targeted goals and objectives. Right away I think of the Iowa City Area Business Partnership Initiatives, the work of Iowa City Area Development, MPO, ECICOG and other planning organizations in our area. I gave input while on Coralville's steering committee for our Comprehensive Community Plan which is our guidance for current and future growth. The well-being of a community in every area including business, housing, transportation, infrastructure, safety, education, recreation, and the arts all are essential to economic development.

Our community continues to grow. How should the city plan for future growth? Use American Rescue Funds for sustainable projects. We are growing and making plans for future growth. As a Coralville Comprehensive Community Plan Steering Committee member, I can say that it doesn't mean that there is development everywhere. But I am confident that each area of the City will develop over many years according to the needs of the community. The Coralville Land Use Plan provides a robust framework for areas of business growth and, working with business owners, we can continue to ensure a positive business environment in Coralville. Housing has been a challenge in the area. Redeveloping areas using workforce and low-income tax credits and housing rehab programs are helping us make affordability a reality. Acreage lots have also just recently become available, providing housing stock for all ages and needs. The IRL is flourishing and will benefit when the diverging diamond on I80/Hayden Fry Way is built. We are focusing on urban renewal areas along Hwy 6. I recommend continued responsible use of TIF because it is the best way to put properties back on the tax roll. Some of these programs are very complicated and explicit in nature, so it takes just the right project. The Oakdale Research Park area is infrastructure(d) and ready for new business development. Support of well-trained public safety, open some satellite non-profit offices in Coralville, continue to offer services.

What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the city support them? Loss of revenue from a pandemic, worker shortages, pandemic protocols, language barriers, insurance expenses, salary hikes. It is important to have business owners involved in decisions that affect the business community and our city. Letters go out to owners when something is going on that may be of interest to the nature of their business. I have been a part of open invitation strategic planning meetings where many business owners have attended and for some planning meetings, there have seemed to be only a few attendees. Council meetings, planning meetings, informational meetings at City Hall are always open for ideas and discussion. That being said, regulations are an important means of providing a safe business environment for the public and work environment for employees. We can shop locally, encourage using resources available from State and Federal, support LOST, listen to concerns and encourage involvement in IC Area Business Partnership initiatives.

How can the city help attract and retain a diverse workforce? Promote a friendly, welcoming safe community featuring educational and training opportunities, cultural arts, and many parks and trails for quality of life recreation. I believe we are doing a good job of this. Embrace new people as they are, provide beginner English classes, equitable pay, less overtime, opportunities for advancement, child care options, ensure safety, housing, transportation, and social opportunities.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the council? Unique perspective: Our son and daughter-in-law and children live in N Iraq. They give relief to the refugee camp population from Syria and Iraq. Paul & Andrea regularly distribute 10 lb vegetable/fruit packages and hygiene packs, organize medical care, finance mobility help, teach fitness programs, as well as direct a program for women recovering from Isis disparage. Our other son Aaron is a Lt Colonel in the Air Force serving as a medical doctor and traveling the world. We have nieces and nephews adopted from Liberia, El Salvador, Philippines, Texas, ND Sioux - we love being a multi-ethnic, multi-racial family. I'm a staff member of a faith-based athletic organization at The University of Iowa, where my husband Jim and I have worked side-by-side for over 30 years. Volunteerism is my pleasure. I work to learn about every part of city government and stay up to date, especially during these critical times. I offer experienced, common sense decision-making and leadership. I show up, I listen, and I respond appropriately. So, please don't hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions. Thanks!

Coralville City Council Candidate 2021



Hai Huynh

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Community Service: Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County (Board Member), Johnson County Conservation (Volunteer), Iowa City Bike Library (Volunteer), Take a Kid Outdoors (Volunteer), Coralville Public Library (Volunteer), Coralville Central Elementary (Volunteer), Coralville Community Food Pantry (Volunteer), Grow: Johnson County (Volunteer)

What do you love most about the community? I love Coralville, my home for the last 20 years! This diverse community is where I chose to put down roots and where my partner and I raise four beautiful children. Together, we have spent countless hours exploring Coralville's many amenities, and devoting ourselves to its schools and community organizations.

With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the council? My primary focus is to collectively create a Coralville that puts people first. That starts, first and foremost, with tangible and robust relief for our neighbors who have been hit the hardest by COVID-19—economically, emotionally, and physically. The pandemic has devastated our community in many ways. We must work to ensure that our community returns to a better normal in the months and years ahead. We must start here, before we can tackle my other priorities which include racial and economic justice, affordable and inclusive development, enhanced community mobility, and climate action.

How do you define economic development? Economic development, to me, should be defined as activity and investment in the community designed to enrich the lives of all of its members. Good economic development should lead to well-paying jobs at various entry levels, improved and expanded

living and recreational space to be enjoyed by all, and protection or enhancement of our precious natural resources.

Our community continues to grow. How should the city plan for future growth? Growth is exciting. We must find a healthy balance in our economic & community development strategies to accommodate future growth. First, we need to make sure we take care of the people who have been with us all along. Especially those who are historically marginalized and are reliant upon affordable housing, public transit, childcare, and social safety nets in order to survive and remain a vital part of our local community and economy. When we add new housing to accommodate new demand, we must ensure that a large number of new housing developments are affordable to community members with limited resources (especially those below 50% of AMI). We must ensure that all of our neighbors can get to work, medical appointments, and essential destinations. Our public transit system in Johnson County has made great strides, but there is still work to be done. Childcare cost has skyrocket in our area, we must work together to ensure that family have many safe and affordable childcare options. Finally, our community has a strong track record of conserving natural resources. Let's continue to prioritize protection of public parks & natural areas and improvement of water quality as our community continues to grow.

What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the city support them? The pandemic has and continues to wreak havoc on our local businesses. I believe local municipalities should invest a portion of their American Rescue Plan funds to support small local businesses who did not have access to PPP loans and other federal assistance. In that vein, we must provide relief for essential workers who fell through the cracks. And if we are serious about supporting BIPOC-led businesses and organizations, we must invest in and support local initiatives and community leaders that aim to engage in inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economic development.

How can the city help attract and retain a diverse workforce? Affordability is the first place to start. We need abundant housing options that are suitable especially for those who fall below AMI. We need updated infrastructure, accessible public amenities, reliable social safety nets, and strong local schools. We also need economic development initiatives led by BIPOC community leaders because representation is important, and their ideas will guide us towards a brighter and more inclusive future. Finally, I would like to see our county work collectively to codify protections for workers and increase the minimum wage, despite the challenges presented by our current administration in Des Moines.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the council? As an immigrant, a woman of color, a full-time mom, an essential worker with the Coralville Community Food Pantry, a former school para-educator, and a dedicated community volunteer, I have vast experiences working with people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. I came from absolute poverty, have endured economic hardship for most of my life, and built a life for myself in Johnson County while living in a mobile home, apartments, zero-lot-lines, and single-family homes. 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. I believe all of this gives me a unique understanding, compassion, and insights into the true and often unseen need of our community.

Coralville City Council Candidate 2021



Mike Knudson

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Community Service: Current Member of Coralville Planning & Zoning Commission

Former member of the Coralville Parks & Recreation Commission

Former member of the Coralville Board of Adjustment

Participant of the Coralville Citizens Academy

What do you love most about the community? Many things to love in the area but if I had to pick one I would have to pick the beautiful trails in the area given my passion for recreational and commuter biking.

With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the council? I am running for council in large part to help assure that Coralville continues to grow and improve services to its residents and businesses. Opportunities I see include 1) partnerships with our schools to improve area facilities; 2) increased use of green energy and electronic vehicles; 3) redevelopment of some of the older portions of the city.

How do you define economic development? I would define economic development as an increase in wealth in the area. This is largely tied to job growth but other enhancements in the area that increase prosperity and quality of life for residents would be included in my definition of economic development.

Our community continues to grow. How should the city plan for future growth? Future planning for growth should obviously include new areas that are getting developed for the first time but also

needs to include investment in the older parts of town that have aging infrastructure (roads, water lines, sewer) that can be modernized. I believe that there are areas of the town that are appropriate for higher density living and would support building “up” and not just “out”.

What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the city support them? A major issue for businesses is finding qualified employees as discussed in the next question. In addition, the city can continue to offer amenities that will attract visitors to the area. For Coralville this includes events at the Extreme area and Field house. I think expanding the Youth Park could provide an opportunity to attract tournaments which would also help bring visitors to the city.

How can the city help attract and retain a diverse workforce? The city can work with developers to help assure affordable housing is available to allow a diverse workforce to live in the area. This needs to include subsidized housing that is located in attractive areas of the community. Also offering high quality services and amenities may help attract potential workers to the area.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the council? Working in health care and in science I appreciate the importance of using data to inform your decisions to assure the best outcomes possible are obtained. I will work with city staff so that data can be obtained whenever possible that can be used to drive policy our decisions.

Coralville City Council Candidate 2021



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Community Service:

What do you love most about the community? I love Coralville's commitment to its people. Coralville goes above and beyond to offer great restaurants, shopping, parks and support services. It is a healthy, green, fun, inclusive place to live.

With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the council?

My top 3 goals:

- 1) Promote financially stable and environmentally friendly development in Coralville by attracting businesses (small and large) that will employ area residents so they can make a fair wage and raise healthy, happy families
- 2) Support the residents of Coralville by promoting affordable housing, affordable childcare and other support they may need to help them secure a good job and a good life in Coralville
- 3) Make Coralville a community that celebrates a healthy lifestyle and provides great recreational activities

How do you define economic development? Economic development is the development of profitable businesses that support the residence of the community. Successful economic development for a community means linking jobs and people. For this to work, it has to be financially attractive for businesses to locate in Coralville. This is a 2 way street, in order to find support and profit in a community, businesses have to support the community. Community support can be accomplished by

paying a good wage, offering and/or supporting childcare programs and ensuring people can afford to live in the community.

Our community continues to grow. How should the city plan for future growth?

There are 2 areas that need to be planned for.

1) I would like Coralville to be welcoming and diverse. This means affordable services integrated with attractive business incentives. In order for a business to locate in Coralville we must have an employee base. To have an employee base we must have affordable housing, affordable childcare, affordable transportation and healthy green spaces. If we can offer affordable services, large and small business will flourish. We must also have environmentally sound growth if we want to remain attractive over the next generations.

2) We need to keep focus on the infrastructure needed to support Coralville. This is easy to overlook as a city grows and the while the residence should enjoy all the great Coralville services, the City Council must ensure we can continue to maintain our infrastructure to support the community.

What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the city support them? A healthy employee base and a simple set of rules & regulations. The city should have serious conversations with current and potential businesses about what obstacles they face in doing business in Coralville. If it's not working, let's change it. We should also have serious conversation around how we grow a strong employee base that is inclusive and well serviced by our city resources.

How can the city help attract and retain a diverse workforce? Success for a community means linking jobs and people. For this to work, it has to be financially attractive for families and businesses to locate in Coralville. In order to find support and profit in a community, businesses have to support the community and the City of Coralville must support its businesses. The employee base must have the support it needs to be success at their jobs. Happy employees are sustained by paying a good wage, offering and/or supporting childcare programs and ensuring people can afford to live in the community. The city of Coralville plays an important part in ensuring we have the childcare, transportation, education services and affordable food and housing for families.

What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the council? I grew up in the Coralville area & am delighted to see how it has developed into a welcoming, thriving community over the last 40 years. My history in the area & my business career qualify me to serve in an exceptional way. I have 30 years experience working in business with a focus on business analytics, technology & customers. I own a small business in Coralville. In order to promote services like affordable housing, affordable childcare & other community support services, I will use this diverse business experience to help the City of Coralville continue thrive, grow & diversify.
