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## Running for Coralville Mayor - Meghann Foster

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

**I am running because I love Coralville and I have enjoyed serving my community as a council member. 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. As Mayor, 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.**

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

**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 attract businesses to our area, and 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.**

3. How do you feel about the current government regulatory environment and how might you improve what is currently in place? **Regulation is a balance. I believe some regulation is good and necessary. For example, I believe we need regulations in place to address worker safety, fair wages, and environmental impact. However, if regulations are too stringent or excessive it creates a prohibitive environment that stifles growth and community development.**

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 can be a useful tool to aid in growth and development, especially in blighted areas. The IRL area in Coralville is a great example of this. Without the use of TIF, this area would not have been transformed from an environmental hazard into the thriving community attractor that it is today. While I acknowledge the important role TIF can play in revitalizing parts of our community, I do think that in the future Coralville should take a more cautious approach to TIF.**

5. How do you plan to address the issue of affordable housing in your community? **I am very proud that our current council has made affordability a central part of the**

**discussions when it comes to new development. We have done a lot in Coralville, including offering down payment assistance, forgivable loans, and funds for home improvements. I'm also very excited about our Coral North project, which will provide units that are attainable for individuals who are at 60% or below AMI. I would like to use some of our ARPA funds to start an affordable housing fund. I would also like to actively pursue funding, partnerships and opportunities to add units that are attainable for individuals who are below 40% AMI.**

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

According to an NAHB study, 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? **We are fortunate to live in an area that is growing, especially when other parts of the state are seeing a decline in population. Making sure we have plenty of housing and opportunities to live, work and play are central to this growth. I believe that the Home Builders play an important role in helping our area grow. I will always look for opportunities to collaborate, engage, and discover innovative solutions to help our community meet the needs of our residents.**

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## Running for Coralville City Council - Laurie Goodrich

1. Why are you running and what are your priorities if elected? I am seeking re-election for a third term to the Coralville City Council because I'm passionate about continuing to direct our city government to be the best it can be. I feel a responsibility to give back to a community that has invested so much in our family over the years. As a City Council member, I have made it a priority to train and graduate to be a State of Iowa Certified Elected Municipal Official.
2. How would you facilitate a continued favorable economic environment for your community? I support Coralville's existing Buy Local ordinance Strong infrastructure – roads, water, wastewater Continue projects IRL, West Land Use, Urban renewal projects. Also, continued availability of staff for consultation with developers to provide feedback on projects to yield the best possible results. The outreach to junior high and high school students for training and career initiatives in this field is a great way to plan for years to come.
3. How do you feel about the current government regulatory environment and how might you improve what is currently in place? Coralville Community Development Office is up to date. New staff and administrative protocols are creating a positive response. Government regulations are in place to ensure the safety of the public. By using International Building Codes in Coralville we are following a standard that is broadly adopted and consistent with many other cities. City staff and council use the Coralville Land Use Plan for future planning.
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? I support our city's securing tax credit programs, TIF, and affordable housing initiatives. Tax Increment Financing is the best tool and has been essential and successful. I will continue to lobby at the State level to educate legislators on the value and importance of TIF to promote an economically robust community.
5. How do you plan to address the issue of affordable housing in your community? I know that the Covid-19 pandemic is challenging the home building industry with higher prices, building supply gluts, and workforce shortages. At the same time, there is always a need for affordable housing. Our staff recently secured workforce housing tax credits for three current projects and we are always looking for practical ways to redevelop areas. The

Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County continues to be a great partner as we actively work on their board to provide a flexible use of funds to make affordable housing efforts financially feasible. We use the home rehab program, revolving loan program, and such.

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6. How do you plan to engage our membership to further enhance our area? [All of the above!](#) We need to be as ready as possible for new regulations and programs. I will listen and be a liaison to continue the leadership and growth in our thriving community.

## Running for Coralville City Council - Cindy Riley

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

I want to continue to build Coralville into a successful community that is a great place to raise a family. My top 3 priorities:

- 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

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

To reach goals, the Coralville City resources and local businesses need to continue to work together. It is important to work with local businesses to ensure they are not unduly burdened with rules & regulations - communities need rules and guidelines but these can sometimes get in the way of business growth. They need to be reviewed regularly for simplicity and need. That said, businesses have a responsibility to the community and we need to be clear that businesses should look to hiring locally when possible and to paying a decent wage. Businesses must also be environmentally conscious in order to keep Coralville healthy for our future generations.

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

There is no doubt that many regulations exist in a community and this can be frustrating at times. But I do accept that some regulations are necessary – doing business without regulations is like playing a game of sports without rules. You don't want the rules to adversely impact the game but they are a necessary part of the game or you wouldn't have a level, safe, playing field.

As a member of the Coralville City Council I would challenge local business leaders to come forward with their concerns about regulations that help, or hurt, their business and the city of Coralville. I do not believe it is in the best interest of businesses for a council member to decide what needs discussed and reviewed, businesses should highlight this - but it is important that your City Council member listen and make decisions that are best for the continued growth and development of the city of Coralville.

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?

This is a very complex issue. TIF funding can make a dramatic difference to a community. I have seen amazing growth and development in Coralville in the last 40 years. I commend the city planners and administrators on the progress they have made.

However, we need to proceed very carefully down the path of development we are currently on. Our debt level is troubling and we need to move forward with a careful eye on how a given project will affect our debt. In general, all incentives need to be focused directly on the community benefit. They should not move dollars out of the Coralville community. They should support community services. They should support the long-term growth of small businesses and other employers in Coralville.

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

First, affordable housing is a requirement for a successful community. Businesses need employees. Affordable housing enables hard working residents to live in their community so they can work for local businesses. I think it is key for us to be open to the need for housing.

That said, affordable housing is not a stand-alone issue. I support a process that assists lower income residents in building towards their future. By that I mean, if we can provide a set amount of affordable housing that can be used as transitional living as we, the City of Coralville, help families work toward good paying jobs that allow them to move upwards financially, this is the best case. We don't want an endless expansion of low-income housing, we want to help and enable families to get a living wage and move towards financial independence.

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

I love the growth and development I have seen in Coralville over the last 40 years! I support business development, large and small. I encourage open conversation between your membership and the Council. I am open to all conversations and do support the Greater Iowa City Area Home Builders Association being a partner in the growth of Coralville.