

# "If I were Mayor, I Would..."

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The role of mayor comes with significant responsibility. As the mayor, I would not only keep my town financially stable but also improve it for the benefit of my citizens. Three priorities I would address as mayor are to bring more renown to this town by increasing the amount of trees we plant each year, building an ice skating rink/roller rink to get citizens outside in all weathers, and increasing tourism and stimulating the economy by enticing more restaurants to open on the weekend.

Sustainable living is an important topic that is growing in momentum, especially in Iowa. As mayor I want my town to be known as one that is doing its part to solve the issue of deforestation. As mayor, I would set a goal to encourage residents to plant 500 trees in one year to get people excited about this initiative and there would be rewards along the way. For example, once we have planted 250 trees, the reward would be a voice where people who planted trees can vote on the top causes that will make the quality of life better for them. I would hang big banners at prominent locations around town, so everyone could see how close they are to the next tree planting goal.

I'd like my town to be more lively on the weekends to cater to the recreational needs of local families and children. Improving the town square, which is currently under-used, would be a beneficial way of achieving this. I want the square to be a meet up place *all* year round. An ice skating rink in winter and a roller rink in summer would be a fun way to bring people outside in every season. Currently, anyone living in Fairfield has to drive over an hour to get to the closest rinks in Iowa City, and all that gas burning would pump unnecessary carbon dioxide and other toxins into the atmosphere with disastrous consequences for the world.

Another necessity that would improve our town is a greater variety of outlets that open longer hours and on weekends. In reality, COVID-19 took jobs from many people in Fairfield leaving restaurants and stores with tight working hours. If we want our town to have more tourism, we cannot be closed to the public on the weekend. That said, an attractive incentive to open more often would be on my agenda. For example, if a store is open on the weekend the mayor's office could subsidize some of the rent. This would stimulate the economy and since the pay will come back into the town's budget in the form of sales tax and income tax on employees wages; it is a win-win.

These would be my first actions as mayor of Fairfield on assuming office.