

Envision Greater Fond du Lac – 2025 City Council Candidate Survey

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Economic Development & Business Growth

1. What policies or initiatives would you support to attract and retain businesses in Fond du Lac, particularly in high-growth sectors like manufacturing, healthcare, and technology?

1. As a Fond du Lac City Council candidate, I'd focus on policies to boost business in manufacturing, healthcare, and technology. After meeting with Envision Greater Fond du Lac, I learned how slow permitting delays our growth compared to other communities like Campbellsport. I'd prioritize *streamlining permitting* and cutting red tape to speed up approvals, making it easier for businesses to launch and expand. Pairing this with targeted incentives—like tax credits or grants—would attract and retain firms in high-growth sectors.

Collaboration with Envision is vital. I'd support the *Worker Relocation Incentive Program* to address workforce shortages and partner with Moraine Park Technical College for training in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and tech skills. I'd prioritize a robust partnership with Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) to propel Fond du Lac forward. MPTC offers more than *100 programs*—I'd love to see even more high school students enroll, graduate, and return to Fond du Lac to strengthen our community, whether that's *welding* at Mercury Marine, *nursing* in our hospitals, or protecting the *cybersecurity* of our community and youth.

2. What are the top three issues the City of Fond du Lac faces during the next four years and your plans to address them?

1. **Community safety** is my top priority. Since moving near *Playmore Park*—Fond du Lac's finest park—just four months ago tomorrow, I've witnessed *heavy police presence* on my street *three separate times*, involving dozens of officers and vehicles. Officers have passed directly by my front window with *rifles drawn*, and once, even the *BearCat (armored vehicle)* was *deployed*. The frequent activity here is often highlighted on Fond du Lac police scanner posts. As a result, I will advocate for increased police funding, targeted patrols in crime hotspots like our neighborhood, and expanded community programs to effectively tackle crime at its roots.
2. Second, I support **single-family housing** for young families like mine, **NOT** big apartment complexes. After living in our grandma and grandpa's basement for the first three years of our marriage (two years with a baby), my 26 year old wife and I were preapproved for only *\$170,000*—slim pickings. After six rejected offers, our seventh was accepted, but only by

waiving inspection against my dad's advice, landing in an unsafe area. Families like us can't return to Fond du Lac—affordable homes to safely raise a family in don't exist. I'll fight for builder incentives and faster permitting to grow the supply of starter homes.

3. Third, we need **more entertainment opportunities** for young families. Gen Z parents like us struggle to buy homes here, and even if we didn't, what's there to do? My wife and I drive to West Bend, Cedarburg, or Mequon for date nights—comedy shows or rock-climbing gyms—because Fond du Lac lacks what we enjoy, and my wife feels uneasy walking at night with our two babies. I'll partner with Envision Greater Fond du Lac to revitalize downtown with safe, fun attractions for young families.

3. What is your vision for fostering a vibrant, business-friendly Fond du Lac?

1. I see a Fond du Lac where successful businesses are owned and run by our own—people who *grew up here and graduated from our schools*. I see a Fond du Lac where teachers patron downtown shops and citywide businesses, recognizing former students, calling them by name, and hiring them for trade jobs at their homes—a full-circle moment. I picture high school graduates planning their futures here, talking about marriage and raising kids in Fond du Lac. To make this happen, I'll push for policies that ***speed up permitting***, and ***offer tax breaks for businesses employing locals***. I will work to expand workforce programs, especially in trades, to keep talent rooted here. My goal is a thriving downtown and citywide economy, staffed by familiar faces, fostering pride across generations. This is how we build a business-friendly Fond du Lac that's truly home.

Workforce & Talent Development

1. **Workforce shortages remain a key challenge for local businesses. How would you work with Envision, educational institutions, and employers to expand workforce training and talent retention efforts?**
 1. To address workforce shortages, I'd *collaborate with Envision, MPTC, and employers to expand training in trades, business, and entertainment*—key areas for downtown Fond du Lac and beyond. I'd back the Worker Relocation Incentive Program to attract talent and grow small businesses citywide. As a 26 year old high school teacher, I relate pretty well with my students. When you give teens trust and pride in their work, they will invest back into FDL with greater responsibility, creativity, and enthusiasm, proving that trust fosters growth, commitment, and confidence. I would ***prioritize internships and summer jobs aligned with students' career interests***—opportunities that prepare them for meaningful professions rather

than just typical retail or fast-food positions. This includes placements in professional fields like *law, healthcare, and advanced technology*, as well as skilled trades such as *welding, plumbing, electrical work, masonry, and home construction*. *Tax incentives for natives buying homes or starting businesses would further boost retention and growth.*

2. Homelessness has been a subject of several City Council meetings in the past year. What do you see as the most effective role the City can play in addressing homelessness in Fond du Lac?

1. This topic hits home for me, as a health teacher, we just finished my favorite unit—the family unit—where we explore how *family is the basic unit of society*.
2. I've talked to homeless folks in Fond du Lac on several occasions—like when my bicycle, attached to my child baby bike carrier, was stolen outside the public library in broad daylight. While trying to locate it, I met three young ladies, all younger than me, one who'd graduated high school just two months prior. It broke my heart seeing these teens and early-20s girls sleeping behind the library. One shared how she wished she could repair her relationship with her mother. HOMELESSNESS WILL BECOME GENERATIONAL IN FOND DU LAC IF WE DON'T ACT NOW.
3. I'd tackle the root by *offering family incentives to help married couples with children* thrive, not just survive day to day. *Tax incentives, daycare support, or marriage counseling could help lower our divorce rate and build stable homes.* Strong families reduce poverty and future homelessness and they are the basic unit of our society.

Housing & Infrastructure

1. The availability of diverse and affordable housing is crucial for economic growth. Currently, demand for housing far outpaces the supply in the City. What solutions do you propose?

1. **Housing** is a top priority for me—it's personal. Looking at my 2017 WLA yearbook, *I can count five, maybe ten classmates still living and working in Fond du Lac*. It kills me that friends have left for Oshkosh or West Bend because affordable homes here are scarce. My wife and I got lucky snagging our place, but it's not our "forever home" by any stretch of the imagination—and that's a struggle too many face. I'm dead-set on fixing this so my friends can come back and raise their kids here.

We've got to stop advertising low-income housing in Milwaukee and Chicago—it's robbing options from folks who grew up here and pour into this community daily. My plan: fast-track infrastructure—streets, sewers, water—to kickstart housing. I'll push builder incentives, speed up permits to get shovels in the ground faster, and adjust zoning for more units, all while

preserving Fond du Lac culture we all remember. The Housing Study demands 700 ownership homes and 850 rentals by 2030—I'll beat that. With Envision Greater Fond du Lac, *we'll prioritize locals who make this place tick* - that's my commitment.

Business-Friendly Policies & Government Efficiency

1. How would you ensure that city policies, regulations, and permitting processes support a pro-business environment while maintaining responsible governance?

1. *As a small business owner myself, I know firsthand the struggles of starting a business—limited funds, building name recognition, and gaining experience.*

These challenges shape my approach to city policies. On the City Council, I'd engage directly with businesses through regular meetings and conversation, asking what they need to succeed and sharing insights from my own journey. I'd push for practical solutions: affordable advertising options to boost visibility, ***faster permitting processes*** to save time and money, and partnerships with local experts to guide new entrepreneurs. *The city should be a partner, not a barrier, to small businesses in Fond du Lac.* My vision is a thriving local economy where entrepreneurs get the support I wish I'd had.

2. If elected, how will you nurture and maintain a relationship with the local business community?

1. If elected, I'd build strong ties with Fond du Lac's business community by actively listening and earning their trust. I'd meet with business owners regularly—whether through informal chats or organized forums—to understand their challenges and goals. Their success is personal to me; when they thrive, my family and our community thrive too. I want Fond du Lac to be a place where we can enjoy date nights locally—vibrant evenings, not just rare daytime outings.

To support them, I'd push for practical, business-friendly policies: simplifying permits and ensuring city resources help them grow. I'd advocate for incentives that keep businesses here and attract new ones, boosting jobs and local spending. Openness is key—I'd be approachable, transparent, and proactive, keeping them updated on council actions and welcoming their input. By championing their success, we can create a stronger, more lively Fond du Lac where families like mine can enjoy all it has to offer, day or night.

3. What are your top 2 priorities for the City Council and why?

1. Can I say safety twice? Ask just about any family that lives west of Main Street—near the ***YMCA, Forest Ave by the old train station***, or my ***community by Playmore Park***—*don't feel*

safe. Police respond multiple times a week to crimes like **sex offenses, drugs, and weapons**, often linked to criminals from **Milwaukee and Chicago**, per FDL Facebook police scanner posts. My wife and I follow these pages as a result of a fugitive who sought shelter in our backyard during a police chase. My daughter is two and a half. I've got time before she asks, "Daddy, why are the police always here with guns out?" I want to fix this now. As a council member, ***I'd coordinate with law enforcement to target imported criminal activity***. I'd give my **unwavering, constant support to police, sheriff, and all law enforcement agencies** that help protect our city. Economic growth depends on safe streets; families and businesses won't stay if they're scared.

2. My second priority is **housing for young families**. Family is the *lifeblood* of our community. Without living in my wife's grandparents' basement for three years, buying a home would have been a pipe dream. Unfortunately, many of my classmates now purchase or rent homes elsewhere. We must help our families become prosperous and successful by providing more affordable starter homes and incentives for **married couples with children**. Keeping young families here will strengthen our workforce and economy, restoring our city's culture to what it was when I was my daughter's age. *I'm a father, not a politician*. Please give me the opportunity to make Fond du Lac safe and livable for our kids.

4. **If elected, are you willing to work with Envision Greater Fond du Lac on economic development? How can we support your priorities?**

1. I'm absolutely **thrilled** at the prospect of partnering with Envision Greater Fond du Lac to boost our business and economy. ***I love Fond du Lac***, and I want everyone growing up here to feel the same pride. *We're losing our culture, but I can help bring it back*. Envision's support is key—promote Fond du Lac as a hub for skilled workers and young families. I'd value your expertise in **streamlining permitting** to spark business growth and linking employers with schools for workforce training. As a *futuristic thinker* (my top Gallup strength!), I envision a tech giant the size Mercury Marine settling here, bringing young, wealthy, successful families to raise their kids in our community. **There's no better time than now— companies all over the world are eyeing the U.S., and I'll fight to land one in Fond du Lac.** With Envision, we can make this a thriving, business-friendly city that retains its heart and soul.