

Friends of Steve Arnold

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Steve Arnold to run for Mayor of Fitchburg

November 10, 2014 (Fitchburg, WI) -- Today Ald. Steve Arnold announces his intention to run for Mayor of Fitchburg. Arnold is seeking the executive office to forward his vision for a community that will flourish in the 21st century. "Fitchburg's city government has a key role to play in empowering and protecting every resident," said Arnold. He recognizes Fitchburg's ideal location, rich agricultural and water assets, and diverse population as the foundation for a world-class quality of life available to people of all backgrounds and income levels.

Steve has long been recognized as an advocate for responsible land and transportation planning. He has championed the expansion of diverse housing and transportation options, land and water protection, and a vibrant economic environment that benefits everyone in the community. He catalyzed the development of Fitchburg's SmartCode, a zoning and development code for traditional neighborhoods and transit-oriented development, unique in Wisconsin. He's worked hard to develop bicycling and public transit in the city, which benefits the health, quality of life, and local economy for everyone.

Steve is extremely concerned that the current administration excludes public input into important policy decisions. "Diverse viewpoints and open discussion are not welcomed. We need to consider and respect everyone's contribution to choose from the best ideas!" He points to expert citizen commissioners, consultant studies, and citizen petitions that are ignored by the mayor and Council majority, and policy decisions that benefit some businesses and developers while the long-term needs of residents are ignored. "This is a betrayal of the public trust. We should not be tilting the playing field toward those that are politically well connected," he said. "The long-term interests of our residents should be paramount, and that takes responsible planning and investment in our community today."

Steve Arnold will not seek reelection to the Common Council.

(more)

"Residents of Fitchburg are fortunate to have Steve Arnold as a candidate for Mayor," said State Representative Sony Pope, who has represented parts of Fitchburg for twelve years. "Steve has delivered thoughtful and effective leadership to the Common Council making Fitchburg a better place to live, both now and in the future. He has shown his commitment to deliver quality municipal services to every resident, no matter where they live in the city."

Madison School Board member Arlene Silveira had this to say of Steve's announcement: "Steve has always kept the whole city in mind when setting municipal policy. He's proven that he can be counted on to dig out the facts and to listen to everyone's opinion about any situation. He'll make a great Mayor."

"Fitchburg needs to be an attractive community for future generations, as well as people living here now," Arnold asserts. "We need urban as well as suburban and rural living opportunities. People want vibrant neighborhoods with entertainment and culture, along with quiet cul-de-sacs. People want freedom to take public transit, bike, or walk to interesting places, as well as the option to drive. All of these things are part of an environment that will foster health and happiness for many decades into the future. Fitchburg residents deserve that type of a community to call home. With the right planning and investment, we can achieve that together. I am the right person to lead Fitchburg in the 21st century."

About the City of Fitchburg's government

Fitchburg's mayor and all eight alders are elected in the spring of odd-numbered years. Nomination petitions will circulate from December 1 through January 6, 2015. The election will be Tuesday, April 7, with any required primary on February 17.

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Paid for by Friends of Steve Arnold, Sam Cooke, Treasurer