

Two vying for District 20 seat on Jefferson County Board

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JEFFERSON — Two candidates are seeking the District 20 seat in the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors election on April 1.

Voters will decide whether to retain Jim Mode as their representative or give the seat to challenger Frankie Fuller.

The district includes Wards 1, 2 and 3 in the Town of Jefferson and Ward 4 in the Town of Oakland.

The candidates were asked to provide the Daily Union with information on their background, experiences and top issues of concern related to being a county supervisor.

The following are their responses, with the incumbent listed first.

Jim Mode

Jim Mode has served on the board of supervisors for 10 years.

“I’m seeking re-election to continue to serve the county with my experience in agriculture, business and 10 years on the county board,” he said. “I will continue to bring a common-sense approach to budgeting and problem solving.”

Mode said he feels the top issue facing the county is the escalating cost of mandated services coupled with state-imposed levy limits of zero-percent increases.

“It is going to be difficult to find funding for nonmandated services that the county provides, such as UW-Extension, Parks (Department), and Fair Park,” he said, noting that the county has done a good job in getting the Fair Park to be nearly self-supporting.

“We will have to do the same in other areas,” Mode said.

Continuing, he emphasized concerns about the increasing use of heroin across Jefferson County.

As a member of the Human Services board, Mode has witnessed the impact of the higher drug use.

“Our costs for alternate care for children, for treatment of addiction and increased costs of law enforcement are rising rapidly,” he said.

Lastly, Mode said the third top issue facing the county is whether there will be adequate funding to maintain the infrastructure.

“The cost of roadwork, technology and building maintenance is steadily increasing,” he said. “We have to maintain what we have so we don’t have to invest in new.”

Frankie Fuller

Challenger Frankie Fuller said she is running for office because she believes in democracy and government that works.

“That means I would solicit feedback from the voters on issues that affect them, like roads and the construction of a new highway department building, public health and human services, public safety and privacy, and land use,” she said.

Fuller has resided in the Fort Atkinson area for 25 years. Her past experience includes three years on the county board and seven years as a legislative staffer at the Capitol in Madison.

She is a member of the Fort Atkinson Branch of the American Association of University Women, Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Friends of Glacial Heritage Area, Ice Age Trail Alliance and other organizations.

“I believe that citizen input into the decisionmaking process and citizen participation makes government stronger and better,” Fuller said. “I believe that government provides order, structure and safety in our society and when it is working well, it can enhance the efforts of businesses, social organizations, schools and families.”

If elected, she promised to work hard to keep the county safe, secure and fiscally sound.

Fuller said she would seek input from the residents who are affected by the decisions that are made.

In addition, she said she would research answers and develop creative nonpartisan, common-sense solutions to the many issues that will arise, and to promote the many interesting families, businesses and activities that are here, at home.

“I am a lifelong learner,” Fuller said, noting that she currently is taking classes on climate, weather and gardening.

Should voters elect her to the board, Fuller said, she would be interested in serving on the Parks Committee and Local Emergency Planning Committee.