

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT 573-256-6841

#### PAT FOWLER LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR FIRST WARD CITY COUNCIL SEAT

Columbia – Pat Fowler announced today she will run for the First Ward City Council seat.

“The neighborhoods in the First Ward deserve both the expenditure of city resources and the opportunity to turn that expenditure into a better quality of life for our neighbors.”

“Within our First Ward boundaries are the largest collection of affordable housing in our city from small houses to small apartment buildings, the religious congregations and civic institutions that sustain our families, small school buildings that educate our children, private and public employment within walking distance of our homes, colleges, training programs, social service agencies who care for those of us in need. When sufficiently cared for these resources will make positive changes for our families.”

Our First Ward neighbors have asked for effective community policing, affordable housing both rental and owner occupied, living wage jobs, investment in our neighborhoods that bolster the strength and resilience of our storm water and sewer infrastructure, and investment in our young people so they can share equally in a prosperous Columbia.

Our city has conducted many plans and studies about conditions in the First Ward. These came as a result of our neighbors giving their time and energy making recommendations that too often have not translated into action.

“If it was worth our time and energy to come together and create those plans and studies, they deserve full and fair implementation. I am running for the First Ward seat because I can contribute to making sure that full and fair implementation can happen. My prior experience has proven I am a diligent watchdog and advocate for neighborhoods, a guardian and activist for the First Ward.”

Over the past 10 years, Pat has volunteered for and been appointed to city boards and commissions including the Downtown Leadership Council and the city’s first Public Transit Advisory Commission. She was elected to serve the North Central Columbia Neighborhood Association as Board President from 2011 to 2013 and serves as the current chair of the City’s Historic Preservation Commission. She is a core member of Transparency Matters, an advocacy group that seeks a full, comprehensive, performance audit of city operations. In 2015, the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County named Pat their citizen of the year.

Pat lives in a 90+ year old home along N 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Living in, and fixing up, a small house in our central city strengthens her resolve that our core neighborhoods surrounding downtown are the backbone of affordable housing in our city and worthy of our protection. Pat works as the business manager for a small construction company that builds pole barns on acreage in the rural parts of the state. She is a graduate of Frostburg State College and Suffolk University Law School.