

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

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Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

No

What role are you running for?

Ward 4 Councilor

What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community? If elected, how would you work with the local community to address these issues?

From my understanding one of the most critical issues would be centered around awareness, acceptance and how to continue the conversation on equality. If elected I would continue to work with groups who promote acceptance and education around awareness and acceptance.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training?

I have not formally had training but as owner of a retail business and member of many community boards I am always willing to continue with any training. In both roles I have been able to gain a strong understanding of the community.

Systemic homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in our community, resulting in significant socioeconomic disparities within 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia?

Again, if elected i would continue to support groups that come forward requesting support for community education, safe spaces and events. We have many organizations and community groups who have been leaders in promoting acceptance and accessibility, we need to ensure they have backing from Council.

If elected, how would you address the ongoing issues of homelessness and mental health, especially as they disproportionately affect members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

I will continue to work on solutions that address the gap in housing and supports. I'd continue to lobby developers and/or property management to work with agencies that offer supports to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. I would also continue my path on understanding the needs of the community and our short comings as Council and how we can address those.

Do you agree with the statement that "trans rights are human rights, and must be protected as such?"

Yes, everyone is equal.

What is one motion would you bring to council that you think will improve the lives of specifically queer people, racialized individuals and/or marginalized residents and why?

Well, great question. I would have to have conversation with people who are currently involved with the needs of the community and come up with a motion they they feel would work best. Just because I may not understand the full spectrum of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community doesn't mean I am not willing to learn and advocate for equality.

When thinking about our schools, do you agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels? How would you support 2SLGBTQIA+ students in schools?

I believe we must continue to teach acceptance at all ages, acceptance for all!

I would encourage students to become involved in student school council to create events for awareness.

I would