

## 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?**

Kitchener City Councillor - Ward 9

**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?**

I believe the most critical issues for the community are equity and safety. If elected I would work with the community to come up with ways to erase systemic barriers and make life more equitable and safe. I would work to make safe spaces in our sports facilities and community centres and I would push for greater representation on advisory committees and boards. Most importantly, I would like to hear from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community about their needs and support them in realizing them.

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

No, but I would welcome the opportunity.

**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?**

Systemic homophobia, biphobia and transphobia should not be tolerated in this community. Equity can be reached through recognition, reduction of burdens and fairer access to societal benefits. The Equity, Anti-Racism, and Indigenous Office and the Mayor's Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion have only recently been established. I look forward to participating in the tasks identified by these two groups.

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

Housing is a human right! I will continue to push for more deeply affordable housing options for people in the Region. While the responsibility for homelessness, subsidized housing and mental health supports rests primarily with the Region, I believe every level of government has a responsibility to create a safe and equitable community. Inclusionary zoning is a tool which I want to see implemented by the City over the next four years. It will allow the City to require a certain percentage of affordable units in all new residential buildings. That percentage should be at least 20% and affordable should be defined as 30% of a full-time minimum wage. That works out to about \$790/month. I will work with the Region to address the homelessness crisis. The City can and should continue to donate public lands to not-for-profit organizations that build deeply affordable units. The City can and should continue to waive development charges for not-for-profit organizations building deeply affordable units. Both of these measures will help to reduce homelessness and thereby better protect the mental health of those most exposed to its stresses, not least the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

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

I do agree with the statement. While not trans specific, I worked closely with a group of residents in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to draft and bring a motion forward to prohibit conversion therapy within city facilities. The motion passed.

**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?**

I would bring a motion forward to create a bylaw prohibiting conversion therapy in the city. This would build on the previous motion prohibiting the use of City facilities by conversion therapy groups.

**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?**

Yes, I agree with 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons at all grade levels. As a city councillor, there is little I can do at the school level, but if called upon by the school board I would share my support.