

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?

Councillor, Ward 4, City of Waterloo

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 are: inclusion; discrimination, access to housing, healthcare and employment opportunities; belonging; safety; and equity.

During the last term of Council the Indigenous Initiatives, Anti-Racism, Accessibility and Equity team was created. If re-elected I will continue to collaborate with this team and seek their direction related to reviewing internal challenges, removing systemic barriers, collaborating with local action groups, and communicating the goals of the team.

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

Yes

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?

I have friends and family members that identify as members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. I support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and want to be an advocate.

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 and public health are services governed by the Region of Waterloo. I support the City of Waterloo working with the Region as it related to issues of homelessness and mental health.

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

Yes

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?

It may not require a full Motion of Council but rather a direction to staff. It is related to modification of all City forms, applications and registrations that remove use of terms that inherently discriminate members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community such as "mother", "father", Male, Female, He, She, wife, husband, and etc.

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 agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels. As a City Councillor, I do not have a direct governance role related to schools, but can support 2SLGBTQIA+ students as a member of the general public.