

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: John Vandonk

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

No

What role are you running for?

Councilman, Ward 4-Kitchener

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?

To be included & heard by politicians in the community! Hold town hall meetings in the community to hear & address their concerns.

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

No. I have attended & participated in many Pride events in our community over the years.

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?

Educate the public as well as insuring that all incidents are dealt with immediately!

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

All levels of government must come together to find permanent solutions for the homeless crisis as it is affecting all Canadians! Please visit my website johnvandonk.com

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

Very much so!

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 think my website states my positions on these issues.

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 these books & lessons should be taught in High School. Provide a safe place in schools for them to meet.