

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 8 City Councillor, 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?

Systemic homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and all the manifestations of these phobias on our 2SLGBTQIA+ community

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?

Kitchener Council unanimously supported a Motion supporting the Federal government motion to ban conversion therapy. I have done Rainbow Diversity training at my church (Knox in Waterloo) and at the University of Waterloo in the Co-operative Education department with Spectrum. I continue to listen, learn and act accordingly and will commit to continue doing that.

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

Low income, hate crimes, sexual and physical assaults occur at greater frequency in the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Though Public Health is the purview of the Region, addressing the social determinants of public health in the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Helping to increase the awareness of barriers that effect marginalized communities, promoting understanding and educational resources to our community. To continue my own education journey so that I can do a better job of supporting the residents.

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?

I referred to my support of the motion regarding banning conversion therapy above. I put forward the Motion and worked with the CMWKW denouncing Quebec's Bill 21 to protect Religious Freedoms which was the first of its' kind in Canada and was adopted by many other Canadian Municipalities. I stand up for marginalized people and will continue to do so in the next term.

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 support this in schools by voting for Trustees that support 2SLGBTQIA+ students and families. I will be voting for Maedith, Laurie, Meena and Joanne in Kitchener