

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

**Name:** Steven Martin

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

No

**What role are you running for?**

Municipal Councillor Ward 4, Wilmot Township

**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 that whatever decisions are made, inclusion for everyone is important. Everyone needs to feel safe and welcome in the Township.

**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 will do my best to promote inclusion. I am open to concerns from all residents. I welcome discussions with Spectrum and other groups. Since I identify as straight, I may have micro-aggressions or biases or blind spots that I am not aware of. For this reason, I am interested in feedback to make wise decisions.

**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 think that affordable housing needs to be an ongoing topic. I think that mental health is a regular concern, and needs to be kept in the forefront. Since I have been working in mental health all of my life, as a psychotherapist, I am interested in keeping mental health front and centre. Homelessness is in our community. I am a board member of the Wilmot Family Resource Centre in Wilmot which provides food at the food bank and other resources for people who are homeless. I want to keep this issue as an ongoing concern as well.

**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 don't have a specific motion in mind right now. I am open and interested in suggestions. I think that to bring forward a motion, I would want it to be relevant.

**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 think that there needs to be books and resources at all levels of education identifying the variety of families and the variety of living situations. As children grow older, there needs to be straightforward sex education in order to help all children feel included. I would want to liaise with community groups to see how I can be supportive of inclusion in the education system.