

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates



**Name:** Joe Brenner

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

No

**What role are you running for?**

Waterloo City Councillor Ward 5

**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 would reach out to local members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community so they could advise me what they feel are the most critical issues. I feel strongly that elected officials need to listen and support all residents, hence one of my election platforms is to have monthly town hall meetings to stay apprised of issues. If elected, I would work with local representatives of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to address the issues they have identified.

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

I have not participated in this training yet, but look forward to doing so.

**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?**

Education, Education, Education! Starting with GSA programs in all schools. D.E.I and 2SLGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency training for all individuals working with any government program.

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

Homelessness and Mental Health are issues that affect not only individuals but family members as well as members of the community. I strongly support affordable housing, more shelters, more security at shelters so people feel safe, mental health initiatives, addiction programs, counselling for street involved, economically disadvantaged and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. I would also work with other levels of government as I believe there are opportunities for synergies with Federal, Provincial, Regional and City governments.

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

Absolutely, 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 would support a motion that any employee and/or elected official in the city and regional government be required to take D.E.I training and 2SLGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency training.

**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 believe that education is the cornerstone of society. A full and comprehensive curriculum equips students to be knowledgeable, understanding and empathetic to all members of our community. I support GSA alliance programs in all schools.