

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?

Public School Board Trustee (WRDSB, Woolwich/Wellesley)

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?

Safe, inclusive, and affirming schools and communities.

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

No.

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?

We need to continue to have the GSA in schools, effective sexual health education, and addressing language that may be in policies that create systemic discrimination.

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

We need highly qualified CYW's and educators who have been given the appropriate professional development in schools to help support students struggling with mental health issues, especially as they affect members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

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?

A motion that I would bring would be required Diversity and Inclusion Training for everyone. Working together with professionals in a group would create an environment in which people can learn to deal with the issues they might have regarding gender, racialized, or marginalized diverse people. Most people do the best with what they have and with what they already know, but, to paraphrase Maya Angelou: When you know better, you do better.

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, 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels. We need to support students who identify as such by using appropriate pronouns, displaying the Pride Flag, participating in the GSA, and providing appropriate sexual health education. The policies implemented by the board to ensure the support of students who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ are the cornerstones needed to create inclusion.