

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: Joe Gowing

Email Address: Electjoegowing@gmail.com



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

No

What role are you running for?

Regional Council

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 think that our education system has a curriculum that is a start to the education our society needs. But it needs to do more. I think systemic homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia is a major concern for our region. We need to step up our efforts and work with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to figure out the best options for remedies on how to combat these issues. We need to educate the population as a whole. We need to look to other communities where they have a handle on the issues. Learn from them and implement here what has been working.

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

I have not participated in the competency training. That being said I'm interested to know more about it.

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?

As mentioned above I see this as an issue. We could also bring the issue to light. We should showcase the community more in our area. I participated in a march in 2018 and the cities/ region would not even close off the streets for the march. There was not much publicity which doesn't show our community as a whole that this community is an integral part of the community as a whole.

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 will push the federal and provincial governments to put more funding into mental health and addiction services. There is many people that are homeless that need help. Homeless is a major issue and forefront for me. There is not one solution to help this issue. There is people there that don't want the help. There is people there that want to be there. It is getting the services we offer to those people and find ways to help. It is not an easy task and there will not be one solution to fit all.

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

100% agree.

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?

Because I am not part of the community I would refer to leaders and organizers to find out what is the most pressing and see what is needed.

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 kids and children should be learning about everyone and everything in this world. They will be exposed and are being exposed to it in everyday life. They should learn that love is love and people come in all different forms and all should be treated equally.