

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?

School Board Trustee

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?

Right now in our school boards we need to fight to maintain trans rights both through discussions (i.e. not referring to it as a mental illness) and by keeping books in the library.

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?

I will point out when terms are misused, and point to the OHRC that makes it clear that questioning identities is discriminatory.

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

In schools, I support continued access to breakfast and lunch programs, and we need to do more to help address mental health issues, accommodate any academic barriers that are a result, and work to shift society to be more inclusive and supportive to try to reduce the development of crises,

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

Absolutely!

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?

My motions would go to the school board, not the city, but it's clear that schools need to offer more education around queer, racialized, and/or marginalized residents. Teachers need to be reminded of the diversity of students in front of them, for instance that some might be currently unhoused, etc. We tend to assume that we're all on the same page and everyone understands all the issues by now, so we've stopped providing some basic information that is still necessary to many people.

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 support keeping books about a wide variety of family lives and personal experiences with identity in school libraries.