

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?

Ward 2 Cambridge Councillor

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 feel like judgement could definitely be one issue. People are quick to judge, and not always in a positive way. We're long overdue for everyone to accept people for who they are, because at the end of the day, it probably doesn't impact your life in any way, so why should you try and make theirs more difficult?

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

I have not, but I feel as though that is something that should be required of newly elected officials. If elected, I would be more than happy to participate in such training.

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?

These phobias are completely unnecessary and, honestly, disgusting. If there is a policy that can address this issue, I will help draft it and will vote in favour of it. Until then, I will gladly call out and condemn any such phobias that I see.

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've mentioned taking a housing-first approach in other articles. I stand by that, especially when it comes to the more vulnerable communities, such as the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Getting people into safe housing situations is paramount, then we can deal with mental health and other issues that may be affecting the individual.

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

Yes, of course. If someone so much as implies the opposite, then they likely have the same feelings about racial minorities. Humans are humans. Any attempt to segregate people based on sexual identity or race or any other type of classification is an inhumane waste of time.

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?

This is a question I'd rather answer after consulting numerous members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, because the truth is, I could not think of a policy that would do anything significant to help this group. I want to help, but until those discussions happen, any answer or suggestion is simply ignorant.

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, absolutely. The fact that we are actually seeing books banned from schools for containing such content is a sad proclamation of where some elected officials' heads are at. I can't say for sure how I would support these students, because I'd have to ask them first. I am not of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, so I cannot act as though I know exactly what they need. But those are conversations that I am more than happy to have.