

## 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?**

Councillor, Ward 1 City of Waterloo

**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?**

Removing the stigma associated with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and creating safe spaces for all to feel a true sense of belonging. I welcome the opportunity to sit down with individuals and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ to learn from and get a better understanding of the local priorities.

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

Yes - training was very well done. Thank you

**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?**

Listening, seeking to understand and working with Spectrum Waterloo Region as well as individuals within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community would be an important first step in working together to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our community. Whenever faced with a problem or issue to resolve, I have always sought out the individuals/groups with the expertise to help create the solutions that would work best. During this current term of Council the Indigenous Initiatives, Anti-Racism, Accessibility and Equity team was created. If re-elected I will continue to collaborate with this team and seek their direction related to reviewing internal challenges, removing systemic barriers, collaborating with local action groups, and communicating the goals of the team.

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

The issues of homelessness and mental health have been issues I've worked tirelessly on throughout my career. Everyone deserves a place to live and supports for dealing with mental illness and improving mental well-being. I fully support and will advocate for our City to continue working with the Region to address these issues and come up with solutions that work in the short term as well as longer term. In addition, when the City of Waterloo's Affordable Housing Strategy comes to council, I will also advocate for addressing the needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in the strategy.

**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?**

I would like to ensure that as a City we continue to seek input from all voices and especially marginalized communities as we make decisions. This might be more of a direction to staff to take a look at our policies, practices and procedures with an inclusionary lens and to make adjustments where gaps are found. It is important that as a Councillor and as Council we hear all perspectives on issues.

**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 do agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels. We are a community of diverse perspectives, cultures and backgrounds. It is important that we have appropriate opportunities to learn about the diversity, challenges and wisdom that individuals from the 2SLGBTQIA+ bring to our broader community. I am supportive of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and would want to sit down with members of the community to learn more about how best I could support.