

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?

City Of Kitchener Ward 2 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?

Bigotry, Biases, Barriers to participating fully in society.

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

I haven't yet, but as part of Kitchener's Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenous Issues train I will be.

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 have and will continue to support Kitchener growing as a caring, Inclusive Community where everyone feels welcome. I'll speak up. I'll continue supporting measures like our Be U swims at Lyle Hallman Pool and new programs and measures our Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenous Issues Team bring forward for Council approval.

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

While it isn't in Kitchener's jurisdiction to build or run affordable housing, I'll continue supporting us doing what we can and have done like providing the land for the YWCA's Supportive Housing Project on Block Line Road, waiving fees and securing a loan for the oneROOF housing project on Sheldon Ave, the creation of a 2 Million Dollar Reserve Fund to help with Affordable Housing projects and Kitchener providing land, hydro and water for A Better Tent City. Mental Health services are provided by the Region and Province, but I will advocate for them.

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

100%

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 prefer supporting measures our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team bring forward. They are the experts and work closest with 2SLGBTQIA+ agencies to discover what their needs are.

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 education and representation plays a huge role in acceptance. and support. I also feel that in some older demographics some unlearning has to be done. There are misconceptions, prejudices, and misunderstandings that should be left behind. I feel that those elected to the school board are best to address anything done in our schools. I prefer to stay in my lane, but will make my opinions known in discussions with trustees.