

## 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?**

Regional Council Kitchener

**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 one of the most critical issues is stigma and marginalization. It surprises me that in a community as diverse as ours, we are still dealing with a lack of compassion and understanding and that there are so many barriers. I would love to try to make institutional changes and implement policies that address these issues and are inherently inclusive. I would love to see more art and cultural expression that celebrates our diversity and lived experiences.

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

I'm not sure if I have, but I have attended a few community information sessions and roundtables to learn more about 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and adults and their experiences in the region and what they would like to see and projects they are working on.

**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 ensure that any policies or programs being implemented are equitable and clearly worded. I will also review any policies that people bring to my attention.

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

Part of my platform is to increase access to health facilities and increase mental health supports. If there is a demonstrated need in the community I want to ensure that it is a priority. As well, I want to be a part of the solution of increasing supportive and subsidized housing to reduce the wait times and ensure our youth, marginalized populations, and seniors are not left behind.

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

Yes, absolutely. Every member of our community is important.

**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 bring a motion that we have a panel of self-identified 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, seniors, racialized and otherwise marginalized people that give feedback on what the region is doing and how their policies are positively or negatively impacting their communities (beyond what we have now). I really hope that if I am elected, I can increase public engagement with the region. I want all community members to feel like their voices matter and that they are an important part of our community.

**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?**

Representation is important. Books should be available in schools and accessible. The school board has more say in what is included but information should be available.