

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: Rob Evans

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Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

No

What role are you running for?

Mayor 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?

Critical Issues: Equity and removing unfair discrimination, accepting all people, and changing old-fashioned ways of thinking on matters as important as these

How I'd work with local community: With friends and family within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, I will continue to advocate for fairness, open dialogue, Canadian values, and acceptance of all residents in our community.

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

I have not yet taken this training. I've taken courses in the areas of inclusivity, respect, acceptance, and leadership. Throughout my life, my family, education, and professional experiences have included the values needed to be a successful advocate.

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?

One specific area that this issue shows itself is in housing. Removing unfair discrimination from the process and changing old-fashioned levels of thinking is built into and throughout our Equity & Housing Plan (EH Plan).

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

When elected, the Rob Evans Mayoral Plan includes implementing an innovative, different, and proven method to remove unfair discrimination from housing and accommodation. Another simple and specific example is to be sure that the city of Waterloo's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy is in place AND being followed.

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?

One simple and specific area that will improve the lives of these folks is in housing. Removing unfair discrimination from the process and changing old-fashioned levels of thinking is built into and throughout our Equity & Housing Plan (EH Plan). It's a game changer.

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. Inclusivity and treating people fairly can happen at every grade level. And before school. And after school. The golden rule is an easy one for everyone to get on board with. In addition, experts know how and when to include specifics within school curricula at the right ages with correct messaging.