

Mayor and Councillor Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire is prepared on behalf of 2SLGBTQ+ voters in Kelowna based on community input regarding issues that are important to them regarding the October 2022 election. All candidates for mayor and council are invited to complete the questionnaire. Results will be published on Advocacy Canada's website as well as on social media. In the spirit of transparency, results will include a mention of any candidates who do not complete the questionnaire.

The deadline for completion is September 30, 2022. Thank you in advance for your response.

Email *

amaritforkelowna@gmail.com

Your First and Last Name *

Amarit Brar

What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQ+ community? If elected, *
how would you work with the local community to address these issues?

The most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQ+ is housing and safety. If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I will work hard to implement the community safety plan to ensure the recommendations such as supporting individuals who are accessing safe space & services; provide opportunities to create a diverse and inclusive workspaces, as well as increasing support services & programs to address mental health challenges. I would also work actively with the leaders in the community to work towards establishing a strategy to reduce homelessness.

Homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in Kelowna, resulting in significant socio-economic disparities within 2SLGBTQ+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia? *

As recommended in the Community Safety Plan on Page 29, we need to support individuals accessing safe spaces within the city especially if they chose to leave their home. This also means that we would have to work with our local community leaders and advocacy groups to identify opportunities to create a diverse and inclusive workspace and ensure there is a safe space for this community. I will work hard to immediately implement the community safety plan to ensure the 2SLGBTQ+ community feels safe and supported within our city.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQ+ cultural competency or equivalent training? *

My work at Government of Canada requires me to do this training. So I have completed it.

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

To address the ongoing issues of homelessness and mental health, I would work with the provincial & federal counterparts to secure more funds for more social programs that the community needs. I will also work with community leaders to ensure that 2SLGBTQ+ youth have a place to go if they have to leave their home. What the city needs to do is allocate funds and resources into a youth shelter where 2SLGBTQ+ youth feel safe and supported.

If elected, how would you address issues impacting 2SLGBTQ+ seniors, particularly with regard to affordable housing? *

The fact that many 2SLGBTQ+ seniors suffer from housing instability and homelessness is something that cannot continue in our community. I would certainly look forward to working with your team and others to address housing affordability and stability at a foundational level. Whether this means dedicated social housing for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors, working with private sector or non-profit or co-op housing, we have to act quickly to ensure everyone can live comfortably in Kelowna. This may also mean establishing a strategy for affordable housing, particularly for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors. The goal of this strategy would be to ensure that there is a framework in place for these seniors to have affordable housing options, that their rights are protected and that they are able to age in place with their community. This is something that I will be committed to do within the first year of my mandate.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If elected, would you support funding for 2SLGBTQ+ community and social services? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

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