

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 *

James@JamesKay4Kelowna.ca

Your First and Last Name *

James Kay

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?

I appreciate that the 2SLGBTQ+ community has issues around equity and fairness and acceptance. I believe the community also shares many issues and concerns around community safety, housing affordability, and efficient and accountable government. Creating a community that celebrates our diversity and creates an inclusive community for all is my goal. This starts with communication and understanding: creating a Council Advisory Committee so that ideas, issues and concerns can be raised and heard is critical.

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? *

Inclusion, awareness, and education are key tools to combat these disparities. Consultation with the impacted groups, and active engagement in solutions will help. It will take time and determination, but positive steps can be taken.

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

No.

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

We utilize every tool available to the City: increased housing supply, changing regulations and bylaws, increased incentives for supportive and attainable housing, more flexibility for shelters and temporary uses. We lobby the province for additional housing supports, and mental health and addiction resources. We need to engage the public around donations and volunteers and support systems.

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

I want to ensure that we do all we can to minimize any discrimination or inequity; however, affordable housing for all seniors is best achieved with the prioritization of more seniors housing projects, more affordable local options, more diversity in the range of supports available.

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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