

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 *

susanameskelowna@gmail.com

Your First and Last Name *

Susan Ames

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?

To make sure that there is no discrimination from anyone including the general public. Everyone has a right to be themselves. I would work with the community to hear their issues and solutions. Often people have good ideas on how to address issues affecting them.

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?

I would listen to the communities and get their ideas and then implement them as people have very creative, logical, and common sense solutions to problems that affect them.

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

No, I have not.

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

The homeless issue needs to be addressed by providing affordable housing for all. For example, people should not have to spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing as they need the rest for food, clothing etc. Homeless people who aren't working receive income such as from welfare and from my understanding, \$300 is allocated for housing so I would support housing with rents in those ranges. Rents are generally unaffordable and some of the homeless who are working can't find a place so I recognize that and I would support these kinds of rents and housing for those income ranges. The city has land that they can be used as it is the land cost that also affects affordability. I would support the use of city land to be used to construct housing that we are missing. In terms of mental health, there are a range of degrees of mental health issues so I would support policies that help people in the way that they need it. Some of it may be psychological and some may need medication. I do not support people to be left to fend for themselves if they can't look after themselves. These people often get robbed and abused and so they should not be exposed to this. There are different degrees of mental health issues so people can't all be treated the same. In terms of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, I suspect a lot of the mental health issues come from prejudice in employment situations and general treatment out and about. This needs to be countered by talking about it and thereby educating the general public so they have greater understanding that everyone has feelings and everyone contributes to our community. I would support psychological treatment if that is what will work. I suspect that early childhood treatment also has caused issues so I would support psychological help. Basically, what ever is needed. We all contribute in our own ways.

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

Please see my answers above. Everyone needs a good place to live. I would ask the 2SLGBTQ+ seniors what they think are solutions. They may have very creative ideas that can be used for where they live. Maybe it is a city policy that I can bring in.

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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