

2022 Mayor/Council Candidate Questionnaire

- 1. Should all sectors have affordable housing and permanent rental stock, or should one or two sectors be designated for rentals and designed for low income no income people?**

All community plans should include rental or affordable housing options based on the amenities available in the area. We need to change how things are done today to ensure affordable housing has a bigger stake in our cities future.

- 2. Should all neighborhoods have small complex care housing as has been suggested by research?**

Affordable complex care should be available in all communities based on the community need and demands. My time at working at Shaw gave me an opportunity to spend time in some complex care facilities and it is important that these locations are close family and amenities.

- 3. One of our members was advised that in March 2023, the Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation office will be moving from Dilworth Drive to the old CIBC building across from the Petro Canada on the corner of Dougall Road South and Highway 33. This has sparked concerns that community safety will be put further at risk as the population of repeat offenders and transients will increase even further and we have already seen a large increase over the last year. What actions would you take to ensure that residents are informed of matters that affect community safety in the area?**

We must connect directly into the community of business owners and residents in this area and work together to understand what the additional challenges will be, find the measurables and create a plan to support the needs of everyone involved. The decision to move here effects the safety of the community, foot traffic and parking and City By-Law and the RCMP should have a large part to play in our public safety.

- 4. Neighborhood Associations previously had access to speak at City Council meetings open to the public on any matters affecting residents living within their boundaries. Recent changes to City policies severely limited the ability of Neighborhood Associations to bring forward their concerns and discuss these at Council meetings. What would you do to ensure that Neighborhood Associations are included in decisions being made at the municipal level?**

1st, I would like to revisit why the opportunity to speak was removed and see if it still makes sense today. In regards what is happening in our own neighborhoods, we need to focus on information being passed on through different media streams and find ways for our city representatives to be more accessible to all our communities. It is the job of the council to take the needs of the communities we serve back to city hall and ensure their voices are being heard.

- 5. We constantly hear that ‘community safety is everyone’s responsibility’. Do you think that this has contributed to a level of vigilantism within the community?**

I think any vigilantism comes from frustration. Businesses, vehicles, and homes are broken in to and it feels like nothing is being done about it. I don't condone vigilantism, but I can understand peoples frustration when their priceless possessions are taken and are unable to work that day or feel unsafe in their own homes. This comes down to ensuring repeat offenders are not easily let back on the streets, and as a community watching out for each other as the issue before us will not be fixed overnight.

- 6. What would you like to see municipal, provincial, and federal governments do in terms of addressing safety concerns in our community (as well as others)?**

My hope is that we are moving forward with the provinces attempt to bring back the Prolific Offenders Act. This will hopefully help curb some of the repeat offenders we are seeing and help provide a new tool for our justice system to help keep our communities safe. This change in sentencing will create a new pathway for many who are suffering from addiction and homelessness, providing support and direction for someone who would normally be released back to the streets.

7. Do you support replacing the current Kelowna Theatre and what priority does this project have to you?

I do believe that it should be upgraded eventually just like the Parkinson Rec Center, but our current traffic and infrastructure challenges as well as public safety issues must be a priority.

What is one specific process or decision of the last council that you disagreed with, and what specifically would you have done differently on this file?

The Rutland "Wet" Supporting house by the school was heartbreaking. Located by the school close to young children and in the heart of the community left me wondering how we could let this move forward. Over 15,000 signed the petition so the community did its part. As a member of the council, I would have opposed it and done everything in my power to sway the thoughts of the other councilors to not have let the project move forward in its current location or at the very least, ensured it was a dry location.

8. What are your 3 main reasons for running for Mayor or Council?

Accessible Childcare: Waitlists are over 2 years centers across the city and parents desperate for childcare should not have to drive across the city to the one place they finally got in to. Childcare should be in our neighborhoods and a fear of not finding childcare for parents is scary reality.

Public Safety: Theft, repeat offenders, open drug use in parks and neighborhood and the general safety of our citizens must be addressed.

Value for our Tax Dollar: 30% of the cities budget is spent on public safety, and the feeling of safety isn't there. We have a park beside our home were our children play and there is drug use and paraphernalia on full display for my children and the people in the park. I have caught people looking in my vehicle windows in my own driveway were in the past I used to leave my windows down and doors unlocked, I wouldn't dream of it now. We work hard for our dollar, are our tax dollars being spent in the right places?

9. Do you believe that residents associations should play a bigger role development and planning within their areas, should their voices be given more value?

We should all have a voice in what goes on in our community whether it is a large housing development, or a new facility being built. The city plan and what we think is best may not always align but we need to ensure our voice is heard and play a hand in shaping what happens. We must have a council that will listen to its citizens and give value to those who live in the communities the cities decisions will change.

10. URBA and possibly the Downtown Kelowna Association receive funding from the City and are often called on to speak as stakeholders for an area. Do you feel that Neighborhood/Sector Residents Associations should have a valued voice equal to the business association voice?

All who reside in a neighborhood should have a voice but too many voices may dilute a message. Key stakeholders in the community should work together to voice a shared message promoting the needs of the entire community.

11. The residents' associations would not want to be paid for by the city because their voices need to be kept separate and responsive to residents', but do you feel small grants from the City could be allotted to keep the voices of citizens in neighborhoods heard?

I do believe everyone voice should be heard but I do not have a strong understanding of how the grants are distributed and require further understanding before I could comment on this question.

12. If elected, how would you work to have resident's associations voices involved at the beginning of planning and development in their areas rather than an after thought when the planning is already well on its way to being completed?

Community town halls, media polls and generally being available in the early stages of development are important steps ensuring the needs of the community are taken in to account when major community changes are set to take place.

13. If elected, would you look at why so many variances are made after the initial development approval where neighbors have some input? Variance which can change the whole character of the initial proposal are approved without further resident/neighbor input. For example: Neptune/Mercury Road was to have a development of townhouses to be owned by purchasers which close neighbors agreed with so didn't present anything to Council. After approval the developer changed this to be a rental development where tenants do not own the property and possibly will not have the same initiative to look after the property.

A variance can greatly change the outlook of a community and should be reviewed prior by either the council or those who it will affect in the community. We would require a set of guidelines outlining the specific types of variance that would require reviewing.

14. If you are elected, how would you address that development permits which include zoning changes are then allowed to sit idle sometimes for years until the property is sold, based on that change to zoning, with a totally different developer/development than what caused a zoning change?

In my experience with city planning, they have been quick to action anything we have submitted. I would need to dig further into the timelines projects are actually waiting as a developer or requester would be lobbying for their project to move forward and would not typically sit idle unless given a reason too.

15. If Kelowna does not build for 40,000 people who want to come here by 2040 what do you think those people will do? Move to a different city? Become homeless?

We have already seen people turn back from jobs in the Kelowna or choose not to go to school here as they are unable to find places to live, childcare and many times, work that pays enough to support the cost of living here. I don't know what the future holds for our cities infrastructure yet but I don't feel our current plans have us prepared for an additional 40,000 people in Kelowna.

16. How would Kelowna be run differently and look if we were not focused on building for the multitude of people who want to move here, and instead built well planned affordable housing and neighborhoods for those who are already here?

In 38 years of living here, I've seen the change in our city and with expansion came many growing pains. Our challenge is that Kelowna is one of the most desirable places to live in Canada and when we see people vacation here from around the world, growth is inevitable. The job of our Mayor and City Council is to ensure the growth plan is taking in to account the projects that are being approved meet the needs of today and the future including repurposing existing buildings and building single family homes, not just sky rises.

17. What do you think Kelowna would be like if we planned affordable neighborhoods with as much care as we plan our more expensive neighborhoods?

All development plans must go through a planning and vetting stage prior to moving forward meeting specific criteria. The city needs to be better at choosing the locations where many projects are being approved such as the Wet Supportive Housing project or the large apartment going up in the Willow Park Shopping Center leaving no parking for the stores.

18. Our latest OCO (2040) has increased the heights for many areas, but developers still want to build higher. What do you believe is important for assessing increased building heights? Should residents in an area be given a chance to speak to major variance changes when they are presented to Council?

Sustainable and responsible growth are the keys to our city's success. We are dealing with challenges on many fronts such as traffic, city and public facility upgrades and expanding our cities footprint couldn't come at a more challenging time. Townhouse/ Apartment developers and the city must factor in how the size and height of the projects will effect the communities they are being placed in.

19. If elected, do you plan to bring more and diverse industry or manufacturing to our area where citizens can learn and progress from a ground level job to a well-paying job through education and work experience? (At this point, many of the people working in the service industry and at ground level jobs may have to work 3 jobs to even survive and there is no real opportunity to advance in those jobs.)

That is absolutely something I would like to see happen and is the path I followed working at Show Communications from being an Inside Sales Representative to the Regional Sales Manager for Central BC. Seeing Businesses that are located Canada wide such as Canco set up their headquarters here in Kelowna is special and will encourage more of these national companies to relocate to Kelowna.

20. If you witnessed an incident of bullying, intimidation, or discrimination against another Council member, would you be willing to act as witness for that Council member?

Absolutely, equality and inclusion are close to my heart as someone who is a coach, mentor, leader in my community and an advocate for young children.