

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?

Yes, all sectors should have affordable housing and permanent rental stock.

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

Yes, definitely all neighbourhoods should have "small" complex care housing.

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?

Public safety affects how we live, work and play. I will continue to lobby governments to change the laws to keep repeat offenders off our streets, work with other governments, your community, and police to make residents feel safe in their homes and businesses and ensure people of all ages and abilities can enjoy the Okanagan lifestyle safety and affordable. Residents should be informed of all decisions of this nature being made even at the Provincial level of government

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?

Neighbourhood Associations should definitely have a say in what is happening in their surroundings. Associations or individuals have the right to speak to any/all of their councillors. I have spoken to many of you in the past. Neighbourhood associations are entitled to come and speak at any public hearings. so that councillors can hear their concerns and I have seen many residents from Rutland and the area come to Public Hearings

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 do not think this has contributed to a level of vigilantism within our community and have all the confidence in our RCMP to protect the public.

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)?

I would like to see the government change the laws to keep repeat offenders off our streets. The statistics show that about 15 people have over 1100 case files with the police in our area. This is unacceptable and we need the Provincial government to enforce these laws.

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

Absolutely support replacing the current Kelowna Theatre. The #1 priority would be to secure the funding and a suitable location. We should absolutely try and secure funding from other levels of government so that the burden is not completely on the taxpayers of Kelowna. I'm sure that this new asset will be beneficial to all the residents of the Okanagan and that is another reason why we should secure other means of funding.

8. 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?

Council has worked hard and diligently in the areas of public safety, housing, climate and environment, transportation and lobbying higher levels of government for funding. I cannot pinpoint a specific decision that was made as our worst, but of course, in the passing of time, there are some decisions that were difficult and could have been done differently.

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

I have been a Kelowna City councillor since 2011, along with being a Director on the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce Board and a Director on the Central Okanagan Regional District. I have worked at a senior level in Kelowna's tourism industry for 35 years. I feel I have a very strong knowledge of the issues of our city and its residents. I listen to the public and take the time to understand what their needs are. I make decisions for the city as a whole and always try to be accessible and responsive to the taxpayers.

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

Everyone's voice should be given the same value.

11. 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?

URBA and the DKA have full boards of elected business, business owners and others on their boards, in the sectors of the community or in the case of the DKA downtown. I think that resident associations would have to change their model of governance to accomplish this.

(The Rutland Residents Association's Model of Governance: It is a registered society, has yearly elections at its AGM, is open and available to any resident of Rutland at any of their monthly meetings.)

12. 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?

The City bylaws are governed by the Provincial government, and I am not completely sure if these bylaws could/would be able to be changed.

13. 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?

The city is governed to tell the community of any development in their area according to those bylaws, which are followed.

14. 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.

Any variances are/and should definitely be brought to council and that is also governed by the bylaws of the city. Variances are brought to city council and reviewed and discussed at public hearings.

15. 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?

This again, is governed by the laws of the city and zoning must be reinstated every two years.

16. 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?

The 2040 Official Community Plan has redefined how the City of Kelowna will grow. Kelowna needs to continue to densify and diversify. We can achieve this by fostering thriving neighbourhood "town centers" which the city has identified to include vibrant areas, including downtown Kelowna, Rutland, Mission/Pandosy, Capri Center, and Central Kelowna in the Orchard Park area. This will ensure additional use of transit, biking and walking to live, work and play in these neighbourhoods. In turn, this will provide more eyes on the street to foster safety for residents, businesses, and tourists.

17. 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?

See Above

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

See Above

19. 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?

Yes, residents should be given a chance to speak to major variance changes when they are presented to council in the form of attending a public hearing.

20. 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.)

Yes, I am in the service industry and realize that ground level jobs may not be able to sustain an entire family. We definitely need to attract diverse industry and manufacturing to our area.

21. 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.