

2022 MAYOR/Council Candidate Questionnaire – Silverado Socrates Response

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?
2. Should all neighborhoods have small complex care housing as has been suggested by research?
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?
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?
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?
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)?
7. Do you support replacing the current Kelowna Theatre and what priority does this project have to you?
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?
9. What are your 3 main reasons for running for Mayor or Council?
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?
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?

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?
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?
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.
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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.)

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?

Regarding the first two questions.. i think the focus is wrong. Why are there problems? Why are we not looking after one another better? IF you want a better neighborhood, be a better neighbor is a belief i have and one which i think we need to embrace in our culture. We should want to be looking after the less fortunate, and if people feel that others care about them, they will probably respect the others more. Seems a bit naive, but how I feel. Part of a song i have sums it up "we can build a future that leaves no one behind." Sounds naive, but that is what i believe and i think many will agree with me on this.

3: This is the first that i have heard of the move of the Ministry office. I will say, that i was thinking to make it an election issue of the current location not having proper shelter for the people waiting outside in line. I hope that the new location covers this issue (pun not initially intended, but I like it!). Treat people worse than animals, and you aren't likely to get great behavior back. Along these lines of thinking, i think that we can make this into a win win situation. People i have met in line ups there have treated me very respectfully. I cannot say the same about how I saw some security from there treating people or on conversations that I have heard between people at the service desk and clients. Having said that, I think that things are much better between the counter staff and the clients. Hopefully the public can start being more civil too. One of the comments I am referring to is one i learned from a former tenant. She was told that she should come back after she had a shower- she was homeless....hearing that basically convinced me to let her and her boyfriend rent from me. I let them stay before they had been approved for welfare but they followed through. They are no longer a couple, but I am still friends with both and think that they are wonderful people.

This next part, I think answers part of 3 and 4: The council informs the public about upcoming meetings, on their website. There is a lot of information on there, and hard to keep up. I could see that there might be prudence to have someone who has as part of their job requirements, to inform potentially affected community groups - being proactive to potential backlash. I would like to see some officially designated soapbox kind of areas throughout town where people feel safe to speak about matters in their neighborhoods... ones where council members might meet at over the week, on scheduled times. Informal, non-intimidating venues and people that are easy to approach both in distance and character.

I think my answers to this point reflect feelings for 5

6 Having all levels of government on this same page could be done by engaging a "be the peace you want to see" community cultures. To embrace individual communities through helping engage a learning/ honoring of each communitie's unique histories and peoples could be done. I feel Rutland is well on it's way here with some of the projects i have seen such as the mural project, Ben Lee Park, Rutland May Day's parade, the scarecrow festival and other projects. Doing these things and having an inviting atmosphere to members and visitors alike can prevent the problems in the first place. Hurting people hurt people is a saying i heard that resonated and still does. Rejection is one of the greatest insults. Having said that, rejection with reasons can be a healthy boundary. If people choose to constantly break community codes, there should be a cost that is consistent but caring.

7 I have heard a bit about the kelowna theatre being replaced through active music and theatre members. I suspect that patrons and performers/ producers could develop major fundraisers that could be variously matched with city / business /individual coffers. The savings potential as energies of members are engaged in putting drama on the stage is priceless. This idea of promoting peace through tourism is a major part of why I am running. Tourism is known to be a major source of income in the valley but the idea of saving funds by investing in peaceful endeavors is not thought of much. Any business owner and most people can appreciate that saving funds is akin to making extra funds, but sometimes I thing that we forget that money is a tool. It is not meant to be the end result. You can't eat drink or breathe money.

8 Not comfortable to speak on this

9 Promoting Peace through Tourism and the idea that it starts at home- we really need to be engaging better with the lost/abused members within our society.

Value of the ALR land and the incredible history of our farming community. I think we could be developing a center that could be a combined Barkerville meets Caravan Farm Theatre meets Ann of Green Gables. Helping people develop self discipline and selflessness through helping others have a good time or learning to grow something. I think most people enjoy eating or being entertained. It is also incredibly satisfying to be the provider of these things but the provider should be compensated well. It is very sad to see the small farm going the way of the dodo bird and we are losing more than jobs here. To have the providers be out of town is to be not only susceptible to food shortages but the environmental and labor standards are unknown. We could and should be setting ourselves to be an example for other communities.

Transit There is talk of expanding Hollywood rd North and setting up a transit yard near the university. I think we could be entertaining a different system with the costs allocated to this idea. An above ground system that is more modern in design and one that would significantly increase transit time by avoiding stopping at lights etc. There should and could be much more public engagement.

10 /11/12 Definitely residents' associations could and should play bigger roles. Rutland's group sounds as if it could take a lead here. I would definitely encourage some funding/support towards helping groups have space and some funds to encourage people to participate. This could take the place of perks from local businesses too- for example the city paying for coupons to a local bakery that provides muffins. There could be a lot of ways the support for community engagement could be made- business members would probably love to support initiatives.

13 I feel i have answered this

14 /15 good points. I feel your frustration. Having your voice could help with that.

16. 17 18 We can be learning to get along within the homes we have now. This is a reason I am running and part of the one where peace starts at home. Many people have already chosen to move due to the small-town feel leaving and to high prices. There are many new buildings in the works... the focus can be changing as they get built.

19 I am of the idea of building higher more than sprawl. I remember having a substantial talk with this with Mayor Gray, back in the day when he was mayor. Having said that, the current fire response set up is limited to a certain height and it is my understanding there is great danger if one of the buildings sets fire. There should be discussion regarding funding support for both equipment and labor. Residents should be available to speak and listen to conversations going on.

20 not opposed to these ideas. I think we need places of respite and rescue for folk that have unexpected challenges too. Only yesterday I heard of someone who is waiting for back surgery and is unable to work. He is eating up all his savings, because he has no coverage. His stress is not only up because of this, but the owner of his rental situation is selling so he needs a new place before the end of the year. There could be some larger almost army style dry housing set ups that give people food and shelter for respite or rescue situations. Not fancy but functional whether it be because of some unknown things such as this, or due to fires running through a neighborhood. I think we could/ should be setting ourselves up that we could live this way before having to due to some emergency.

21 yes, and hopefully would say something at the time. I will say that i have stepped into fights when i saw someone being outnumbered. The last time was this year and i helped someone

get a laptop back after another had taken it. I have had too much taken by me and was at a point where i did not want to go out of my way to avoid the disturbance. Being a witness made a difference and the theft was stopped. Aggression is something that creates it's own drug that reinforces it. I was neutral to the drama going on, and it made a difference.