

2026 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Randy Millis — Candidate for Kelowna City Council

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1. What are your three main reasons for running for Mayor or Council?

First, I want a Kelowna people can afford, access and belong in. Housing affordability, accessibility, preventing homelessness, community resilience and accountable local government are connected issues that affect daily life.

Second, I believe my background in journalism, radio, information technology, small business and community and shelter support work gives me a useful way of approaching problems: listen, investigate, identify what is actually within the City's authority, consider costs and alternatives, and measure whether a decision worked.

Third, I want City Hall to listen carefully, communicate clearly and remain accountable for outcomes. I do not pretend to have every answer, but I am prepared to ask questions, learn, make decisions and explain them.

2. Are you in favour of limiting the number of years an individual can sit as Mayor or as a city Councillor?

I have not adopted a fixed position on municipal term limits. Before supporting a specific limit, I would want to examine the evidence, the legal framework, the effect on voter choice and institutional knowledge, and whether term limits actually improve accountability. I would rather give a responsible answer after that review than manufacture certainty for a questionnaire.

3. Should major city projects be done using public/private contracting?

I do not support a blanket rule either for or against public-private delivery. The question should be what arrangement best serves the public interest for the particular project. I would compare the full lifecycle cost, financing, risk transfer, transparency, public control, service quality and alternatives before deciding. A project should not be called good simply because it is public, private or a partnership; the result and value to residents matter.

4. Are there too many staff at City Hall? Are there too many upper level managers and directors at City Hall which taxpayers have to fund?

I do not think it is responsible to decide that from a head count alone. I would want to know what work is being performed, where workloads and duplication exist, how Kelowna compares with similar municipalities, what services residents expect, and whether management structures are producing measurable results. If positions are unnecessary or structures are inefficient, Council should address that. If staffing is required to deliver essential services effectively, cutting it simply to reduce a number can create other costs and delays.

5. Should taxpayers have more say in the development of their neighbourhoods? Has the current development process gone too far in eliminating residents' voices and concerns about developments in their neighbourhoods?

Residents affected by development should have meaningful opportunities to be heard, and the City should explain how their concerns were considered. Listening does not mean every resident or neighbourhood group has a veto over development, because Council also has to consider housing need, property rights, infrastructure, city-wide interests and legal obligations. My approach is to hear the people affected, identify the actual points of disagreement, examine the evidence and alternatives, and then explain the decision.

6. What are you prepared to do about visible drug use, public safety concerns, neighbourhood impacts around low-barrier and transitional housing, and related street dysfunction?

Residents and businesses deserve safe and usable public spaces, and people experiencing homelessness or addiction deserve dignity and appropriate housing, health care and treatment options. Those positions do not contradict each other.

I would start by measuring the actual problems rather than relying only on impressions: public drug-use complaints, discarded equipment, fires, sanitation issues, police and bylaw calls, ambulance responses and other neighbourhood impacts. Immediate hazards should be addressed, access kept clear, and service providers held accountable for site management.

At the same time, the City cannot solve addiction by enforcement alone. Council should work with the Province, health authorities, non-profits and housing providers on treatment access, housing stability, outreach and prevention. I want homelessness to be rarer, shorter and less likely to happen again, while maintaining safe public spaces for everyone.

7. Are you in favour of the increasing elimination of single family dwellings in previously single detached housing neighbourhoods?

My campaign does not call for eliminating single-detached homes. I support increasing attainable and accessible housing choices and planning complete neighbourhoods. When zoning changes are proposed, I would consider the housing need, infrastructure capacity, accessibility, neighbourhood impacts, design, costs and alternatives rather than treating every neighbourhood or every project the same.

8. Do developers get too many breaks at the expense of taxpayers?

I would not assume that every incentive, variance or partnership is automatically a “break,” but neither should developers receive benefits without a clear public purpose. I would ask what the City is giving up, what residents receive in return, whether the arrangement is transparent, whether the cost is justified, and whether a better alternative exists. The test should be defensible public value.

9. Should infrastructure be a priority pre-development instead of constantly playing catch-up as the city grows?

Infrastructure capacity should be a core part of growth decisions. Before major development proceeds, Council should understand the effects on roads, transit, water, sewer, drainage, emergency access, sidewalks, accessibility and other public services, along with who pays and when improvements will be delivered. I would not support treating infrastructure as an afterthought; the sequencing should be based on evidence, capacity and realistic financing.

10. What are your views on the 15-minute neighbourhood concept, parking requirements and green space within developments?

I support complete neighbourhoods where people can reach more of what they need conveniently, but that should increase choices rather than pretend every resident can or should live without a vehicle. Kelowna has workers, families and people with disabilities whose transportation needs differ.

I have not adopted a blanket proposal to restore every former parking minimum. Parking requirements should reflect actual demand, accessible parking needs, transit availability, neighbourhood conditions and the type of development.

Usable green space is an important part of healthy neighbourhoods. I would consider on-site green space, nearby parks, tree canopy, accessibility and the overall public realm when reviewing development rather than relying on a single formula.

11. Should the City prioritize purchasing new park land and protect City-owned land as green space rather than selling it to developers?

Parks and green space are important public assets, and Council should protect or acquire land where there is a demonstrated community need. But I would not impose a rule that all City-owned land must become park land or can never be sold. Public land can sometimes serve residents better as a park, housing, infrastructure, a community facility, a lease or a partnership. I would start with the objective, compare the options and ask which use produces the strongest long-term public benefit.

12. Should cultural infrastructure only be in the downtown core? Are you prepared to change bylaws that restrict cultural development to downtown?

I do not think cultural participation should be treated as something that belongs only downtown. Neighbourhood-based cultural spaces and activities can strengthen belonging and community life. I have not reviewed the specific bylaws referenced in this question, so I would not promise a particular amendment without reading them. If a bylaw unnecessarily prevents appropriate cultural activity elsewhere in Kelowna, I would be prepared to review it, hear from affected communities and consider changes based on evidence, compatibility, cost and accessibility.

13. Should more parking be made available so all Kelowna residents can enjoy Okanagan Lake shoreline and beaches?

Access to the lake should not depend solely on living within walking distance or being able to walk long distances. I would look at the full access problem: accessible parking, general parking demand, transit, safe drop-off areas, cycling and pedestrian access, and seasonal congestion. I would support practical changes where the evidence shows additional parking or other access improvements are needed, while also considering the cost and the effect of using waterfront land for parking.

14. What are your thoughts regarding Resident Associations and Affiliate Agreements? Should Resident Associations be restricted from speaking against City decisions or plans that may adversely affect a neighbourhood?

Resident associations should be able to raise concerns, disagree with City Hall and advocate for their neighbourhoods in good faith. Administrative agreements can establish responsibilities, funding rules or communication expectations, but they should not be used to silence legitimate criticism. Accountable government requires hearing from people who agree with a decision and people who do not.

15. What efforts will you make to include all Resident Associations in consultation processes on matters affecting the health, safety and well-being of residents within their boundaries?

Where a proposal materially affects a neighbourhood, I would expect the relevant resident association to be notified early enough to participate meaningfully and to have access to clear information about the proposal, timelines and decision process. Their input should be part of the record and the City should explain how significant concerns were addressed.

Resident associations are an important voice, but not the only voice. Consultation should also reach renters, homeowners, businesses, people with disabilities, youth, seniors and others who may not belong to an association. The goal is broad, accessible participation before decisions are made, not consultation after the outcome is effectively settled.