



# WHITE ROCK BIA

## White Rock Municipal Election- Councillor Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for running for council. Our community only works when people step forward to serve our neighbours, and you and the 21 other candidates are giving your time and energy to serve. We're very grateful for your contribution to our civic democracy.

This questionnaire will be shared unedited with BIA members, Chamber members, the Peace Arch News, and the public at large through websites and social media. Please try to limit your answers to 250 words per question.

**Candidate Name:** Bill Lawrence

**Member of a Slate or Independent?** White Rock Coalition

1. Please tell us about yourself and why you're running for City Council:

I'm excited about the opportunity to serve another four years on Council. As a team we laid out a strong foundation last term and I want to continue to implement the programs and projects that will lead White Rock into the middle part of this century. It's something I'm very passionate about.

As a small business owner for many years in White Rock, I'm committed to achieving win-win solutions for the city I love. As a current City of White Rock Councillor, I have proven experience in implementing programs and projects for the betterment of the community. As a local business owner at Five Corners and previous business owner at the beach, I believe I'm known for my open and fair minded approach and my ability to think outside the box to find innovative solutions for our City.

I also have experience on both the Waterfront Merchants' Association and the White Rock Business Improvement Association, an important perspective from our city's business community that I bring to City Council.



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2. Several candidates are independent, and while others are part of a slate, it is entirely possible that only one from a slate may be elected. Regardless of whether you are part of a slate or an independent, how will you work with what may be a mayor & council with diverse viewpoints to bring forward your ideas and address issues?

There is a real diversity of views on the Coalition team, and I think it's imperative for everyone, regardless of being part of a team or not, to be able to work in a respectful way. It's how I conduct myself and I would like to see a similar commitment from everyone running for council. For the past four years I've worked in a positive way with members of my Coalition team as well as other who weren't, including the Mayor. We've all voted independently, and I'm proud of that.

3. Affordability is a major challenge for residents and businesses in White Rock. Sky high property values lead to rising housing costs and expensive leases, making it hard for people to live here and businesses to stay here. How will you address this existential threat to our community?

Residential affordability is a major issue hitting all areas of the Lower Mainland. I was part of the decision making process to enact bylaws which prevent "demovictions" in White Rock. Another bylaw enabling displaced residents to go into temporary accommodation while the primary premises is being renovated or built, is being highly praised by affordable housing advocates as a model for other municipalities to follow.

Commercial affordability is dependant on what is negotiated between the landlord and the business tenant. If a dialogue can be facilitated between landlord and business tenant, with the BIA as an integral party, where a sustainable rent level can be agreed upon, then the business tenant can be



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better positioned for a long term tenancy. Landlords have to be part of the solution.

4. How will you improve our transportation system- including roads, sidewalks, transit, and bike routes- to ensure that our community is accessible for residents and visitors?

I've worked extremely hard on this issue – and we've seen such great results over the past four years. But there's lots more to do. I'm committed to continuing to improve accessibility across the city, more parkland, more improvements to sidewalks and championing increasing transit options for both residents and visitors. I'd also like to see a funicular added to the city.

5. Communication between the City of White Rock and the residents and businesses have been challenging- there have been concerns that people haven't been informed of projects and decisions. How will you revitalize communications and relationships between residents/businesses and the City?

We've achieved a lot here and I'm committed to continuing to increase transparency and dialogue.