

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

I moved to White Rock with my family 25 years ago, and then graduated from Earl Marriott Secondary School. My post-secondary education was completed at SFU, where I earned my degree in history and my PDP teaching certificate. I'm married to my lovely wife Lea, and we have two small children.

I am currently employed as a teacher at Earl Marriott, where I have spent 12 of my 14 year teaching career. Before that I was employed in agriculture. I've also worked as a writer and researcher, and collaborated with organizations such as the Indus Media Foundation, BBC, and Imperial War Museum. I've run several organizations, and was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003 for volunteer work.

I am running for White Rock City Council because I have deep concerns over the governance of our City. I am concerned with the haphazard development, lack of transparency and tone of City Hall, quality of our water, questionable spending priorities, sharp accumulation of debt, treatment of our neighbours, and the failure to provide basic services like garbage collection for all residents.

When elected to White Rock City Council, I will work to turn the page and start a new chapter in our city. I will work to build trust and a positive inclusive relationship with all our residents and neighbours alike. I will work to publicly review and then stay with our Official Community Plan. I will work to address our water supply, restore garbage collection, and return question period and government transparency.

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

When I am elected to council, I will be committed throughout my term to work in a positive, professional, and constructive manner regardless of who is on council. Over my career, I have built a reputation for fairness, honesty, and respect for others even when disagreements arise. These are not just words, but professional practice.

Indeed, as a secondary school teacher at one of the larger schools in the province, working with a diverse body of staff, students, and parents is my daily routine. I've also served as chair of the school's staff committee for over 7 years. The purpose of staff committee is to represent the concerns and issues of over 100 staff members to the school's administration, which has always been a balancing act. Despite the challenges, in a recent vote I received the support of over 95% of staff, and I continue to enjoy the confidence of my school's administration. I maintain this professionalism on all committees that I sit on.

In addition, I enjoy the formal endorsements of my last two employers outside of education.

During this election, I've continued this professionalism with Democracy Direct-White Rock. I'm proud to have made friends with individuals in DDWR from completely different walks of life and political orientations. I've also established positive relationships with a many of the others candidates, and I will be pleased to work with any of them on council to better our city by the sea.

At the end of the day however, it is important to note that I am answerable not to any slate or organization, but to the residents of White Rock. I will not vote as a block or along party or slate lines.

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?

Municipal governments do not have the power to address the root causes of high property values in the Lower Mainland, but they can take steps to help mitigate the impact on local businesses.

I firmly believe that the best strategy any government can adopt to support local businesses is to get out of their way and let entrepreneurs be entrepreneurs. This means our City should take steps to reduce red tape, fees, permits, patio charges, and so on and so forth. Property tax rates should also be reviewed to ensure they are competitive with neighbouring municipalities. I would also revisit parking rates, and take a serious look at parking validation and/or free parking during the off season to encourage all season business activity along the waterfront.

Working and communicating with local businesses and property owners is another important step. Businesses should know well in advanced if construction or other City initiatives will be impacting them, and then the City should listen to and work with our local businesses to try to find ways to ease any disruptions.

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?

As White Rock becomes more developed, it is incumbent upon City Hall to work towards improving transportation and ease of access for our residents and visitors.

Initiatives I would support include working with Surrey to lobby for more public transit, including local shuttle buses, and more runs of the popular 351 and 354 bus routes during peak periods. I would also look at continuing with a White Rock shuttle, well marked, that would connect uptown to Marine Drive in a three point run (Uptown, West Beach,

East Beach) during the summer season.

Even in 2018, much of White Rock still does not have sidewalks. I would support plans to build sidewalks with appropriate boulevard trees, beginning with wider streets that have more foot traffic. Our City must also be responsive to people with mobility issues, and ensure that our City is accessible to everyone, and listen to concerns on a case by case basis.

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?

White Rock has put on a number of well designed presentations explaining their initiatives, but communication is a two way street. It is ever important for City Council to remember that they work for the public, and not the other way around. I would restore question period and ensure residents receive answers. I would support more public town halls, where residents will again be free to ask questions and expect answers. I would end all closed 'in-camera' meetings that are not legally required. I believe in an open door policy, in which residents will feel comfortable approaching their Council with their concerns.

Improving communication with the residents and businesses of our City needs to become a top priority. This means a City website that is user friendly and easy to navigate. The financial status of our City also needs to be easy to understand and accessible. All records related to City Hall decision making and finances should be made public. Residents and businesses in particular need to be made aware of any development that will impact them well in advance so they have time to make arrangements. Fundamentally, City Hall needs to listen to and respect the needs and concerns of the residents and businesses of White Rock.