



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:

Member of a Slate or Independent?

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

My family roots in White Rock go back to the early 1990's when my Grandmother moved from Qualicum Beach to a condominium on Merklin Street, just a stone's throw from City Hall. Before she passed away at Peace Arch Hospital I'd visit and run errands for her all the while marveling at the beautiful ocean view, the quiet streets and the warm small-town feel of White Rock.

In 2004 my wife and I moved to White Rock and quickly fell in love with our "city by the sea". We bought our first home here. We married here in 2008 and held our reception at one of the local restaurants overlooking Semiahmoo Bay. We currently live in the Uptown area and we continue to enjoy the city's ambience and natural beauty.

With more than 17 years of experience as a peace officer I understand what it means to serve and protect my community. Through my work, I have had occasion to testify in courts and administrative tribunals. Those experiences taught me what being accountable for my decisions truly means. As a result, I have what it takes to make well considered decisions that will be for the greater good and best interests of our city.

As part of my role working in management positions within the public service, I oversee sensitive files and have managed multi-million-dollar service contracts. I have also worked with special interest groups and non-governmental organizations. These responsibilities have given me the unique experience of being able to get results while navigating government bureaucracy, ensuring fiscal accountability and promoting effective relationships with other jurisdictions, different levels of government and Indigenous Peoples.



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There has been considerable change in White Rock over the last number of years. In my view, much of it could have been better communicated, implemented and managed. I have a strong desire to support my city as well as the necessary skills and experience to be an effective community leader and advocate for White Rock's progress, viability and sustainability.

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?

I mentioned this during the councillor question and answer event, I look at this campaign as a try out or audition for a team or a cast. Instead of a coach or a director, the good people of White Rock will make their decision about who they select to lead them but, in the end, whomever they choose must operate as a team. Like any team, every player brings his or her strengths and each of them play a pivotal role in the overall success of the team and the city.

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?

The impact of non-resident owned and empty homes has been widely reported. According to the last available reporting from Statistics Canada, more than four percent (4%) of all homes in White Rock are non-resident owned placing our community within the top 10 Lower Mainland jurisdictions impacted by non-resident home ownership. What's more, the value of non-resident owned homes (condominiums and single detached houses) is far and away higher than homes owned by White Rock citizens. With other municipalities facing significant housing shortages, in part due to non-resident ownership rates as high as 8 percent and White Rock sitting at a 0.5 percent vacancy rate, we can't afford to see the non-resident home ownership rate in our city creep up any further. We need to address this now, with this election, because 4 years from now it will be too late.



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I will advocate for our new Mayor and council to:

- a) formally accept that this is an issue impacting affordability in our community;*
- b) lobby the provincial government for the necessary authorities to implement bylaws and policies that value and promote domestic and residential home ownership over increased foreign investment and speculation;*
- c) leverage the Metro Vancouver Board, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as forums to engage with other jurisdictions and advocate for a whole of Metro Vancouver strategy to address land speculation and non-resident investment.*

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?

Let's start by prioritizing what we have direct control over. We have road ways, alley ways and sidewalks (or lack thereof) that need addressing now. Once we get our own house in order we can then turn to external partners such as Translink to address any existing gaps in the transit system.

I've been commuting from White Rock to downtown Vancouver for over a decade and, overall, I'm not completely dissatisfied with the service but I think there are areas of improvement. One of the complaints I've heard is the off peak hours frequency of the 351, certainly this is worthy of discussion. Another issue is the lack of any discernible plan for the Massey Tunnel replacement. I was supportive of the original plan under the previous provincial government and, if elected, would push to partner with Surrey and Delta to pressure the province to get moving on it.

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?

Imagine our city as the envy of the Lower Mainland, not only for its natural beauty, but its open administration, accessibility to information, decision making and, more importantly, the reasons behind those decisions. A city that other municipalities look to as a model for direct communication with its residents and transparency in its governance.



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If elected I will work with the new Mayor and council to:

- *Re-introduce question period at City Hall.*
- *Implement an accountability and transparency policy that enshrines communication, consultation and collaboration as the guiding principles of open government and city administration.*
- *Establish regularly scheduled Town Halls as a forum to engage residents and business owners and communicate important information and updates.*

I commit to maintaining an active online presence so that you can connect with me when it's convenient for you and I will leverage these platforms to communicate with you to keep you informed about the issues being dealt with by your Mayor and Council. I commit to remaining accessible to all taxpayers - residents and business owners alike.