



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: **Moti BALI (Independent Candidate for White Rock City Council)**

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

I am Moti Bali resident of White Rock for over 26 years. I am a Retired Banker and after retirement, I have devoted my life for community service. I have worked on the various committees of the City Government as well. I have volunteered in all the events in the city including Peace Arch Hospice Society. I have excellent leadership skills – for instance, I have been the President of the White Rock Tennis Club, worked on the committee that initiated the “no smoking ban in restaurants and White Rock was the first City in BC to do so, organized the multicultural festival of lights for the last four years celebrating diversity and inclusivity. Recognizing my volunteer services to the community and leadership skills, the Rotary Club of White Rock awarded me the International Paul Harris Award. The City awarded me the Outstanding Citizen of the Peninsula award. Now I have decided to run for the post of Councillor because I believe I can help the residents from inside the council and to ensure their views and concerns are heard in the city Hall and decisions are taken in a transparent manner taking these into account.



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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?

I am a team player with good leadership qualities. I am good at listening to the varied opinions on a subject and then working hard to build a consensus. I will bring these skills to the city hall. The possibility of having a Mayor and Council with diverse view points is good for democracy and to have lively meaningful debates on issues that concern the citizens of White Rock. I am a bridge builder who believes that transparency in deliberations with harmony, goodwill and respect for other Councillors and Mayor would achieve the best results for our community



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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?

I will work tirelessly to ensure developers are required to have at least 10% to 15% of the apartments/condominiums (out of their permitted development) are built to accommodate middle-income families with another 5% built to have rental space available for low-income families. Expensive leases are driving businesses out of the community. I will work in the Council to determine tax-breaks and other monetary benefits that can be given to businesses to encourage them to stay in the community. Revitalization of businesses and restaurants along the waterfront would be my priority since this would promote tourism and help in improving the revenues to the City.



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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?

The transportation system to Vancouver and Surrey is capable of handling the present-day requirements. I will work to initiate the studies required to develop plans for these corridors to meet future requirements. I would also look at utilizing up-to-date technological measures available to move people using public transportation.

The transit system connecting areas such as Ocean Park, Crescent Beach, Cloverdale, Langley needs to be upgraded. Within the city of White Rock, I would like to improve the accessibility along Marine Drive by providing parking at the East Beach by working with Semiahmoo First Nations and providing people movers to access all businesses and restaurants along Marine Drive.



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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?

I will work with my colleagues on the Council to ensure that all discussions on issues of concern to the residents and processing of development permits are carried out in an open and transparent manner. I will try and publish as much information as possible at the City's websites. I will work to get the Public Relations Office to be responsive and accountable to the community unlike the manner in which it is operating currently.

On a personal level, I will be conducting townhall type meetings every 15 days to listen to the views and opinions of the residents. In addition, I intend to send out a brief one-page newsletter to the residents describing the activities of the Council. Such regular interaction would enable the citizens to participate in the decision-making process of the City Government. Similarly, I will engage with the WRSS Chamber of Commerce and the White Rock Business Improvement Association to understand the needs of the business community.