

COMPLETE

Q1

Council Candidate Name

Gary Beyer

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Q2

Where can the public find information about your platform

garybeyer.ca

Page 2: Candidate Questions

Q3

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Please select to respond to ONE of the following questions:

Do you believe people experiencing repeated mental health crises and/or overdoses should receive involuntary treatment?

Q4

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Written Response to Question Selected Above

While not all those experiencing mental health or drug related issue should be targeted for involuntary care, there are those that truly can no longer help themselves, nor can they protect themselves from others who would do them harm. There does come a time where we must be our brother's keeper and provide for and care for those who can't.

Q5

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Respond to ONE of the following questions:

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2021 rental market report found that Greater Victoria's rental vacancy rate had dropped to 1%, compared to 2.2% in 2020. How will you address this shortage of rental housing units in the region?

Q6

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Written Response to Question Selected Above

Victoria has many tools available to create truly affordable rental housing. Tax incentives, land lease options, Federal and Provincial incentive monies. We need to leverage these and get the shovels in the ground in a timely manner to facilitate a quicker timeline from application to occupancy.

Q7

Theme 3: Community Safety

Who do you believe are the greatest victims of crime and violence currently in downtown Victoria, and what can be done to help them?

Q8

Theme 3: Community Safety - Written Response to Question Selected Above

While we are all victims of crimes in the city, (Bike thefts, smashed windows, random violence), some of the worst affected, and least able to do anything about it are the homeless with mental health issues. Until we as a society can implement not only complex care but yes, also involuntary care in some instances, then we are really only putting band aids on a gaping societal wound. In the meantime, we must remain compassionate to those who would most need our help, and more law enforcement on those who would do harm to them.

Q9

General comments/thoughts about Mental Health and Well-being in Victoria

While I am no expert in the field, I can see where we are failing those with mental, and physical health issues. Frankly, we need to do better.

COMPLETE

Q1

Council Candidate Name

Tom Braybrook

Page 1

Q2

Where can the public find information about your platform

www.braybrook.org

Page 2: Candidate Questions

Q3

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Please select to respond to ONE of the following questions:

What are your thoughts on the following statement: "Mental health and substance use are provincial responsibilities"?

Q4

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Written Response to Question Selected Above

I agree that Mental Health and Substance use are Provincial responsibilities - but the implementation of many solutions to these issues are delivered by the City - through policing, peer groups and ngo-partners. The Province must provide stable funding to support City programs and initiatives, as well as maintain cross-organization co-ordination between Provincial Ministries and local actors.

Q5

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Respond to ONE of the following questions:

The Point in Time report found that 35% of Victoria's homeless population is Indigenous, even though Indigenous people only make up 5% of the total population. How do you plan to support Indigenous people who face systemic barriers to housing?

Q6

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Written Response to Question Selected Above

Work with local indigenous communities to identify and provide needed supports for the unhoused indigenous populations. Community elders are the folks with the knowledge to act on this issue - invite their comments/ideas and act on them.

Q7

Theme 3: Community Safety

Is Victoria a safe community in your opinion? What can be done to improve safety in the city?

Q8

Theme 3: Community Safety - Written Response to Question Selected Above

In general, Victoria is a safe community, however, there are specific areas that are burdened with more, and varied types of crime than others.

The creation of a safe community relies on a partnership between community members, police, community groups, local businesses, and more. We are all responsible for safety. The council, through the Police Services Board, could support a community policing model. Council should ensure that partnerships between police and other service providers are supported and enhanced.

Q9

General comments/thoughts about Mental Health and Well-being in Victoria

Respondent skipped this question

COMPLETE

Q1

Council Candidate Name

Rob Duncan

Page 1

Q2

Where can the public find information about your platform

drrobduncan.ca

Page 2: Candidate Questions

Q3

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Please select to respond to ONE of the following questions:

Over 10,000 people have died in BC since 2016 due to the drug poisoning crisis. If elected, what steps will you take to immediately address the drug poisoning crisis to prevent future injuries and deaths?

Q4

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Written Response to Question Selected Above

I would push for Safe Supply, providing medical-grade opiates to those who are dependent on them. This should be combined with much quicker access to detox and some form of dry housing for people to move into upon exiting detox.

Q5

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Respond to ONE of the following questions:

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2021 rental market report found that Greater Victoria's rental vacancy rate had dropped to 1%, compared to 2.2% in 2020. How will you address this shortage of rental housing units in the region?

Q6

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Written Response to Question Selected Above

We have to recognize that the private sector, with its requirement for maximizing profit, can make only a limited contribution to addressing Victoria's rental market crisis. The rental housing Victoria needs will have to be publicly financed, so the task for Council becomes working with other levels of government to find the necessary funding.

Q7

Theme 3: Community Safety

Is Victoria a safe community in your opinion? What can be done to improve safety in the city?

Q8

Theme 3: Community Safety - Written Response to Question Selected Above

There are a surprising number of people who say they don't feel safe downtown or in certain parks, so no, given that this perception seems to be fairly common, Victoria can't be described as a safe community, overall. Many of the perceived risks are related to homelessness, as is obvious, for instance, in the case of feeling unsafe in parks where homeless people are living. I am a supporter of the Housing First approach, according to which many important changes follow from being housed. Providing adequate housing for all would make Victoria safer.

Q9

General comments/thoughts about Mental Health and Well-being in Victoria

Respondent skipped this question

COMPLETE

Q1

Council Candidate Name

Sandy Janzen

Page 1

Q2

Where can the public find information about your platform

VoteSandyJ.ca

Page 2: Candidate Questions

Q3

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Please select to respond to ONE of the following questions:

Over 10,000 people have died in BC since 2016 due to the drug poisoning crisis. If elected, what steps will you take to immediately address the drug poisoning crisis to prevent future injuries and deaths?

Q4

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Written Response to Question Selected Above

within 30 days of being elected to City Council, I pledge to enact a PAC team or Emergency Response Team to assess homeless individuals into immediate streams of Rehabilitation care with some form of basic shelter under a Housing First approach. One of the absolute top priorities of the new city council is to begin building a complex Care Facility specially designed to tackle Mental Health and substance addiction crisis.

Q5

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Respond to ONE of the following questions:

The Point in Time report found that 35% of Victoria's homeless population is Indigenous, even though Indigenous people only make up 5% of the total population. How do you plan to support Indigenous people who face systemic barriers to housing?

Q6

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Written Response to Question Selected Above

Seeing as our Indigenous population disproportionately represents the highest number of homeless individuals then they will be the greatest number benefited through the above mentioned programs such as a multi complex Care Facility. By treating every homeless individual regardless of race, ethnicity, religion etc then everyone benefits. In addition I will enact an ACT assertive Community team as an immediate response within 30 days of being elected with the purpose of housing individuals in appropriate, adequate, shelters that provides the basics for a Humane existence such as Plumbing, Heat & water Etc and yes a roof and a door!

Q7

Theme 3: Community Safety

Who do you believe are the greatest victims of crime and violence currently in downtown Victoria, and what can be done to help them?

Q8

Theme 3: Community Safety - Written Response to Question Selected Above

The greatest victims of crime are simply the victims of crime! Crime affects All those involved, of course it affects the offenders who perhaps have had childhood trauma and insurmountable obstacles to overcome however that does not negate the trauma of other individuals, the broader community including homeless individuals. I have heard candidates talk about perception perhaps in their own personal anecdotal experience they did not suffer significantly as a victim of crime however since they like to spout off about perceptions for other victims of violent and heinous crimes the scars left emotionally and physically we're not easily shaken off and they did not easily recover. violent crimes can cause life long debilitations and residual effects that destroy generations of families!

Q9

General comments/thoughts about Mental Health and Well-being in Victoria

I beseech the constituents of Victoria to vote in a new city council that will take a pragmatic approach to actually solving the painful and complex issue of homelessness. Difficult decisions will have to be made, Councillors with the stamina to make necessary difficult choices needs to be at the table, this has gone far beyond theoretical, philosophical waxing and redefining Webster's dictionaries of words. Words that we all long have known the meaning of and feel and live every single day!

COMPLETE

Q1

Council Candidate Name

Susan Simmons

Page 1

Q2

Where can the public find information about your platform

<http://susansimmonsforcouncil.ca>

Page 2: Candidate Questions

Q3

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Please select to respond to ONE of the following questions:

**What are your thoughts on the following statement:
“Mental health and substance use are provincial responsibilities”?**

Q4

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Written Response to Question Selected Above

I believe mental health and substance abuse are all of our responsibility - every level of government and every resident of Victoria. We must all help and care for each other.

The Provincial government is a key player however no one can do this alone. Island Health and non-profits are also key players. Their work is invaluable.

My hope if elected is to work closer with all of these agencies and make sure that the city is the best possible partner to these organizations. I feel we must look to the experts as they provide leadership, and support them how we can.

Q5

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Respond to ONE of the following questions:

Do you believe it is within the council's responsibility to hold shelters accountable for providing best practices of harm reduction?

Q6

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Written Response to Question Selected Above

I feel it is the responsibility of whom ever is managing the shelter to provide best practices in harm reduction.

Q7

Theme 3: Community Safety

Is Victoria a safe community in your opinion? What can be done to improve safety in the city?

Q8

Theme 3: Community Safety - Written Response to Question Selected Above

There have been some things that have happened over the past few years in the downtown core that have left me feeling concerned for some of our vulnerable residents. Two of the Special Olympic athletes I coach have been attacked physically in the past few years. This is not something I would have heard of in the past.

Community safety is complex. I feel much of what needs to be done is prevention through community programs, however we still have to address what is happening now.

I am not an expert in this area and I respect there is a diversity of opinion. If elected, I would like to hear more from community service agencies, Island Health and local Police on what they recommend. I feel all of these agencies need to move forward together and it is our job as Councillors to support them.

Q9

General comments/thoughts about Mental Health and Well-being in Victoria

I have spent time working in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Over the past few years I am seeing much of what I witnessed there now taking place here.

I feel the issues are complete and it will take a great deal of effort on everyone's part to work through them. I would like to be part of the team that helps us move forward.

COMPLETE

Q1

Council Candidate Name

Anna King

Q2

Where can the public find information about your platform

annaking.ca

Page 2: Candidate Questions

Q3

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Please select to respond to ONE of the following questions:

In 2019, the City of Victoria established a Community Wellness and Peer-Informed Task Force, comprised of members with lived experience of mental illness, substance use, and homelessness. If elected, do you plan to continue to center the voices of people with lived and living experiences in your decision-making, and if so, how?

Q4

Theme 1: Mental Health and Substance Use - Written Response to Question Selected Above

If elected, I plan to continue keeping the decision-making processes centred around Victoria's residents who have either lived with, or are currently experiencing mental illnesses, substance use, and homelessness. I believe that the mandate for this Community Wellness and Peer-Informed Task Force is the best democratic, and inclusive solution for the city's efforts in creating a culture of public safety, personal well-being, and decreasing the housing gap for all residents. Further, I believe those participating by providing their testimony should be paid a stipend as we would an expert in a specific field. They are the experts and ought to be compensated for their time and efforts assisting the city.

Q5

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Respond to ONE of the following questions:

The Point in Time report found that 35% of Victoria's homeless population is Indigenous, even though Indigenous people only make up 5% of the total population. How do you plan to support Indigenous people who face systemic barriers to housing?

Q6

Theme 2: Housing and Homelessness - Written Response to Question Selected Above

As Victoria's city council member, one of my main objectives would be to ensure that the Community Wellness and Peer-Informed Task Force would have an Indigenous representative that would help provide insight and guidance for how to approach these systemic barriers. Additionally, I would continue pursuing Truth and Reconciliation efforts in the city because, according to the PiT report, 62% of Indigenous people are closely related to, or are former residential school survivors. Lastly, I would continue to implement Indigenous-led services and programs for Indigenous women to help address the 44% of Indigenous people who are homeless being women. We need culturally sensitive programs especially relating to and understanding the barriers and discrimination indigenous peoples face.

Q7

Theme 3: Community Safety

Do you agree with the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act report that highlights a need for more non-police services in order to strengthen public trust in policing?

Q8

Theme 3: Community Safety - Written Response to Question Selected Above

Yes, sometimes the police uniform in itself is a barrier to accessing help. I think having a civilian safety force is helpful. Moreover, we need social workers and psychiatric nurses on the front lines as their specialties are often needed more than policing. Most cases can be resolved without policing. Sometimes folks just need a compassionate friend to talk to.

Q9

General comments/thoughts about Mental Health and Well-being in Victoria

Hello everyone, my name is Anna King and I'm a candidate for City Council. When I think of Mental Health, I think about my own journey. When pregnant with both my children, I had severe antenatal depression, which is depression during pregnancy rather than the more common, postpartum depression. It took me on a journey of trying Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, CBT and I appreciated the tools it gave me to manage in time when the pandemic, pregnancy, and home renovations all collided.

At a municipal level, Mental Wellness needs to be a lens we apply to all decision: the provision of housing, greenspace, arts and culture, recreation, childcare, and community centre programming. A sense of belonging and comfort improves mental health. So, urban design has an important impact on wellness. When we do our best to be inclusive, we help folks feel seen and heard.

Having worked in the Downtown Eastside for 3 years with those struggling with mental health, poverty, and addiction, this issue is close to my heart. As for the mental health crisis as it relates to those on the streets, we need a health-first approach rather than simply adding by-laws and enforcement. The Peer Assistance Response Team rolling out this fall is a good first step towards helping those who need it most. We need compassionate social workers and psychiatric nurses to provide wrap-around support in addition to housing.

Overall, we need to remove stigma around mental health conditions. I whole-heartedly support campaigns like Face to Face with Stigma that uses storytelling as advocacy. Moreover, we need to do what we can in regards to suicide prevention such as equipping employers, health care workers, teachers, and parents with the knowledge to detect early signs of depression and suicide risks. The city can do this by continuing to support the Stigma Free Society, CMHA, and other charities doing this work through grants to provide services in the community.
