



OCCA Communities Association (OCCA)

1460 Inkar Road, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 8H7

Tel: 778-484-6222

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2026 Kelowna Municipal Election: Candidates' Responses to Community Priorities

This document presents candidates' responses to three community priorities identified through OCCA's Community Priorities Survey: Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging; Youth, Families & Seniors; and Civic Participation & Representation.

Responses are listed in the order they were received. "No response received before the publication deadline" indicates that a candidate's response had not been received when this document was finalized.

OCCA Communities Association is a non-partisan registered charity and does not support or oppose any candidate. This document is provided for community information only.

Photo source: [Election candidates | City of Kelowna](#)

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Kevin Kraft

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I believe Kelowna is stronger because people from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds have chosen to make this community home. Their traditions, experiences, businesses, and contributions are an important part of the social fabric we see across Kelowna.

As a City Councillor, I would support community events and cultural celebrations, welcoming public spaces, and partnerships with organizations that help newcomers and families build connections. I also believe inclusion means creating opportunities for people to participate in community life while maintaining the traditions and cultures that are important to them.

My goal would be a Kelowna where people feel safe, respected, and welcome, while also recognizing the many things we share as neighbours, families, and residents of this community.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

As a husband and father of three young children, I understand how important accessible parks, recreation, libraries, community programs and public spaces are to families. My experience working with youth and volunteering in the community has also shown me how important connection and opportunity can be.

I would support ensuring that municipal programs and facilities are accessible to families and seniors from all backgrounds. That means listening to community organizations, cultural groups, and residents to understand where barriers exist and where the City can improve access.

I also believe our public spaces should bring generations and cultures together. Community centres, parks, recreation facilities, libraries and local events can create those connections and help everyone feel that Kelowna is their community.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

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I believe good local government starts with listening. As an elected official, I want residents to feel comfortable approaching Council, sharing their experiences and knowing their concerns will be taken seriously.

I would support making civic participation more accessible by working with neighbourhood associations, cultural organizations, schools and community groups to share information and create more opportunities for residents to participate. Not everyone has the time, familiarity, or confidence to attend a formal Council meeting, so we need to meet people where they are.

I also believe representation is about more than who sits around the Council table. It is about ensuring residents from different backgrounds have meaningful opportunities to contribute. Kelowna is home to all of us, and everyone should have a voice in shaping uits future.

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Julia Fraser

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I believe every resident of Kelowna deserves to feel safe, respected, valued, and included, regardless of their cultural background, ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic circumstances.

Throughout my 15 years as an elected School Trustee, I have advocated for inclusive policies and environments that recognize and celebrate diversity. With over 3,000 Indigenous students and a growing newcomer population in our School District, I understand the importance of listening, building relationships, and ensuring everyone has a voice.

As a City Councillor, I would support multicultural events, cultural organizations, accessible public spaces, and partnerships that celebrate our community's diversity. I would also advocate for meaningful consultation with cultural associations, improved access to municipal information, and initiatives that address racism and discrimination.

My commitment is simple: I will represent all residents of Kelowna fairly, respectfully, and without prejudice.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Having served 15 years as a School Trustee, I understand how important accessible programs, recreation facilities, transportation, and community spaces are to the well-being of youth, families, and seniors.

As a City Councillor, I would prioritize affordable access to municipal recreation programs, libraries, parks, and community facilities, particularly for families experiencing financial barriers. I would support partnerships with schools, cultural organizations, and community service providers to expand opportunities for youth and newcomers.

For seniors, I would advocate for safe, accessible sidewalks, reliable public transit, welcoming gathering spaces, and opportunities to remain socially connected.

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I also recognize that language, transportation, and financial barriers can prevent newcomers from participating fully in community life.

My priority would be to ensure municipal services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to residents at every stage of life, while maintaining responsible fiscal oversight.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Meaningful public engagement has been a cornerstone of my 15 years in elected office. I believe good governance begins with listening, asking questions, and ensuring decisions are informed by the people they affect.

As a City Councillor, I would support accessible town halls, neighbourhood consultations, youth engagement opportunities, and stronger relationships with multicultural associations, Indigenous communities, and newcomer organizations.

I would advocate for clearer, plain-language municipal communications, opportunities for input outside traditional meeting hours, and outreach through trusted community organizations to reduce barriers to participation.

Having participated in extensive public consultations throughout my School Trustee career, I understand that simply inviting people to participate is not enough. We must actively create opportunities for their voices to be heard.

Every resident deserves a voice in shaping Kelowna's future, and I would work to ensure those voices genuinely influence Council's decisions.

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Lee-Ann Tiede

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Being a good neighbour starts with getting to know people. I would meet with local cultural groups, attend community gatherings and hear directly about what helps people feel welcome and where they face difficulties.

Within the City's role, I would support fair access to facilities and programs, clear information about services, and events that bring neighbours together. I would also encourage the

City to seek input from people who may not normally attend council meetings.

Everyone deserves to feel safe, regardless of their background. I would support working with police and community groups to address threats and harassment and help residents know where to turn.

People should feel that they are part of Kelowna, that their concerns matter, and that they can contribute to its future.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I would start by talking with young people, families and seniors about what keeps them from using City programs. Is it the cost, getting there, the hours, or not knowing what's offered?

I would support simpler registration, a review of fees and financial assistance, and sharing information through schools, seniors' groups and cultural organizations, including those helping newcomers settle here.

Sometimes small things make a big difference: a bench to rest on, an accessible washroom, a safe sidewalk or a park where families feel comfortable spending time.

I would look for ways to make existing programs and spaces work better before adding new costs. People should have opportunities to meet neighbours and enjoy their community, whatever their age or background.

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3. Civic Participation & Representation

A personal invitation can make a difference. I would ask cultural organizations, newcomer groups and youth leaders to help bring people into conversations about decisions that affect them, rather than rely on a notice on the City's website.

I would support short, plain-language explanations of the choices council is considering and opportunities to contribute without attending a formal meeting. For City committees, I would encourage applications from people with different backgrounds and life experiences, including those who have never served before.

People shouldn't need to know someone at City Hall to have a voice. They should know how to get involved, what they can influence and what became of their ideas.

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Nikki Renee Csek

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Kelowna should be a city where people feel welcome, safe and able to participate, regardless of where they were born or their cultural background.

Within the City's role, I would focus on practical barriers. Are people able to understand and access City services? Do they know how to participate in decisions that affect their neighbourhood? Are public spaces safe and welcoming? Are we listening to community organizations that already have trusted relationships with residents?

I would support stronger communication with multicultural communities, accessible information about City services and civic processes, and partnerships that help connect residents to opportunities to participate.

My approach is simple: listen directly to people, remove unfair barriers where they exist, and measure whether our services are actually reaching the people they are intended to serve. Inclusion has to be something people experience, not just something we say.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I would start by looking at how people actually use City programs, services and public spaces, and where the gaps are.

For families, that means safe neighbourhoods, recreation opportunities and infrastructure that keeps pace with growth. For seniors, accessibility, safe public spaces and the ability to stay connected to their community matter. For youth, we need places and opportunities that allow them to participate, build skills and feel like they belong here.

For newcomers and multicultural families, sometimes the barrier is simply knowing what is available or how to access it. I would support clearer communication and working with community organizations that already have strong relationships with those residents.

Before adding new programs, I would also ask whether existing ones are accessible, well-used and delivering results. Public dollars should go where they make the biggest

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difference.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I don't think public engagement should begin and end at election time.

If elected, I want to keep listening throughout the full term. That means creating more opportunities for residents to participate before decisions are largely made, making City information easier to understand, and giving people different ways to provide input.

Not everyone has the time or confidence to attend a Council meeting. Newcomers, young people and residents who have never participated in local government may need a clearer invitation into the process.

I would support working with community organizations to reach people where they already are and making important civic information more accessible.

Most importantly, people need to know their input went somewhere. Even when Council makes a different decision, residents deserve an explanation of what was heard, what was considered and why the final decision was made. That is how you build trust.

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Teresa May

Elect: Councillor

1. A Welcoming and Inclusive Kelowna

I would support practical actions that make inclusion part of everyday City services: clear information in plain language, translated guidance where needed, accessible facilities, and staff training in respectful service and addressing discrimination.

I would support fair, transparent access to municipal grants, venues, and event permits for multicultural associations and non-profits, including smaller organizations with limited resources. Cultural celebrations help residents build connections and share their traditions.

Safety also matters. I would support coordination between City staff, police, and community organizations to address hate and harassment and make reporting options easier to understand.

In my first year, I would ask staff to identify barriers to City services with input from Indigenous, immigrant, and racialized communities, and recommend improvements with costs and measurable outcomes.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I would support affordable recreation, accessible public spaces, and community programs that help people connect across generations and cultures.

My priorities include reviewing recreation subsidies and registration processes so cost, language, or difficulty using online systems do not prevent participation. I would also support registration by phone or in person.

For youth, I would advocate for safe places to gather and partnerships that expand affordable activities in existing community facilities. For families and seniors, I would prioritize accessible washrooms, seating, shade, safe walking routes, and recreation options close to home.

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I would work with community organizations to improve awareness of available programs among immigrant and multicultural residents. Funding decisions should reflect demonstrated needs, participation, and results, with clear costs and opportunities to use existing facilities effectively.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I would support bringing public engagement into neighbourhoods through community centres, schools, and partnerships with trusted cultural and newcomer organizations.

Residents should have several ways to participate: in person, online, by phone, and through written feedback. Plain-language summaries, translated information where needed, and meetings at varied times would help more people contribute.

I would support broader outreach when recruiting for City advisory committees, including to youth, newcomers, and racialized residents, with transparent selection criteria.

Meaningful participation requires more than collecting comments. For major consultations, I would ask the City to explain what residents said, how their input influenced the decision, and why some suggestions were not adopted.

As a councillor, I would hold regular community listening sessions and follow up on concerns within the City's responsibilities.

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Randy Millis

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I want a Kelowna where people can afford, access and belong.

I would start by assessing what the City already provides and asking residents where barriers remain.

I would support improving multilingual municipal documents and web resources, including accessible formats for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have low vision. This could include captioning, transcripts, screen-reader compatibility and alternative formats based on identified needs.

I would also review access to City-owned public spaces and facilities for multicultural events, celebrations and festivals, including booking procedures, costs and accessibility. Where barriers exist, I would consider practical improvements in consultation with community organizations and event organizers.

Before committing resources, Council should examine existing services, jurisdiction, costs and alternatives.

Success should be measured by whether improvements make it easier for people to participate, connect and feel they belong.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Access begins with knowing what municipal programs and spaces already exist, who they serve and whether residents can find and use them.

I would support reviewing program availability, costs, locations, schedules and transportation barriers for youth, families, seniors, newcomers and multicultural communities, including residents with disabilities.

Where practical and affordable, I would consider more targeted information about available programs and how to access them, using multilingual documents and accessible websites and formats for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have low vision.

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I would also examine opportunities to make City public spaces and facilities more usable for family activities, community gatherings and multicultural events.

Changes should be informed by the people affected, measured against actual participation and access, and balanced with other municipal priorities, costs and available resources. I would not promise new programs before assessing existing services and alternatives.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I would begin by examining who currently participates in municipal consultations, who is underrepresented and what barriers prevent meaningful involvement.

Rather than assuming what people need, I would support direct outreach to residents and community organizations to better understand those barriers.

I would review existing City services and investigate whether civic navigators could help residents understand municipal processes, participate in consultations and follow decisions affecting their communities.

Depending on existing resources and demonstrated needs, this could include dedicated civic navigators offering in-person, telephone and virtual assistance, with multilingual communication and accessible formats.

Any proposal would require examining demand, effectiveness, costs, alternatives and competing municipal priorities before committing resources.

Meaningful participation also requires accountability. Residents should know what Council heard, how their input influenced decisions and why decisions were made.

Success should be measured by improved representation and meaningful participation, not simply consultation numbers.

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Joyce Helen Brinkerhoff

Elect: School Trustee

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

The City and especially our schools have a legal mandate to provide environments where everyone feels respected, represented, safe, and connected. It cannot, however, be genuine if it continues as only rules-based. As trustees we will ensure that Human Rights laws are followed but more importantly will encourage activities and programs which allow welcoming attitudes to grow from the inside of each child, parent and

community member. Most often this is built through relationships and awareness education. Years ago, there was a concern of elementary-aged children stealing from and abusing senior ladies. On investigation it was found that none of the children involved had a personal relationship with a senior! Solution? They matched kids with seniors who now became friends! Not only did the stealing stop but the community became more welcoming in genuine ways. Hence the vital role of providing opportunities for 'mingling'!

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I believe the City and the School district are doing a reasonable job in providing access to programs. OCCA, KCR and other community organizations are also excellent at providing referrals. Again, though – it is 'who you know' so the more people one is connected with, the better for everyone to assist each other!

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I would encourage the support of organizations such as OCCA through City Cultural and Organizational grants. As a School Trustee in 2011-2014 I was on the organizing committee for Harmony Day – a celebration of the multicultural make-up of our schools. I would also encourage greater use of local resources celebrating the contributions of various BIPOC local heroes like Dragon Tracks on Ben Lee, Building Bridges on Dr Rhandawa Murli Pendarker and Mohini Singh and others. Personally, I have been an active participant in various OCCA events and worked with Dr Hua Meng in hosting the first Moon Festival event over a decade ago. I served as co-president of the Intercultural Society (renamed Global Citizen Events) and which continues to promote annual multicultural events like the Taste of Home. I also serve on the United Against Racism

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committee and firmly believe in the value of making everyone feel welcomed and respected.

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JC Rathwell

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I want a Kelowna where everyone is treated with respect, feels safe, and has a fair opportunity to participate. As a small-business owner, I believe belonging grows through everyday connections—in workplaces, neighbourhoods, parks, and community events.

I would support plain-language municipal information, translated information for essential services where needed, and partnerships with community organizations to help residents navigate City services.

I would also support accessible cultural events and fair, transparent access to municipal facilities. Racism and harassment should never be dismissed; residents need clear information about where to report concerns and obtain help.

My approach is practical: identify barriers, listen to the people affected, and measure whether improvements work. City Hall should serve the whole community, not just those who already know how to navigate it.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

My priorities are affordable recreation, accessible public spaces, safer travel, and practical access to services.

I would support reviewing recreation fees and financial-assistance programs so cost does not unnecessarily exclude children, families, or seniors. Registration and eligibility information should be straightforward, with assistance available for residents facing language, disability, or digital-access barriers.

I would advocate for well-maintained parks, accessible washrooms, benches, shade, safer crossings, and connected walking routes. I would also push for improved bus service and connections to recreation facilities, libraries, and community activities.

Partnerships with schools, community organizations, and responsible private operators can expand opportunities, but they must provide public value and fair access.

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I would ask residents what prevents them from participating—cost, transportation, scheduling, language, or accessibility—and prioritize improvements against a transparent budget.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Residents should have a meaningful voice before decisions are effectively settled—not simply receive a survey afterward.

I would support early public engagement, plain-language summaries of major proposals, and publication of costs, alternatives, and expected outcomes. Participation should include neighbourhood meetings, online submissions, and in-person options at different times so work schedules and family responsibilities do not shut people out.

I would work with organizations such as OCCA to reach residents who are often missing from City discussions. Advisory-group recruitment should be open and transparent, with outreach encouraging newcomers, youth, racialized residents, and people with disabilities to apply.

Most importantly, the City should explain what it heard, what changed, and why.

Accountability means showing how public input influenced a decision—not merely counting responses.

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Jim Strachan

Elect: School Trustee

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Multicultural Inclusion and Belonging: From a school district perspective this is a cornerstone of action. As Trustee I would advocate fiercely for the extensive implementation of the Indigenous Education program, the Inclusive Education, SOGI and BIPOC programs and clubs. These initiatives already exist in policy, so that advocacy and modeling will expand and enhance their use. Additionally, inflow into Kelowna from areas abroad, including Ukraine, Palestine, and South Asian communities have shown significant

increase over the last 5 years. I would encourage hiring practices to emphasize the needs of English Language Learners to help ease adjustment to Canada and help children both new to Kelowna and those already here to connect together, become aware of their similarities and differences and build community among our children.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Youth Families and Senior: Outreach at the school level is key to engaging families and seniors. In addition to hiring practices mentioned encouraging staff at the school level to celebrate and make known various cultural holidays and festivals with invitation to community members would bring together schools, families and multi-generations while raising awareness across the entire student body.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Civic Participation and Representation: at the Board level acknowledging cultural holidays and festivals coupled with seeking presenters to the Board in advance would bring the community into the School District board room, building relationships between the Trustees and the community. Establishing a broader list of community members with interest in presenting would make outreach very feasible and inviting community members to attend and view these presentations to the Board would forge strong ties.

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Gord Lovegrove

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEND ALL OCCA & OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS AS I HAVE ON COUNCIL THAT PREVIOUS 4 YEARS!! I FULLY SUPPORT OCCA. I FULLY SUPPORT OKANAGAN 4 UKRAINE. I FULLY SUPPORT IRANIANIANS LIKE RAY TAHERI. I FULLY SUPPORT OUR INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS ON WHOSE UNCEDED LAND WE LIVE, WORK AND PLAY. I FULLY SUPPORT PEOPLE FROM ALL CULTURAL AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND. I STAND AGAINST GATE AND DISCRIMINATION. I STAND FOR LOVE AND RESPECT.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I FULLY SUPPORT INCREASED ACCESS TO MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITES FOR FAMILIES AND YOU. I RECOGNIZE MANY NEW IMMIGRANT FAMILIES NEED EXTRA HELP TO PLUG IN, BE INCLUDED, AND FEEL SAFE IN OUR COMMUNITY. I SUPPORT CONTINUED MONITORING OF CRIME STATISTICS INCLUDING RACISM AND HIGHERING INCREASED POLICE TO ENFORCE PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY FREE FROM ANY FEAR OF RACISM.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

GREAT QUESTION. WE NEED TO CELEBRATE OUR ETHNIC DIVERSITY MORE OFTEN!! MORE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVALS. I WOULD LOVE OCCA, UKRANIAN, IRANIAN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES TO CONSIDER HOSTING A COUNCIL MEETING TO CHECK IN AND DISCUSS NEEDS ON HOW CITY COUNCIL CAN BETTER SUPPORT YOU!

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Les Bellamy

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I believe everyone deserves to feel safe, respected and welcome in Kelowna, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background.

During my campaign, I met with KCR Community Resources and learned about the many services they provide to help newcomers settle, find employment and become part of our community.

The City already provides some financial support to organizations like KCR and OCCA. I believe we should build on these existing relationships, understand what is working and identify where additional support may be needed.

I also support cultural celebrations and community events that bring residents together and help us better understand one another.

Most importantly, I believe in listening directly to the people these programs serve. Rather than City Hall assuming it knows what different communities need, we should work with the organizations and residents who understand those challenges firsthand.

Good government starts with listening, understanding the problem and supporting practical solutions.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I believe municipal programs, services and public spaces should be accessible to everyone, regardless of age, income or cultural background.

As Kelowna grows, we need to ensure our neighbourhoods grow with it. That means planning for parks, recreation facilities, safe transportation connections and community spaces that serve families, youth and seniors.

Affordability is also important. We should regularly review program fees, accessibility barriers and participation levels to understand who is being served and who may be getting left behind.

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Organizations such as KCR and OCCA already help connect residents with community resources. Rather than duplicating those efforts, I would encourage stronger partnerships and better communication about existing opportunities.

I would also like to see more direct engagement with youth and seniors when planning services that affect them.

My approach is to identify the barriers, work with the people experiencing them and measure whether our solutions are actually improving access.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I believe meaningful public engagement starts with listening, and that means reaching beyond the people who regularly attend Council meetings or participate in public hearings.

During my campaign, I've made a point of meeting with community organizations, attending cultural events and speaking directly with residents from different backgrounds. Those conversations have reinforced how important it is to understand people's experiences before making decisions that affect them.

I would support working with organizations like KCR and OCCA to help communicate opportunities for public participation and identify barriers that prevent residents from getting involved.

We also need to engage people earlier in the decision-making process, while their input can still influence the outcome, rather than asking for feedback after decisions are effectively made.

Most importantly, engagement needs to be meaningful. Residents deserve to know their concerns were heard, how their input was considered and why Council ultimately made its decision.

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Davis Kyle

Elect: Councillor

1. The City should help build a community where everyone can participate, regardless of their cultural background, language, or country of origin.

I would support community-led cultural events and organizations through existing City grant programs and by shifting money from block party and strong neighborhood funding over to existing community organizations for specific event funding. We could do annual event-bidding based on proposals from the community,

and distribute funds based on that process. Then, successful events can be auto-renewed in future years.

This could include everything from national celebrations of various cultures, to parades, GoByBikeWeek. Toronto is an example of a city that does this well. Street festivals should be more commonplace.

The City needs support quicker and cheaper permitting for such events. A permitting coordinator for non-profit events could help. Oftentimes, community events have been cancelled by burdensome policing costs or other city fees. Those must be reexamined.

2. The largest constraints for access to municipal programs, services, public spaces, and community opportunities are physical space and funding.

I am supportive of the Anderson Place activity centre and further heritage home conversion into community spaces. I am also supportive of community activity centres, and have long-supported infrastructure spending for the Okanagan Regional Library to offer micro-branches in each of Kelowna's town centres. Those would each provide some book storage, book pickup opportunities, and a few rooms for community organizing.

Part of my platform's focus on mixed-use zoning reform and live-work spaces is that it expands small-scale rental opportunities for small businesses and non-profits. That could be very useful for community organizations.

Municipal budgets involve trade-offs, so new initiatives should be assessed against their costs, accessibility, and measurable benefits. My priority would be improving access to existing resources and addressing demonstrated gaps that community feedback has identified.

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3. I am a strong supporter of proportional ranked ballots in local elections. Research shows that proportional ranked choice voting has substantially improved diversity on city councils. That requires lobbying to the Province, which I have done as a private citizen and which I will do as a councilor.

<https://www.fairvote.ca/prmunicipal/>

Normal City feedback mechanisms do not always provide balanced feedback that includes all residents. My platform supports directing staff to ensure that all future City of Kelowna data collection, OCP surveys, and community feedback is statistically significant and inclusive of minority views.

We should focus on Plain-Language Public Engagement. Public engagement, surveys, and consultation must seek real input from residents, including giving them the option to disagree, rather than forcing them to rank pre-determined options full of policy jargon. I also think the City should be putting more emphasis on plain-language short videos as explanations for major city decisions.

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Tim Down

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

An inclusive community begins with equal treatment, safe public spaces and accessible municipal services.

I would support consistent bylaw enforcement, respectful public service and clear information that residents can understand, regardless of their cultural background or first language.

I would encourage stronger partnerships with established multicultural organizations, including support for community-led cultural events, shared use of municipal facilities and transparent access to appropriate City programs.

For newcomers establishing businesses, the City can also simplify access to information about permits, licensing and municipal requirements.

My approach would focus on practical improvements rather than creating additional bureaucracy.

The City cannot resolve every social challenge, but it can ensure its own policies and services are fair, accessible and consistently administered.

Progress should be measured through community feedback, service accessibility and demonstrated improvements.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I would begin by identifying practical barriers to participation, including affordability, transportation, accessibility, inconvenient schedules and difficulty finding information.

Kelowna already offers recreation financial assistance and adaptive programs. I would review their accessibility, eligibility and participation before recommending changes.

I would support safe sidewalks, accessible parks and public facilities, adequate seating and shade, and recreational opportunities distributed across neighbourhoods.

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Working with community organizations, schools and transit partners, I would explore affordable intergenerational programming and better connections to existing services, including those serving immigrant families and multicultural communities.

Municipal information should be understandable, available through multiple channels and translated where a demonstrated need exists.

Investments should be prioritized according to unmet demand, total life-cycle costs and measurable community benefits.

Good municipal services must be accessible, financially sustainable and responsive to changing community needs.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Meaningful participation should not depend on attending a weekday meeting, understanding technical terminology or knowing how City Hall operates.

I would support outreach through neighbourhood associations, schools, youth groups, newcomer-serving organizations and Indigenous partners before significant decisions are finalized.

The City's existing public engagement platform should be complemented by accessible in-person meetings, plain-language information, appropriate translation and opportunities outside regular working hours.

For major proposals, I would expect Council to present the underlying problem, reasonable alternatives, comparative costs and long-term consequences before seeking public input.

Equally important, residents deserve to know what was heard, what changed and why, transparency and accountability.

I would support reviewing participation barriers and reporting whether engagement reaches a representative cross-section of the community.

Public consultation should meaningfully inform decisions, not simply validate recommendations already developed.

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Indy Dhial

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Kelowna is a growing and diverse community, and I believe everyone deserves to feel safe, welcomed, and included, regardless of their background. Through my involvement in community organizations, sports, and cultural events, I've seen firsthand how bringing people together helps build stronger relationships and a sense of belonging. I would support working with organizations like OCCA to create more opportunities for cultural celebrations, community events, and programs that bring residents together. I'd also like to see our public spaces and recreational facilities used more effectively to connect people from different backgrounds. Public safety is also a priority for me. Everyone should feel comfortable enjoying our parks, neighborhoods, and community spaces. Inclusion isn't just about policies or statements. It's about creating opportunities for people to participate, contribute, and feel that Kelowna is their home.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

As a childcare operator and someone who has spent years involved in youth and adult sports, I understand how important accessible community programs are to families. I would prioritize maintaining and improving our parks, sports facilities, recreation centers and public spaces so residents of all ages can stay active and connected. I'd also support partnerships with community organizations to expand affordable recreational and cultural programs, particularly for youth and families who may face financial or other barriers to participation. For seniors, I want safe, accessible public spaces, improved transportation options, and more opportunities to stay socially connected and involved in the community. We also need to make it easier for newcomers to learn about and access existing programs. A healthy community is one where children have opportunities to grow, families feel supported, and seniors remain valued and engaged.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

One of the main reasons I'm running for Council is that I believe more voices need to be heard at City Hall, particularly from communities that haven't always felt represented.

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Growing up in Rutland, I've seen how some neighborhoods and communities can feel overlooked when important decisions are made. Leadership starts with listening, but it also requires action. I would support stronger relationships between City Hall, neighborhood associations, cultural organizations, and community leaders to encourage greater participation in local decisions. That means engaging residents earlier, communicating in plain language, making information more accessible, and creating opportunities for people to share their concerns without having to attend formal Council meetings. I also believe elected officials need to be available and approachable. I've always said I'll return people's phone calls, and I intend to stand by that commitment. People deserve to know their voices matter and how their input influenced decisions.

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Deb Dickerson-Pogue

Elect: School Trustee

Let me introduce myself. I have worked and volunteered in Kelowna for over 35 years. When I arrived in Kelowna as a teacher from Calgary. I immediately took an ESL diploma course at Okanagan College. I had been teaching for the Calgary School board and I had also worked at teaching English as a Second Language for new Canadians. I had a chance to work for the Kelowna Multicultural Centre and thoroughly enjoyed it. I later taught business courses but returned to teach English through Youth with a Mission, where I directed and

taught ESL and trained teachers to teach English as a Second Language in South Africa. I recently finished teaching at VanWest College after nearly 14 years. The rewards of teaching so many nationalities are rewarding and the majority of my students have been from China, Japan, and Korea. Visiting my past students in their home countries and doing some volunteer teaching there has enriched my understanding of cultural similarities and differences.

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

As a new School Trustee I have been studying the courses that are offered in School District 23. Presently Spanish, Punjabi, German, Japanese, French, Indigenous cultural language and American Sign Language are taught in our district. This is not the full range of courses that can be taught but the ones that are in demand in our community. I will ensure the continuance of these languages for the value of cultural inclusion and support for alternative languages when the support is shown. The history of the cultures that have made the Okanagan and Canada home is a continuing part of our social studies programs. Clear and truthful teaching from all parties must be respected.

In our city the cultural displays, and events put on by the 1000 member strong OCCA should be continued to bring greater understanding to all members of our community. We are really communities with a community.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

The problems that affect our community are seen both in the schools and on the streets.

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We are not exempt from big city problems but managing the problems comes at the grassroots.

Posting historical signs in neighbourhoods , similar to the ones posted by city park, bring knowledge and pride to our citizens. Cultural celebrations from all age groups such as the Mid-Autumn Festival require more publicity from the local news sources and encouragement within the school district. These events promote inclusion. Education should stress respect for all people in our communities.

The increase in policing being visible in our community is a must. Building trust is not a quick process.

By using halls in churches, temples and schools for multi-use areas, we can combine the areas for all age groups. People of all ages like to be together and this will provide a cost-savings for all groups. Multi purpose areas provide chances for different groups in the community to learn more about each other and develop relationships and caring for each other. I recently spoke to an administrator at a retirement community where day-care children had participated in activities with the seniors and how much fun both groups had experienced.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Participation and Representation starts both with the Individual and the city. A person must put themselves forward to represent their community, likewise the city and school district need to be welcoming and request help from the community in making decisions. Committees should ask for input from all members of the community that will be affected. Trustees need to make themselves available to the public. As elected Officials we should know the communities we represent. The 50 schools in the SD23 area have unique student bases. Each one is involved in their community, through friendships, parents, grandparents and partnerships, teachers and principals.

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Mohini Singh

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Answer: Encourage the different groups to have their community openly displayed in public areas. Welcome new immigrants, attend cultural events and encourage council to do the same. Appoint members of different backgrounds to be on civic committees. Ensure our ethnic residents are part of all city celebrations.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Answer: allow special rates for seniors and youth for municipal programs. Have all the availability of programs translated to different languages. Offer courses and classes that are relevant to the age category. Have special celebrations bringing together people of different backgrounds.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Answer: I would personally go meet people who are newcomers, racialized people and other under represented residents and have meaningful conversations with them to not only explain the system but how to participate in it. I would get staff to organize meet and greet sessions where they can access information in their language and get a complete understanding of services they can access.

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Laura Thurnheer

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I would suggest that the City continues to fund and support programs promoted by organizations like OCCABC and Kelowna Community Resources that promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training and anti-racism education.

I would also ask that the city staff and council members participate on city wide coalition committees like the one coordinated by KCR on cross-cultural communication. I would hope that all multicultural groups would be eligible for city grants in order to provide educational programming that would support wider citizen participation and promote cross cultural communication and interaction.

Cultural diversity should be celebrated at city events and participation encouraged for the general public. As well city facilities should be provided to various cultural groups at a discounted or reasonable rate so events can be affordable for the presenting group.

City staff should continue to be provided required DEI training to all employees at all levels. As an individual council member, I would continue to support various groups by attending and promoting their events and speaking at as requested.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I believe access to municipal programs should be free or affordable to all families in the community including those from immigrant or multicultural communities.

As Chair of Kelowna Community Resources for four years and a Director for 18 years, I was very aware of the opportunities, or lack of opportunities, for our immigrant families. I also understand that all families are facing tremendous financial pressure due to increasing housing, daycare, afterschool care, utilities and food prices, and there is little money left for family activities. I believe family activities should be no, or low, cost and that city staff can work in collaboration with various groups to design and implement interesting activities for families.

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The city actually does a good job with seniors providing free or affordable activities at the Parkinson's Rec. Ctr. Seniors Ctr. These activities should be enhanced to promote activities more specific to specific cultural groups. For example, Tai Chi for seniors.

I believe there are a number of organizations in the city that provide services for youth, i.e. Boys and Girls Club but am not sure if these are affordable for the average family. I suggest multicultural organizations work with funders like the United Way to ensure youth seats can be subsidized in order to be affordable for families. The OCCABC after school program at one local school is a good example of this and hopefully can be expanded.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I would like to see the development of a city appointed task force of representatives from various multicultural and ethnic groups that consult with, and advise, City staff and Council on matters of interest and concern to these groups.

As well, I would suggest the use of regular focus groups with multicultural organizations. These could be organized in coordination with lead organizations like OCCABC and Kelowna Community Resources as the need arises and issues surface in the community. A troubling recent example would be the concerning rise of racism in our city that I have heard from both the Jewish and Indo- Canadian communities recently.

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Susan Ames

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I would support diversifying the employees at city hall - this is the face of the community and should represent all citizens. I would also continue to support the cultural activities that occur in the city as well as other activities such as the tree planting events with the heritage groups, the museums, heritage week, etc. I would support notices of cultural activities on the city's website.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I would make sure that the city continues to financially support municipal programs, services, public spaces and community opportunities for all age groups and multicultural communities and I will consider new initiatives brought forward. I would also ensure that issues brought forward from the community are brought forward to the city to make sure that these issues are dealt with. If there are issues related to physical access they should be rectified. With city employees from different backgrounds, they can also support issues related to language/cultural barriers.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Local decision making is critical and so I would be open to having times when council meets with community groups and listens to their ideas, plans, hopes, etc. The public encompasses experts and the council and city will benefit from listening to them. The council is there to serve the public and that includes all groups. It is important that the citizens continue to have decision making involvement from the beginning to the end of the term. The city council needs to listen to the public.

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Todd Robert Sanderson

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Everyone should feel welcome, respected, and safe in Kelowna. I would support working with cultural organizations, newcomer groups, and neighbourhood associations to identify barriers residents face when accessing City services or participating in community life.

Practical actions include clear, accessible municipal information, translated guidance for essential services where needed, and respectful, culturally aware service from City staff. I would also support fair access to public facilities for cultural celebrations and community gatherings that help neighbours connect.

Council should seek diverse perspectives when appointing advisory committees and consulting residents. Public safety efforts must serve every neighbourhood, with discrimination and harassment taken seriously.

My approach would focus on partnerships, measurable results, and responsible spending—ensuring inclusion is reflected in how the City serves people every day.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

I would work to make municipal recreation, parks, facilities, and community programs more affordable, accessible, and easier to navigate. That includes reviewing financial assistance, registration processes, program schedules, and transportation barriers that can prevent participation.

I would support accessible pathways, seating, washrooms, and safe connections to parks and community facilities. Youth need welcoming places to gather, families need affordable activities, and seniors need opportunities to stay active and connected.

Working with schools, seniors' organizations, and multicultural and newcomer groups would help the City identify gaps and communicate available programs more effectively. Partnerships could also create more activities that bring generations and cultures together.

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Before expanding spending, I would ask whether existing resources can be used more effectively. Success should be measured by participation, accessibility, and residents' experiences.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

Rebuilding public trust starts with making it easier for residents to understand decisions and influence them before they are made. I would support plain-language information, accessible meetings, and opportunities to provide input online, in person, and through community organizations.

Council should actively reach beyond the residents who regularly attend City Hall. Neighbourhood conversations and outreach through newcomer, cultural, and youth organizations can bring forward perspectives that might otherwise be missed.

I would support broader recruitment for advisory committees, clear application processes, and meeting arrangements that reduce barriers for working families, youth, and seniors.

Meaningful consultation also requires follow-through. Residents should be told what we heard, how their input affected the decision, and why Council chose its direction. I would make myself available, listen respectfully, and encourage participation regardless of background or political experience.

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Doris Maria Bregolis

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

A. The City of Kelowna must have a mission statement that recognizes citizens' rights to feeling respected, represented, safe and connected. That statement must demand zero tolerance from the community for prejudice, disrespect and isolation based on culture, race or ethnic background.

In backing up this statement, the City must support events and organizations that promote understanding through cultural learning opportunities. The OCCA is doing important work that should be promoted by the City. Local police and bylaw need to be empowered to respond quickly to provide outreach when threatening language, behaviour or messages are experienced by newcomers.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

A. I pledge to ensure language barriers are accommodated for those seeking local services through resources that would be available to all City employees. While timely language barrier services is essential, we also have to ensure this service is financially accommodating to the City as well. Community activities - beyond Canada Day's Folk Fest - should be more cultural diverse through out the year. I have always believed if we know our neighbours, we are less likely to hate them. My parents were refugees and we know what it is like to feel unwelcome in a new country. I prefer having close friends who are Canadian newcomers so that I can offer them assistance in their new lives in Kelowna.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

A. Every community needs a platform for leaders that represent all of their citizens. While stepping up to Kelowna City Council isn't for everyone, we should have a regular opportunity to meet with leaders from cultural communities represented in Kelowna and hear their concerns and requests. I would be open to four meetings every year and propose to have a cultural diversity council created.

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Maxine Dehart

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

I have always believed that Kelowna is stronger when people from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds feel welcome, respected and included in our community. Throughout my time on council, I have valued all the relationships I have built with Kelowna's diverse cultural communities and have been proud to attend all celebrations, support their initiatives and learn from their traditions. I think my track record speaks for itself. I certainly will support continued collaboration with

cultural associations, community organizations, local business (as I have done in my FREE "Straight from DeHart Business column) and other levels of government to address barriers to participate, promote mutual understanding and help ensure public spaces and community programs are welcoming and safe for all as I have always done the past many years on council.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

As a City Councillor, I would continue to support accessible, welcoming and affordable municipal programs, facilities and public spaces that serve people of all ages and backgrounds. I also believe we need to make sure residents, particularly newcomers and members of the multicultural communities, know what services and programs are available to them. As a councillor, I will continue to listen to residents, encouraging community partnerships and advocating for responsible investments that improve access to everyone. I have advocated for this in the past as my record shows.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I would support meaningful opportunities for residents to share their perspectives through public consultations, community meetings and engagement with local cultural associations and community organizations. I believe it is important to listen to diverse voices, including newcomers, youth and underrepresented residents, while recognizing that Council must ultimately make decisions in the best interests of the entire community. I have always been accessible; I listen respectfully and make informed, balanced

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decisions on behalf of all Kelowna residents. I also feel my track record reflects this.

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Rob Wilkinson

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Kelowna thrives when every resident feels safe, respected, and valued. During my time at Okanagan University College, I opened a martial arts classroom that welcomed over 120 students from diverse ethnic groups, intentionally building a community where individuals with unmatched master skills took on leadership roles. True inclusion means creating tangible spaces for connection. I will support using the City's public spaces to celebrate our diverse heritage, grounding my approach in the deep appreciation for local

history I found while drawing the 100-Year Centennial artwork hanging in City Hall. Inspired by our city motto, *Fruitful in Unity*, I will advocate for collaborative local initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding. As a "boots on the ground" leader, I am committed to practical actions that ensure residents of all cultural backgrounds feel completely secure, respected, and connected in our neighborhoods.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Improving municipal access requires practical, common-sense solutions that serve residents at every stage of life. Drawing on my healthcare background specializing in geriatrics, I know the vital importance of ensuring seniors have reliable transit and barrier-free access to public spaces. As a former small business owner and a father who raised a young family in Kelowna, I will work to cut administrative red tape for community facility bookings, making them accessible to young families and youth programs. I will also fiercely defend our small-scale family farms and agricultural land to protect local food security—a passion stemming from my early youth studying farming. By utilizing my business management experience, I will ensure the City optimizes its community opportunities and programming efficiently, delivering high-quality, inclusive services for our multicultural families without burdening the municipal budget.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

True representation means bringing City Hall directly to the people. I am not a career

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politician; I am a hardworking resident who values critical thinking and transparent local government. To ensure newcomers, youth, and underrepresented communities have a meaningful voice, I support decentralizing local decision-making through open town halls held right inside our neighborhoods. I will bring a detail-oriented focus to reviewing city policy—the same rigorous precision I used during 380 hours of historical research for my City Hall artwork—to ensure plain-language updates reach all residents. I will advocate for open-door communication policies that leverage the unique strengths of our diverse community groups. By removing barriers to civic engagement, we can make certain that every resident has a bold, direct voice in shaping a fair, accountable, and common-sense future for Kelowna.

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Brian James Pinter

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

To make Kelowna genuinely welcoming, we need concrete action. Here is what I'll push for on Council:

- I will advocate for a DEI Advisory Committee to ensure residents from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds actively guide Council decisions on housing, public safety, and city planning.
- I'll support expanded grant funding for local cultural festivals, public art, and neighborhood events that celebrate the vibrant heritage of all our residents.
- We need clear, multi-language access for critical city services, transit details, and emergency updates, alongside strong community-police partnerships so everyone feels safe calling for help.

Inclusivity is about ensuring every resident feels at home, valued, and heard. That's the kind of Kelowna I want to build.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Improving access comes down to two simple things: making sure our public spaces are safe and making sure everyone feels welcome using them.

If elected for City Council, here is what I will push for:

- Families, kids, and seniors won't use local parks if they don't feel secure. I will push for well-lit, clean, and actively maintained parks and public spaces across all neighborhoods, so everyone feels safe.
- Instead of expecting people to travel across town, I want to bring programs for youth and wellness classes for seniors straight into local schools and community hubs.
- I'll support simplifying program registrations and ensuring transit updates and city information are easy to navigate for newcomers and non-English speakers.

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We need to build a connected Kelowna where every resident feels safe and involved.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

If we want diverse voices in city decisions, we can't expect people to always come to City Hall—we must go to them.

If elected, I'll take concrete steps to broaden participation:

- I'll push for Council consultations in local neighborhood centers, youth spaces, and multicultural hubs, making public feedback accessible.
- I'll support establishing a Kelowna Youth Advisory Committee, so our younger residents have a direct channel to shape decisions on housing, transit, and climate readiness.
- I'll work directly with local immigrant services, racialized community groups, and cultural associations to co-design engagement tools, so city surveys and town halls are translated, relevant, and truly inclusive.

Engaged communities make better decisions. I'll make sure everyone in Kelowna has a real voice in shaping our city.

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Glendon Charles Smedley

Elect: Councillor

Question #1

I believe every person in Kelowna deserves to be treated with respect, fairness and dignity, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background. We do not have to share the same beliefs to live together peacefully and contribute to our community.

As a City Councillor, I would support practical actions: keeping neighbourhoods safe, ensuring City services are accessible, supporting community events, and encouraging cultural groups, faith communities, local businesses and residents to work together.

Inclusion starts with treating people fairly, enforcing the same laws for everyone, and ensuring residents feel safe in their homes, parks and public spaces. The City should listen to residents, address legitimate concerns, and make decisions transparently while respecting taxpayers.

I believe we build belonging by focusing on our shared responsibilities, mutual respect and common values. My goal is a Kelowna where everyone has the opportunity to contribute, feel safe and build a better future together.

Question #2

I believe Kelowna should be a community where youth, families and seniors can participate in community life regardless of their background or financial situation.

I would support affordable recreation programs, accessible parks, safe public spaces, and community activities that bring generations together. The City should review its programs to identify barriers such as cost, transportation and accessibility, and work with local organizations to improve access.

I would also encourage partnerships with schools, cultural groups, faith communities and service organizations to connect newcomers and established residents with local opportunities.

As a Councillor, I would focus on practical solutions, responsible spending and making

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sure municipal services provide real value to taxpayers. Strong families, supported seniors and opportunities for young people help build a safer, healthier and more connected Kelowna.

Question #3

I believe every resident should have a fair opportunity to be heard in local government, regardless of their background, age or circumstances.

I would support accessible public consultations, community meetings in different neighbourhoods, online feedback opportunities and clear communication about City decisions. The City should make reasonable efforts to reach newcomers, youth, seniors and underrepresented residents who may not normally participate in council meetings.

I would encourage partnerships with community associations, cultural organizations, faith groups and local service providers to share information and gather feedback.

Meaningful participation also means listening respectfully, explaining decisions openly and showing residents how their input was considered. As a Councillor, I would remain accessible and accountable to all residents.

My goal is a City government that listens, treats people fairly, spends taxpayers' money responsibly and brings people together to build a stronger Kelowna.

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Ron Cannan

Elect: Mayor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

What specific actions would you support, within the City of Kelowna's role, to help ensure Kelowna is a welcoming and inclusive community where people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds feel respected, represented, safe, and connected?

Kelowna should be a community where everyone feels welcome, respected and safe, regardless of cultural or ethnic background. As Mayor, I would support strong relationships with cultural organizations and community leaders, and ensure diverse voices are included when the City develops policies, programs and community initiatives.

The City can also help by making municipal information and services easier to understand and access, supporting cultural celebrations and community events, and ensuring public spaces are welcoming to everyone.

Inclusion also means safety. Racism, discrimination and hate have no place in our community. I would support collaboration between the City, RCMP and community organizations to address concerns and build trust.

Most importantly, I believe in listening. A welcoming Kelowna starts by bringing people together, learning from one another and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to belong and contribute.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Within the responsibilities of the office you are seeking, what would you do to improve access to municipal programs, services, public spaces, and community opportunities for youth, families, and seniors, including those from immigrant and multicultural communities?

A strong community supports people at every stage of life. I would work to ensure municipal recreation, parks, libraries, public spaces and community programs are accessible, affordable and welcoming to youth, families and seniors.

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For newcomers and multicultural families, that also means making information about City programs and opportunities easier to find and understand and working with cultural and community organizations like OCCA that already have trusted relationships with residents.

I support safe parks and neighbourhoods, accessible recreation, opportunities for youth to participate in sports, arts and community life, and public spaces where seniors can remain active and connected. Maybe a multicultural open downtown summer market (like our multicultural Canada Day celebration).

The City does not need to duplicate the work of community organizations. It should listen, collaborate and remove unnecessary barriers so that local organizations can do what they do best. My goal is a Kelowna where people of every generation and background can participate fully in community life.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

What steps would you support to encourage greater civic and community participation and ensure that newcomers, racialized communities, youth, and other underrepresented residents have meaningful opportunities to be heard and involved in local decision-making?

Local government works best when residents believe their voices matter. I would support more opportunities for meaningful public engagement, including community town halls, neighbourhood meetings and outreach through cultural, youth and community organizations.

We also need to make participation easier. City information should be clear and accessible, and residents should have opportunities to provide input before major decisions are made—not simply after plans are largely finalized.

I would encourage greater participation by newcomers, multicultural communities, youth and other residents who may not traditionally engage with City Hall, including opportunities to serve on City committees and advisory groups.

As Mayor, I would make a deliberate effort to meet with diverse community organizations and listen directly to their priorities and concerns. Representation begins with relationships. When City Hall actively reaches into the community rather than expecting everyone to come to City Hall, we build greater trust, participation and belonging. My history is to be a team builder and welcome the opportunity to discuss these and other

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issues with OCCA.

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Trevor McAleese

Elect: Councillor

1. Multicultural Inclusion & Belonging

Local celebrations of culture, such as Asian Heritage Month, are an area where the City of Kelowna's formal participation can make a big impact towards building stronger cross-cultural community bonds. With the City's support through grant funding, promotion, and use of city-owned facilities, these celebrations can ideally be free-to-attend, large in scale, and provide enriching experiences for the entire community. In this way, the City of Kelowna can demonstrate its commitment to providing a welcoming environment for the cultural/ethnic groups

being recognized, and build connections between the entire diverse population of Kelowna.

There has been a rise in discriminatory behaviour in Kelowna towards multiple ethnic groups. This community benefits tremendously from the innumerable contributions of newcomers, both historically and through to the current day, and hate-motivated attacks have no place here. I support the City of Kelowna strengthening internal anti-discrimination measures and prioritizing Bylaw response to acts of racist vandalism.

2. Youth, Families & Seniors

Offering translations into a multitude of languages (Mandarin, Punjabi, Japanese, Korean, etc.) of official City of Kelowna communications including press releases & website content, and government applications & forms, could raise not only the level of awareness of city activities among immigrant and multicultural communities, but also accessibility and use of city services. If possible, live interpretation of City Council meetings would be a further step in a more inclusive direction towards helping diverse populations stay informed.

As well, taking steps to improve cultural sensitivity and inclusivity in public programming, with deliberate efforts to highlight people of diverse backgrounds in City of Kelowna promotional materials, can make these events more welcoming.

Ensuring that city-managed spaces such parks and other public amenities are fully

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accessible, well-lit, and safe for all-ages use can better welcome in all demographics.

3. Civic Participation & Representation

I believe that the City of Kelowna would benefit from a more formal process of gathering input from the many cultural and community organizations that work closely with and support the residents least likely to be represented in local decision-making. Monthly, quarterly, or bi-annual invitations to groups such as OCCA, where leadership and members are encouraged to deliver presentations to City Council outlining their good work, future plans, current challenges, and anticipated needs, could help establish clearer, ongoing dialogue and opportunities for meaningful collaboration between local government and the community-level organizations representing the interests of underserved populations.

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Silverado Brooks Socrates

Elect: Councillor

Response received after the 12:00 p.m. deadline on October 13, 2026.

I am going to hijack this question quite a bit, due to my being late and being under the gun for more than this. I am basically answering these questions backwards. By addressing 3 first, I think the first two will be improved.

I have a couple of mantras that I think will help place my position on these things. World pace to world peace (I was once a runner, a national record still stands from 1988); A stable community is a healthy one (have been with horses over 40 years, but relates to people/ room rentals too); Serious as a heart attack, preventing one! My mom passed away from a heart attack when I was in grade 11 at Mount Boucherie high school. She was in her 50's. My brother passed away in his mid 60's, about 5 years ago. Lifestyle choices contributed a lot to both their problems. Mine are better, but my lack of communication skills to potentially help them are better too. I would like to help our community members develop healthier lifestyles, helping feed addictions of self work and community participation through music, and sport. Would like to add healthier food and activity choices to this too with some community credit rewards system with groups of dedicated volunteers that come from different areas of town, call them wards, call them what you will, but work to develop SOS teams in each. SOS stands for something of a story, but also will aim to work a bit like a ski patrol team. However, rather than treating injuries, it will be on the prevention of problems. Too often things/ people are profiting by the problem, generating more problems (go figure!) The SOS teams will work to know the community and its history before the seniors that know it are history. I think everyone needs something different at different times. We have to learn to listen to them over different times to have any chance to decently understand them. Our city is growing faster than our ability to gather this history. I believe we need to prioritize this, teach it to the locals to have them be our best allies in tourism and be able to teach it to newcomers and locals alike. I think the team should have seniors working with youth and try to have indigenous representatives in each area. I think council members should aim to get to the 'wards' once a month at least.

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Tom Dyas

Elect: Mayor

No response received before the publication deadline

Andrew Mark Uitvlugt

Elect: Mayor

No response received before the publication deadline

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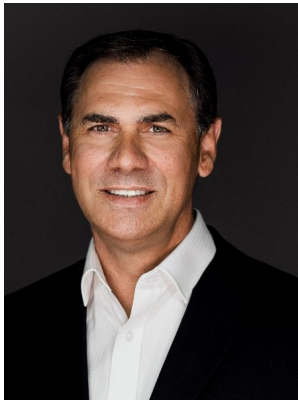
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Chris Bocskei

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline



Greg Dahms

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

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Todd Christopher Daniels

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline



Crystal Dougan

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

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Daniel Gordon Fritter

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline



Bal Grewal

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

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King James III

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline



Hamid Khajavi

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

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H. Morales

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

Brady Rogers

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

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Brian Rogers

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline



Mike Rose

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline

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Rick Webber

Elect: Councillor

No response received before the publication deadline



Richard Gauthier

Elect: School Trustee

No response received before the publication deadline

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Val Johnson

Elect: School Trustee

No response received before the publication deadline



Ashok Kumar Verma

Elect: School Trustee

No response received before the publication deadline

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