

Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Council Candidates 2018

What makes you think you are qualified to run as councillor?

Dave Woods

My wife and I have lived in the City for over 32 years and are proud to call Surrey our home. A retired RCMP member of over forty years of policing experience. I currently sit as a City of Surrey Councillor with four years' experience.

Barbara Steele

I have lived in Surrey for 38 years and raised my family here. I have been a Councillor for 20 years and know this city well. I am Past President of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) as well as the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA). I have also served on the BC Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). This is my home and I want to continue to contribute to the city I love.

John Gibeau

I am the founder and owner of the Honeybee Centre employing 38 residents. In addition to his business success he has always given back to the Surrey I love including being the President of Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce.

Avi Dhaliwal

I was born and raised in Surrey and have seen the city develop and grow rapidly my entire life. The municipal government has done many things well but there are many areas of concern that require attention which I can speak to on behalf of the residents of this city.

Rina Gill

I am a successful entrepreneur who has been running a small business in Surrey for over 10 years. My knowledge and experience are beneficial in this area as small businesses are the backbone of the Surrey economy. I have also done extensive volunteer work with 20+ non-profit organizations, so I understand the importance of giving back to the community. I have great relationships with various stakeholders and believe collaboration is the key to success.

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1. What skills do you bring to Council if you are elected?

Dave Woods

Have been recognized for strong judgement and thinking skills. I have extensive experience working with communities with problematic issues such as homelessness.

Barbara Steele

I am known as a "people person" and I bring these skills to all my work. I chaired the Seniors Advisory Committee for many years and, in fact, started this committee. I believe strongly in consultation with the community on issues before Council and I will continue to fight for openness, accountability and INTEGRITY in all I do.

John Gibeau

As the founder of the Honeybee Centre, I appreciate the need to preserve farm land and to encourage local farming to achieve food security. As a small business owner, I want an inclusive and streamlined City Hall to help improve our local economy and to make residents welcomed and prosperous. I want to give back to the city I love by serving as a Councillor.

Avi Dhaliwal

I've completed my civil engineering degree at McGill University and worked with multiple engineering firms on a variety of infrastructure projects, including highways, bridges, tunnels, pipelines, and rapid transit. I currently manage my family's construction company and also opened a residential design-build firm in 2014. I have a very strong background in architecture, engineering, and construction, and I can bring technical knowledge and new ideas to discussions on infrastructure and development. As I currently run two companies, I also bring excellent management skills to the table.

Rina Gill

I am a passionate, positive young woman with a strong work ethic and proven track record. I take pride in being accessible to the community and am known to stand up for what I believe in. I have run for Surrey City Council in the past and missed getting elected by 1 spot. I am back again to prove my dedication and commitment to the community. I am excited to run now with Bruce Hayne and the Integrity Now team, who share the same passion and love of Surrey as she does.

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2. In your opinion, what do you think is the most positive thing that has happened in Surrey recently that makes you proud to live in here

Dave Woods

The City has received numerous awards for the high quality of new amenities (pools, library) it has recently built.

Barbara Steele

I have invested in the City Centre. It is growing in to a University City with Simon Fraser and Kwantlen moving in. It is a world class city in the making.

John Gibeau

I love how Surrey is creating a downtown core to rival Vancouver. This not only creates employment but also encourages small business.

Avi Dhaliwal

I'm very excited that community came together and cleaned up the strip, where so many people used to suffer. It's amazing to see how a little bit of effort from the community can positively benefit peoples lives.

Rina Gill

I am very excited about the new Surrey downtown core as it offers so much to the community. Personally, I love to use the Surrey City Hall atrium and plaza as my event venue for my free community event called the Surrey Health Expo, which focuses on educating Surrey residents on how to live a healthy balanced lifestyle. With more emphasis on building the downtown core in the future, it will benefit the community even more.

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3. Are you committed to a strong City Centre and the creation of a vibrant Downtown core?

Yes

What is your strategy and commitment to business - arts – culture – technology and community in Downtown Surrey?

Our downtown core is off to a great start. We need to encourage more investment in City Centre through strong “open for business” policies for both residential and commercial investors. Utilizing CAC’s with large development project will provide a good portion of the resources we need to deliver community amenities in the way of arts, sports and culture.

4. The Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association had advocated for the past five years for a professionally managed purpose-built shelter in Surrey. What is your commitment to have this project move forward?

There are currently two sites that have gone through the rezoning process around the hospital precinct. BC Housing has yet to start construction which is unfortunate. This is not only a purpose-built shelter, but also transitional housing above.

5. What do you see as the top five issues facing Surrey?

- *Transit, congestion and infrastructure*
- *Housing/Affordability*
- *Development*
- *Transparency and consultation*
- *Crime/Gangs*

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6. We know there is always a debate between perception and reality. Everyone wants a safe place to live and do business. What is your strategy to deal with the root causes of crime?

Overall, crime rates in our city are declining. That does not mean that we can be satisfied with crime in our community. Much of the crime; gang violence, property crime, auto theft etc are driven by the illicit drug trade. Whether its the supply side or the demand side of the drug trade, reducing demand through recovery and working with youth at an early age will help to deal with the root causes of much of the crime in our city. We also need to partner with the provincial government to provide much more in the way of mental health services in our community as mental health issues can often lead to addictions as people self medicate. Working on these issues will go a long way to addressing the root causes of crime.

7. Do you support child care space in private developments?

Yes I do. This can be part of the residential amenities within the building development and many stratas would like to appreciate this benefit and potential revenue.

8. How should requests for decreased amenity space in new residential or mixed-use developments (both indoor and outdoor) be addressed by the City?

The city needs to reassess the true value of amenity space and adjust the bylaw accordingly. With that, if a developer wants to pay cash in lieu, the contribution would reflect a more true value to develop public space. With that said, developers should be proving the amenity space as required by the bylaw.

9. The temporary modular housing is scheduled to be removed from the locations in Downtown Surrey in two years. Do you support the City's housing strategy that moves people from the current temporary housing into supportive housing throughout the City? If not, what is your solution?

We need to ensure that during that period of time, those who are ready for stage two housing be placed throughout the community. Those not ready for stage two housing need to be supported in detox and recovery facilities funded by the province because we can not "warehouse" people without providing the recovery serves need.

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10. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

There are many ways that this will be achieved. We will institute an ombudsperson position at City Hall who will have authority to investigate and act on any complaints. Engaging community groups and collaborating on issues will help to ensure issues are broadly discussed and communicated will also help to ensure transparency. Broad consultation always leads to more transparency.

11. What do you think is the priority for public transit South of the Fraser? What do you support?

- *Take a regional leadership role on transit as mayor and council of the fastest growing city in Metro Vancouver
Advocate for community shuttles in Surrey town centres with Translink*
- *Enhance bus service throughout Surrey*
- *Ensure that the 1.6 Billion dollars committed for transit is used in Surrey quickly and efficiently*
- *Take a regional leadership role in advocating for more resources for Surrey*
- *Press pause on LRT Phase 1, as we have not seen the business case for it, and take a leadership role with Translink and the province to ensure proper technology choices in Surrey*
- *Take a regional leadership role in ensuring Skytrain on the Fraser Highway Corridor*