

**Downtown Surrey BIA
Questions for Mayoral Candidates 2018**

1. Why are you running for Mayor?

Main reason: I want [Suspended Rail System](#) (SRS) for Surrey. Not LRT, and not Skytrain. We need a 6 lane Pattullo Bridge, expandable to 8

2. Citizens of Surrey have a sense of pride in place and in community – what is your platform to help keep this momentum going?

Be a city that not only innovates, but succeeds at it with the SRS.

3. The City of Surrey Tax rate per capita is the lowest in Metro Vancouver. What are your views on this? What are your priorities?

Infrastructure. I have not researched the Surrey Tax rate per capita. Hard to answer. Might be due to the inflow of people in the city.

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?

As I was saying to a voter yesterday, Surrey does not have a downtown, but a town center. In New West, they have both, uptown (town center), and downtown. In my program, I would like to see a downtown Surrey by the Fraser, off of the Pattullo Bridge.

Ever since civilization has appeared on the planet, their first establishments have always been by the water. This is where the word “down” town comes from. Water, like some other things, follow the path of least resistance, and it flow downward...

Since it is the DSBI that is advocating this business type, I’d suggest that you keep making your arguments to see your lobbying efforts succeed.

5. It is necessary for municipal leadership to insure there is affordable housing dispersed throughout the City. What strategies would you consider implementing?

You claim that: “It is necessary for municipal leadership to insure...” OK, where did you get this from?

Anyway, Use city lands to build rental units. Hire a management company (bids) to run the rentals (own by the city).

6. 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?

This is another specific question relating to the past city hall decisions, and plans that may be out there. I actually would have to consult with stakeholders before forming an opinion, or being in a position to lay out suitable options.

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7. 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?

I'd have to know first what you mean by root causes of crime. A lady shouted out last night (Sept 26) at the meeting that poverty is a root cause of poverty. When I think about it actually, poverty is a symptom of a society gone awry (due to greed, corruptions, duress), but usually, I'd venture to say, will result in mostly petty crime activities (car break-ins, thefts, robbery) to support drug habits otherwise unattainable due to the lack of money, and a strategy (support) to get out of that hell hole. This is why I see drug addiction not as a crime, but as an illness.

The root of crime may be greed, cars, women, status, fear, duress, drugs dealing and also the super lax criminal laws in Canada (if punishment would be harsher, surely less crime would happen. Some criminals get their plane ticket to Canada before committing their crime(s) because they know the country is a slacker with criminals. "Pride" may also be a root of crime where murder is the end result.

Then you have the white collar criminals, who, once caught, get to do 1/6 of their prison term. Pretty good return if one can stash their ill gotten gains.

8. In response to the current City budget, what changes in staff at City Hall would you make to enhance your ability to meet your priorities?

This question is tailored for the few candidates that are more in the know.

9. How would you describe your leadership style?

Honest, realistic, and straight forward

10. Voter turnout in municipal elections is historically low – do you think that a change to the ward system would heighten awareness in local issues ultimately increase voter turnout?

Yes, the ward system is better since the councillors who run hail from their neighbourhood/ward. Surely, it would motivate more residents to vote more than in the current system.

11. Economic Development in the 21st Century requires leaders to position the City globally – learning and recruiting from the best. How do you plan to position Surrey to take care of business globally?

I think we can find all the talent we need right here in Canada.

12. Innovation in the medical and technology sector is attracting the best and the brightest to our area. What are your thoughts to further job growth and attract businesses in these sectors to the Downtown Surrey?

Build proper infrastructure.

13. We know we can expect over 1 million new residents to arrive in Metro Vancouver over the next 30 years, so we need to take the necessary action now by investing in our transportation system. As

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Mayor, what would you do on the Mayor's Council for Regional Transportation to ensure Surrey's requirements are highlighted?

See # 1. Plus integrate the SRS' pylons with existing electrical and other wires infrastructure. Clear up the side of the road, instead of crowding it more with wires to power the LRT.

14. How do you plan to address the overcrowding of schools in Surrey?

Build multi-story schools. For the same footprint we can have more students. Lobby the provincial government for more money.

15. The creation of a City Centre and a vibrant Downtown core is vital to the growth of Surrey. What is your strategy and commitment to business - arts – culture – technology and community in Downtown Surrey?

Bring 10 MLB games to the Lower Mainland. Bring in the Tall Ships, in conjunction with New West, and Richmond. Bring in the Strongest Men Competition, and develop an Alley for Artists where they can show the arts. May be we can combine that with Exotic, and Old Cars exposition.

16. How would a municipal police department be different than the RCMP to residents and businesses? Have you studied the studies and what are the financial implications?

I have not researched this area of city governance. I would think that a local police force is likely to retain police officers more than if Ottawa is boss as to where they go.

17. Do you support child care space in developments? How would you implement this within the City Development process?

Every new school built should have a Child Care component to them.

18. A number of developers have requested shorter waiting time on their projects to commence. What would you implement to ensure this happens?

Assess how things are done now, and see how to improve the flow of documents, concerns, and laws.

19. What would you do to address "the silos that operate in isolation at City Hall" – meaning many of the departments don't communicate what is happening. What would you do to address this huge issue?

First, as question 18, it to understand what is going on, why, and implement new or better procedures

20. How should requests for decreased amenity space in City Centre developments be accommodated?

I'd have to first understand the present situation.

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21. How would you bring transparency into Surrey City Hall?

Publish what is going on at City Hall on the net, and try to do away with confusing zoning labels.
Always explain the rationale to the citizens.