

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

**Nasima**

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

I love Surrey, and I care for my community. I have lived in Surrey for 26 years and I believe in what Surrey represents. Surrey is a diverse city made of different cultures and ethnic backgrounds all of whom work hard to form this great community. I came to Canada 33 years ago following the Russians invasion of Afghanistan. Having been an immigrant, I know the difficulty new immigrants face to integrate to a new society. They need strong advocates to fight for them to give them access to affordable housing, public transportation, and safe community. I feel that it is time to listen to all Surrey residents. No voice is too small.

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

I will bring integrity, reliability and corporation to city Hall. and I will provide leadership by listening to all voices, by being open and transparent, and by being inclusive and responsive. I will bring people together in city hall . I believe strongly that politics should be about people and elected officials should advocate for issues and concerns that impact the community.

3. 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?

I am very proud to live in Surrey because Surrey is one of the fastest growing cities in British Columbia. The most positive thing that has happened in Surrey is Surrey memorial hospital expansion and new out patient facility, City centre Library, Simon Fraser University, Holland park.

4. Are you committed to a strong City Centre and the creation of a vibrant Downtown core? What is your strategy and commitment to business - arts – culture – technology and community in Downtown Surrey?

I have been a business owner for 20 years and I believe in free enterprise. I will create new economic opportunities for surrey businesses and residents. Business is the cornerstone of prosperity in society. I would increase awareness of the role of business in Surrey, I would develop an economic strategy that offers an evidence-based approach in identifying investment opportunities for the private sectors and I will provide support programs to ensure surrey remains a competitive place for business. Our culture is our identity. I will make sure to promote a culture of inclusion and acceptance in Surrey. I will promote genuine and deep respect for every individual regardless of their origins, value, believes, and sexual orientation. We live in a world where our children are under constant pressure to achieve academic excellence. The value of music and art in child's education is often ignored. I will make sure to restore the value of art and music by establishing more Art center and resources for youth and seniors. I will consult with residents of Surrey to bring more new ideas to encourage people to get involved in arts and music. I have always loved arts.

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5. 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?

The shelter must be a priority. People in need deserve the help this facility will provide. It is a great way to manage temporary homelessness.

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

1. Affordable housing
2. safe community
3. reliable public transportation
4. Homelessness
5. Youth facilities

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 will work closely with federal and provincial government to increase mental health services, rehabilitation services for youth.

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

I support professional, licenced, trained child care space in private developments. Children will feel comfortable being close to their home.

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

From my perspective, mixed used development must be supported in moderation as it is a significant contribution to creating successful urban places. The approval depends on the area where the development will be at, the size of development, and its proximity to public amenities.

10. 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?

Yes I do. A supportive housing throughout the city would be a good strategy to help and assist our society members who are very much in need of support.

11. How would you make Council decisions more transparent?

By engaging public in decision making about the issues that impacts them. Empowering city staff to do their job without political interference. I would appoint an independent group of

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people to review of these rules, create lobbyist registry and improve protection for those willing to blow the whistle on municipal corruption.

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

Light Rail won't work for Surrey. I support sky train. LRT causes more congestion in Surrey. LRT is not safe. Studies show that LRT causes 3 accidents per crossing per year. There are 40 crossings in the two phases of LRT combined, which means about 120 accidents per year. This is without counting the left turns.