

Powell River Votes 2018

Candidate Report

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Powell River Voices is a civic organization that has been active for six years. We have a long-term vision of Powell River as a resilient community where the values of transparency, sustainability, and broad citizen participation prevail in civic governance. Previous to the last election, we surveyed some 550 households to gauge the values of Powell River residents. The results of that survey can be found on our web site at: <http://prvoices.org/reports/>

For this civic election, we have produced a questionnaire for all council and mayoral candidates based on the values identified in our previous survey as well as key issues that have come up over the past four years. The questions and the candidates responses are below. We hope this will help you make a sound decision on Oct 20th.

Candidates for Mayor

	Dave Formosa	* Glenn Holstine	Ron Woznow
Do you think that addressing the question of affordable housing should be an urgent priority for City Council?	Y		Y
The derelict Inn at Westview still has not been demolished. Would you immediately start the legal and technical process of demolition and pursue all options to recover the cost of demolition from the owners?	Y		Y
In terms of economic development, do you prefer an approach focused on support for existing small and medium businesses and local agriculture rather than giving financial incentives to try to attract large industries?	Y N		Y
Would you support making it easier for citizens to raise problems with conflicts of interest on City Council?	Y		Y
Municipal taxes in almost all BC communities are progressive: those with more expensive properties pay more. In Powell River though our residential tax bill includes a flat tax where everyone pays the same amount. This favours owners of more expensive properties. Do you support eliminating the flat tax in 2019?	N		Y N
Rules regarding in-camera meetings (not open to the public) are broad, allowing many Council decisions to be made behind closed doors. Should the number of in-camera meetings be reduced?	N		Y
Do you think that the City's communications strategy and citizen outreach efforts have been adequate over the past four years?	Y		N
Do you believe that human-caused climate change is a real and urgent problem?	Y		Y
Do you believe that the City should take action on human-caused climate change wherever it can?	Y N		Y
When approving residential or industrial developments, should the City make preserving greenspace a priority even though the City might get less revenue?	Y N		Y N

- Y answers are coded yellow, N answers are coded blue.
- Where no answer was given, an empty box is shown. Where a candidate answered both yes and no, Y N is shown.

* Reply from Glenn Holstine:

“Thank you for the opportunity to answer these important and time sensitive issues. As Mayor of the City of Powell River I will immediately arrange meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer, City Clerk and rest of the Municipal Staff and immediately get up to speed with the utmost priorities that I have for the upcoming four year term

Candidates for City Council

	George Doubt	Al Drummond	Cindy Elliott	Kelli Gallagher	CaroleAnn Leishman	Terry Noreault	Jim Palm	Art Richards	Rob Southcott
Do you think that addressing the question of affordable housing should be an urgent priority for City Council?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
The derelict Inn at Westview still has not been demolished. Would you immediately start the legal and technical process of demolition and pursue all options to recover the cost of demolition from the owners?	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		N	Y
In terms of economic development, do you prefer an approach focused on support for existing small and medium businesses and local agriculture rather than giving financial incentives to try to attract large industries?		Y	Y N	Y	Y N	N		Y N	Y
Would you support making it easier for citizens to raise problems with conflicts of interest on City Council?		Y	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	Y
Municipal taxes in almost all BC communities are progressive: those with more expensive properties pay more. In Powell River though our residential tax bill includes a flat tax where everyone pays the same amount. This favours owners of more expensive properties. Do you support eliminating the flat tax in 2019?		Y		Y	N	N	N	Y	N
Rules regarding in-camera meetings (not open to the public) are broad, allowing many Council decisions to be made behind closed doors. Should the number of in-camera meetings be reduced?		Y		Y	N	N	N	Y	
Do you think that the City's communications strategy and citizen outreach efforts have been adequate over the past four years?	N	N	N		Y N	N	N	N	N
Do you believe that human-caused climate change is a real and urgent problem?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Do you believe that the City should take action on human-caused climate change wherever it can?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
When approving residential or industrial developments, should the City make preserving greenspace a priority even though the City might get less revenue?	Y			Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y

- William Ashworth, Maggie Hathaway, Roger Whittaker and Sharon Wright did not respond to the questionnaire.
- Some candidates said they would have preferred to have a questionnaire with the possibility for open-ended rather than "yes/no" answers. Some candidates qualified their answers with explanations. In fairness to all respondents who might have added comments if that had been an option in the questionnaire, we have not included any qualifying statements.
- Y answers are coded yellow, N answers are coded blue.
- Where no answer was given, an empty box is shown. Where a candidate answered both yes and no, Y N is shown.