

thescope's

2013 ST. JOHN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Derek Winsor, At-large candidate

Please describe yourself in a few words.

My name is Derek Winsor and I was born and raised in St. John's. I have been married for almost 30 years and have two daughters.

What is your present occupation?

I am the Program Director of Bridges to Hope, a not-for-profit organization that assists community members by running a food pantry, cooking classes, a toy library and other programs that help families in times of need.

Why are you running in this election?

I have been an advocate for many social justice groups and issues for a number of years. I believe I have the experience but also the fresh perspective to council to be able to make a real difference in the everyday lives of the residents of St. John's.

What should be the city's top three priorities?

1. Dealing with the housing crisis, specifically for youth and seniors
2. Traffic congestion & road conditions
3. Cooperation for regional services (e.g. public transit)

What has been the present council's biggest blunder?

Lack of communication with the public on important issues

What has been the present council's biggest achievement?

Curbside Recycling

What other candidates running in this election do you think you would work best with?

1. Ron Ellsworth
2. Andrew Harvey
3. Sandy Hickman

Opinions & Issues

Please rate the importance of each subject on a scale of 0 to 10, and then add your comments.

Heritage building regulations 8

We need to retain our heritage but at the same time allow new development when buildings are not safe. I believe where possible we need to retain the look and historical significance of heritage buildings in the downtown.

City support for the arts 8

I am big supporter of the arts. Without our arts community, we will lose the heritage of the City and province. I am a big supporter specifically of the theatre and musical arts.

Downtown parking 7

Downtown parking and public transit go hand in hand. We have to take the recent transit report and implement the recommendations. We have to provide public parking supported by efficient and consistent transit to get people to the downtown.

Public transit 9

Presently the transit system is not meeting the needs of people who want to support it. The routes and the pick-up times are not meeting the needs of potential users. One hour routes are not efficient and the city needs to go to 15 min intervals for major routes and 30 min for secondary routes.

Urban density 7

This topic is closely related to height restrictions on buildings. Presently no new development areas are building high rise units. They are all single family homes and there has to be a change in the mind set of home owners.

Full-time council positions 4

I do not see this as a priority at this time, however as the city continues to grow and future amalgamation takes place I see the positions becoming full time.

Amalgamation 5

I do not see this as a priority, I do however see the City expanding and the provincial government mandating the amalgamation of the entire north east Avalon.

Height restriction for buildings 9

If you want to reduce the urban sprawl then the height restriction has to be adjusted and it may have to be different in the downtown compared to other areas.

Sidewalk snow clearing 9

The new policy in place for sidewalk clearing is working well, however I believe it has to be extended to more neighborhoods.

Affordable housing 10

This is my platform priority. Working in a social justice area I see the need on a daily basis and we need to continue to work with the community groups who advocate for housing. I would entertain a reduced mil rate for landlords who invest in affordable housing units.