

thescope's

2013 ST. JOHN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Jonathan Galgay, Ward 2 candidate

Please describe yourself in a few words.

My name is Jonathan Galgay and I am 31 years old, I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Memorial University of Newfoundland and have a strong background in areas ranging from leadership to public policy and evaluation. I have the qualifications, experience, and motivation to best represent the residents of Ward 2.

What is your present occupation?

I am a Public Policy Professional who has provided contractual services to both the Federal and Provincial Governments. I most recently concluded a long term contract with the Provincial Department of Justice (Public Safety and Enforcement Division).

Why are you running in this election?

I am a young professional who is motivated and dedicated to ensuring that the best interests of residents are represented at City Hall. I am committed to building stronger neighbourhoods and working towards balanced and creative solutions to the many issues facing our City. I have spent many years working behind the scenes advocating for the best interests of residents, and believe that it's time to step forward and made a difference in our community . I truly believe that a great City is measured by the quality of the lives of the people who live in it.

What should be the city's top three priorities?

Affordable Housing
Addressing Downtown Parking/ Transit Upgrades
Development and Heritage Preservation

What has been the present council's biggest blunder?

The Harbor Fence

What has been the present council's biggest achievement?

Addressing some of the City's aging infrastructure.

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

I have had the opportunity in my professional career to work with many professionals who possess various skills and special interests. I look forward to working cooperatively with all candidates who are successful in this upcoming election.

Opinions & Issues

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

Heritage building regulations

(10)

I support development, as long as it is well balanced and inclusive of the historical characteristics that make our City distinct. It is possible to balance growth and preservation. Planning must happen early in the development process. We need to protect our City's heritage by respecting the rules. If too much change happens to a neighbourhood, it may lose the characteristics which made it desirable in the first place.

City support for the arts

(10)

This is incredibly important. I am a strong supporter of the local Arts Community and believe that our City can do more to promote our local talents and creativity.

Downtown parking

(10)

The City needs to work towards long term solutions to this increasing problem. Immediate action is required by the new council, and we must ensure that enhancements in our transit system takes place while a plan is implemented. We need to move forward with creative solutions to this serious issue.

Public transit

(10)

I support any enhancements to our public transit, which also includes enhancements to Para transit for residents with disabilities. Reviewing current bus routes, park and ride, and introducing express bus shuttles from key points of interest around the City would be ideas I will work towards.

Urban density

(9)

We need to work with the business community to ensure that vacant buildings are utilized to their maximum potential. We need encourage development at these sites, protect our valuable green spaces, and identify areas where there is a need for responsible development.

Full-time council positions

(4)

I do not support the idea of full time council positions.

Amalgamation

(4)

We currently have a number of shared Regional Services. The City of St. John's needs to focus on the many issues facing residents before amalgamation is entertained.

Height restriction for buildings

(10)

We need to encourage development, but also ensure that developers are aware of our current height restrictions.

Sidewalk snow clearing

(10)

We need to re-evaluate the distribution of resources during our winter months to ensure there is a balance of services for the entire City. Safety of residents must become a priority by providing adequate and timely clearing of sidewalks.

Affordable housing

(10)

We must work cooperatively with all levels of government and all relevant stakeholders to identify and establish effective measures to address this serious issue. We need to evaluate the City's responsibly in addressing this housing crisis.