

2022 Municipal Election Candidates Survey

Thank you for clarifying your perspective on sustainability topics with Kamloops voters! We look forward to publicly sharing the survey results.

Please note that all text answers have a limit of 250 characters.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 26

Candidate name *

Jesse Ritcey

1. Council approved funding for a 0.35% annual budget increase for the next ten years to help fund our commitments under the Community Climate Action Plan. Do you feel this funding level is (choose one): *

- ☐ Too high
- ☐ Appropriate
- ☒ Too low

Why?

My understanding is that sustainability staff had identified closer to 0.5% as the scale of investment that would be needed to be made to achieve the goals of CCAP. Especially with high inflation driving up costs, funding must match our ambitions.

2. What should be Council's single biggest priority for reducing local greenhouse gas emissions? *

Transportation. This causes 66% of emissions. We need denser development, ending urban sprawl, good transit, bike lanes, car share, electrified EV charging stations in new homes (not just roughed in), and planning around a charging network.

3. What should be our priorities at the local level to increase our resilience to climate change impacts? *

We should focus on natural based solutions. Trees deployed to shade, cool, and filter air during heat waves. Bioswales to slow and capture storm water. We should also fortify our electric grid with local renewables like solar in case of disruption.

4. Among many competing priorities for the City's resources, how important is improving the City's active transportation infrastructure ? *

	1	2	3	4	
Low priority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	High priority

Why?

Using active transportation for a trip instead of a car reduces emissions, reduces pot holes/traffic for remaining drivers, and has the co-benefit of improving health, as well as animating neighborhoods. Investing in safety helps everyone.

5. Our population is growing. Do you believe that the City should consider imposing an urban growth boundary as [Kelowna](#) has done, to maximize growth within the existing development footprint? *

	1	2	3	4	
Low priority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	High priority

Why?

Absolutely! We have limited investment and demand and it should be directed inward to achieve densification. This will protect important natural areas that hold carbon and reduce vehicle emissions on the city's edge into the town centre. Denser development will also reduce servicing costs for roads and maintenance.

6. What do you think are the City's most effective tools for facilitating the development of more affordable housing in Kamloops? *

I think removing barriers to in-fill development and creating denser, 'missing middle' housing in all of our residential neighborhoods would improve affordability. Simply building more massive, single family homes on the edge of town doesn't help.

7. How can the City ensure that future development maintains healthy urban ecosystems? *

We need to update our landscaping guidelines so that when development plans are submitted, we can ensure projects contribute to the larger ecosystem. Ex. Removing non-functional turf, using native plants, and giving trees sufficient space to mature.

8. Do you feel that the City should move toward offering recycling for businesses, not just residences? *

	1	2	3	4	
Low priority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	High priority

Why?

Yes, at present we only offer cardboard recycling. As the largest hauler/sorter it makes sense in terms of efficiency but we will need to work with the province to achieve this as Recycle BC program is for residential service only.

9. What do you believe is the role of municipalities in strengthening local food systems? *

Cities should take an active role. We can fund food policy councils through service agreements, allow developers to offer food assets like garden spaces in lieu of other requirements like parking, support our farmer's market with a washroom.

10. What new actions, if any, do you feel the City should undertake to ensure the timely implementation of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's recommendations? *

I believe we can increase capacity for this work by funding urban indigenous organizations, building on the community to community forum with TteS, and exploring partnerships with TRU like their new masters of social justice and human rights program.

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