

2020 Municipal By-election

Candidate Profile Guide

Introduction

To assist voters in finding information about Victoria's candidates and to make informed choices in the 2020 municipal by-election, the City has produced this online Candidate Profile Guide.

Victoria voters will elect one Councillor in the upcoming by-election.

All candidates were provided the opportunity to submit a brief Candidate Profile and photograph to let voters know about themselves and their platforms.

The views and opinions expressed in the profile statements are those of the candidates and do not reflect the position of the City of Victoria.

The profiles have not been edited in any way.

Candidates

Stephen Andrew

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Stephen Andrew is a long time Victorian with a history of community involvement. Victoria needs leadership from city council that will serve all of Victoria.

“This election is all about one thing, endorsing the status quo or making a change in the way Victoria is led.”

His career as an award winning journalist shows he can ask the hard questions and find the answers that we need. His leadership of a national charitable organization proves he has the both the empathy and the experience that Victoria needs from its leaders.

Stephen will:

- Listen to all Victorians
- Support affordable housing
- Support a fully funded police service
- Support local business, tourism and the arts.
- Focus on the business of the city

“It is time to move away from the politics of division, of cars vs bikes, renters vs owners, housed vs unhoused and focus on the things that will benefit all Victorians.

Rob Duncan

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Political-Candidate/Rob-Duncan-468675526878534/>

DR. ROB DUNCAN is a former academic social scientist with a PhD in Developmental Psychology (Waterloo, 1999). From 2012 to 2016, Rob was working on a second PhD in Political Sociology at Uvic (until the financing became impossible). Rob is a social and environmental activist, feminist, amateur bass player/singer, birdwatcher and amateur naturalist, and lifelong socialist. As well as academia, Rob has worked in various areas of support work, including homeless shelters and low-barrier supported housing. Rob is originally from Victoria, and lives with his cat Winston (who would really prefer just to be left out of this whole thing) in a small apartment in a big old house in Fernwood. Rob sees the residential rental market problem and the homelessness crisis as the foremost issues facing Victoria at this time, along with the global climate emergency, and he has lots of ideas for addressing all these challenging problems.

Riga Godron

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Love is the only reason to work toward improving everything around you at a local level for the future. The old ways of doing things were not work working. Each of us can choose to change, have the courage to follow through and commit to it everyday.

Stefanie Hardman

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<https://www.instagram.com/StefanieHardman/?hl=en>

Stefanie Hardman is an urban planner and researcher. She has dedicated her career to improving housing and transit affordability, including work with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness and the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria.

COVID-19 has deeply affected our communities, and Stefanie is running for Council to build our city back stronger than before. You can count on Stefanie to fight for an affordable, inclusive, and thriving Victoria by:

- Providing more support for small businesses and targeted relief for those most impacted by the crisis
- Tackling the rising cost of living by boosting rental supply, increasing the number of childcare spaces, and making Victoria the leader in affordable transit
- Escalating our response to the overdose crisis and advocating for mental health treatment, social housing, and non-market housing with wrap-around supports
- Championing sustainability by reducing emissions and growing our greenspaces

Together, we can build a better city.

Bill Heflin

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I am running as an experienced independent. I have been active in civic affairs in appointed offices. I have been a lawyer since 1977 including 5 years with the BC Prosecution Service. I served as president of the Kimberley Lions Club and Kimberley Lions Housing Society, chaired the Kimberley Development Approval Board, served as a vice-chair of the Nelson Area Economic Development Commission and served 4 years on the Selkirk College Board of Governors.

Objectives – Encourage Council to cease micro-managing, provide informed leadership and let our professionals do their jobs, particularly in homelessness and zoning and planning. Reduce Council's involvement in issues where they have no jurisdiction.

Jason Heit

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I am a local business owner, non-profit founder, coach, parent, former national level and professional athlete (Boxing and MMA). I am proud to call Victoria home and proud to do business here. I want to contribute to the community of Victoria to do what I can to improve the city for its contributing citizens and work on protecting their safety and financial security.

I am new to politics and have no affiliation with any members of city council. My only experience with city hall is trying to operate a business that tries to provide a service and employment in a very challenging environment. I believe I can provide a voice for people who want safety, employment opportunities, balance and harmony in Victoria.

Sean Leitenberg

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Sean Leitenberg is a socially conscious businessman and landlord with over thirty years of experience. He has created and managed housing ranging from subsidized housing to luxury homes. With experience in the retail, entertainment and hospitality sector, Sean understands the difficulty of business and wants to help downtown businesses prosper. Tax consultation taught him how important it is to succeed while at the same time helping others. Sean supports the Victoria Police Department and appreciates how hard their work is, now more than ever. Sean will bring his sensible decision making to Victoria. Tents in our parks is not housing. With experience and good judgement, we can create housing that benefits all.

Experience has taught him that housing and support are a packaged deal. Safe streets, parks and housing with support for everyone are in our future. Sean is an experienced independent voice working for you.

Hailey McLeod

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Hailey is a recent graduate from Uvic where she studied Anthropology and Canadian History. Raised in a small town in the interior of BC by a single mother, Hailey grew up witnessing how income inequality deeply impacted people's lives. She has always believed that if we listen to our neighbours, we can build communities that are greener, more fair, and prosperous for everyone. She has volunteered with various organizations doing this work including the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Center, Uvic's campaign to end gender-based violence, and as a tutor for students facing barriers to education.

As City Councillor, Hailey's priorities will be:

- 1) Increasing affordable housing through mixed-use housing, Airbnb restrictions, and mandating all new housing projects include a percentage of affordable units.
- 2) Working to increase subsidized housing initiatives for those experiencing homelessness or facing eviction.
- 3) Addressing institutionalized racism and other forms of systemic discrimination in every facet of governance.

Keith Rosenberg

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Keith is a veteran of Canada's military, and the father of two special needs children. He hopes to bring back common sense and reason to the City Council.

Alexander Schmid

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I was born and raised in Victoria, the city I love. I have a Physics degree and I am a laboratory instructor at UVic. I am a problem solver by education and temperament, as well as a hard worker. I like to be helpful. I know that life is not easy for many, and I am running for Council of the City of Victoria in order to make a positive difference in our community. I see many problems in our city and I want to solve them. I am used to challenges. People who know me – my students, my colleagues and members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to which I belong – know that they can rely on me. I hope that Victoria citizens will put their trust in me by electing me as their Councillor.

Roshan Vickery

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Roshan Vickery is a long-time social advocate & resident of Victoria. After receiving a degree in Art History from the University of Victoria, Roshan worked as an auctioneer & appraiser for Kilshaw's Auction House.

A supporter of arts & culture, Roshan regularly volunteers his expertise as an auctioneer around the city. He has conducted successful events & fundraisers for organizations such as the Belfry Theater, Victoria Hospice Society, TAPS, the United Way & South Park Elementary School.

Having lived in the heart of downtown Victoria for fifteen years, Roshan has a unique understanding of the issues currently facing Victorians & their city. If elected, Roshan will advocate for inclusionary housing, active transportation & the support of a vibrant business culture. To these things, he contributes the perspective of a downtown renter who bikes everywhere, shops locally & loves his city.

For More Information

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/2020-municipal-byelection.html>

<mailto:elections@victoria.ca>

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