

2026 VICTORIA ELECTION

Candidate Profile Guide

Introduction

To assist voters in finding information about Victoria's candidates and making more informed choices in the 2026 Local Government Election, the City of Victoria has produced an online Candidate Profile Guide.

All candidates for Mayor and Councillor positions were given the opportunity to submit a brief candidate profile and photograph to let voters know about themselves and their platforms. Profiles have been included for candidates who submitted by the deadline.

The profile statements submitted and any materials referenced, such as candidates' social media and websites, have not been reviewed or edited by the City of Victoria.

The views and opinions expressed in the profile statement and reference materials for each candidate are those of the candidate and do not reflect the views or opinions of, nor are they endorsed by, the City of Victoria.

For more information:

City of Victoria

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elections@victoria.ca | victoria.ca/election

Candidates for Mayor

ALTO, Marianne

ATKINSON, Lyall

GERVAIS-HARRISON, Darren

HANNA, Christopher

HARRIS, Mike

JOHNSTON, David

MCGUIGAN, Bruce*

MILLER, Gregoor*

*Candidate profile statement and/or photo not received by deadline.

MAYOR CANDIDATE

Marianne Alto

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Instagram: @teamaltomayor

Reddit: MarianneAlto

The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

Serving as Victoria's mayor has been an absolute honour. Together, we've made progressive change on issues Victorians have told me matter most to them. As mayor, I've approved record numbers of housing, facilitated, adopted and actioned the city's first community safety and wellbeing plan, opened new shelter and recovery beds, and invested in critical services. Before becoming mayor, I was a city councillor and business owner. I'm a mom of two boys, and I own a home in Burnside Gorge neighbourhood. I'm running again because we've done important work to make Victoria safer, accessible and resilient, but more is needed. I have the experience that delivers, and with a second term, I will work to unlock homes for people, invest in wellbeing, and take action on community safety. I hope I can count on your support. Thank you.



MAYOR CANDIDATE

Lyall Atkinson

Contact info:

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Facebook: Lyall Atkinson Facebook

The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

I believe I'm a strong Candidate for Mayor Of Victoria. Because I was born and raised in Victoria. This city is my home and I have deep understanding of our community ,it's history and it's challenges and opportunities we face

I'm a hard worker who brings 63 years of life experience, knowledge. and a commitment to continue to learning .I have strong leadership qualities .I fallow through on commitments, and I fallow through on commitments ,and I know how to get things done. I work well with others ,value collaboration, and practical solutions that benefit our community

Throughout my life .I have contributed to Victoria in many ways I have earned my living here, paid taxes, owned property, and operated a small business. These experiences have given me first hand insight into the issues affecting residents, workers, business owners and taxpayers. I am independent ,reliable and committed to make decisions



MAYOR CANDIDATE

Darren Gervais-Harrison

Contact info:

Email: Darren4Mayor@gmail.com

Website: DarrenForMayor.ca

The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

Darren Gervais-Harrison is an electrical engineer, project manager, and community leader who has called Victoria home for 13 years. He believes Victoria has the plans and talent to be a more affordable, vibrant and ambitious city—and now it's time to deliver.

As Mayor, Darren will focus on safer, cleaner public spaces and creating real pathways for unhoused people toward stable housing; strengthening Victoria's economy by making City Hall easier to work with and supporting local businesses; revitalizing downtown with more events, culture, and activity day and night; and making everyday life more affordable through better value for tax dollars, practical transportation options, and housing policies that deliver results.

Darren supports safe cycling, reliable public transit, and roads that work for those who need to drive. His approach is simple: keep what works, fix what doesn't, and finish what we've started.

Victoria has plans. Now let's deliver.



MAYOR CANDIDATE

Christopher Hanna

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The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

Fourth-Generation Victorian and a resident of Victoria.

Forty-year career as an historian and historical researcher of Victoria, Victorians, and Victoria's built heritage.

Life-long user of transit.

Walker.

Supporter of diversity and Reconciliation.

Advocate for substantial increases in residential density along transit arterials.

Opponent of additional bike lanes.

Never owned a vehicle nor possessed a drivers license.

Advocate for proper transit shelters and bus lanes.

Defender of single-family neighborhoods where basement and garden suites house the Missing Bottom.

The true measure of a society is how the marginalized and the environment are respected.



MAYOR CANDIDATE

Mike Harris

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TikTok: @bcmikeharris

The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

I am a husband, father and grandfather with more than 30 years of experience in business, construction, housing and real estate. As a journeyman carpenter and real estate professional, I have spent my career managing projects, solving problems and working with people to achieve practical results.

I am running for Mayor because I believe Victoria City Hall needs to get back to basics and focus on the issues that matter most to residents. My priorities are safer streets and public spaces, responsible taxation and spending, more attainable housing, a clean and thriving downtown, reliable core municipal services, and greater accountability and transparency.

I will bring a practical, results-focused approach to City Hall, strengthen neighbourhood engagement before major decisions are made, and ensure taxpayers can clearly see what their money is accomplishing.

Safe. Affordable. Accountable.



MAYOR CANDIDATE

David Arthur Johnston

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The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

Fix Victoria Fix The World

Every 'choice' is determined by what experience deems is peace. It's called divining.

By Oct 17th more than half of Victoria's eligible voters will assuredly know 'free-will' is a tyrant-imposed con. To know what God looks like is to know what God doesn't look like. I would call the end of hate a far reaching miracle. Patience be with us all.



MAYOR CANDIDATE

Gregoor Miller

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The City of Victoria automatically appoints the elected mayor to the Capital Regional District Board.

My name is Gregoor Miller. For the past several years I have been talking to Victorians about Victoria. The majority of my platform is based on those conversations.

PLATFORM

Hire Doctors / Nurses

CRD Run Clinics

Repeal the “Missing Middle”

Affordable Housing

One Year Freeze on Property Taxes

Put Money Into Schools Not Cut School Budgets

Highrise Apartments Must Have More Parking Spaces

Victoria / Vancouver Museum Exchange

CRD Run Supermarkets

Buskers Back In the Inner Harbour

Free Parking on Sundays

Change Bylaw To Make Double Driveways Legal

Some of these issues are multi governmental; municipal, provincial and federal.

The different levels of government need to work together to help solve its problems.

Sometimes starting locally and working up is more effective than the other way around.

Help me help you.

Gregoor Miller

Candidates for Council

BOWKETT, Wendy

CARADONNA, Jeremy

COLLINS, Herb

CSESZKO, Melissa

DELL, Matt

DION, Shona*

FILIPOVIC, Steve*

GARCIA, Jerry

GARDINER, Marg

GIBBS, Peter Rose*

GIRARD, Martin

HAMMOND, Stephen

HARASYMOW, James*

HEIT, Jason*

KIM, Susan*

LEE, Bella

LOUGHTON, Krista

MCINNIS, Arthur

ROTHER, Karen

SANDOR, Jack*

THOMPSON, Dave

*Candidate profile statement and/or photo not received by deadline.

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Wendy Bowkett

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

Victoria deserves a City Hall that listens, makes transparent decisions, and focuses on what matters most: improving public safety, livability and affordability, while restoring public trust.

I'm running because people across Victoria are losing confidence in how decisions are made at City Hall. Residents should see their input reflected, understand how public money is being used, and know that City Hall is focused on practical results.

For +20 years, I have had a front-row seat to how City Hall decisions affect downtown, neighbourhoods, residents, and local businesses. I have seen the real potential of our city, and I have also seen how that potential can be lost when governance falls short.

I believe Victoria can do better. With the right leadership, we can restore trust, make better decisions, and bring communities together to build a city that is more liveable, connected and resilient.

Let's get Victoria back on track.



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Jeremy Caradonna

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LinkedIn: Jeremy Caradonna

Running for position of CRD Director: Yes

I'm an incumbent City Councillor, CRD Director, and Transit Commissioner. I live in Fernwood with my wife and our two kids, and I've worked as a professor, civil servant, and business owner.

I'm running for re-election to continue the work from my first term -- namely, to complete the Crystal Pool on time and on budget, expand transportation options, build affordable housing, decarbonize our economy, wind down sheltering in parks and other public places, and invest in arts, parks, roads, and public spaces.

Victoria faces big challenges related to community safety, housing, transportation, affordability, and climate. I have the experience, both at City Council and at the CRD, to help lead the city through these challenging and uncertain times. Together, we can make Victoria a thriving, safe, and sustainable place to call home.



Herb Collins

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

- Safer Streets – Clean up the downtown core and improve public safety
- Housing – More affordable housing options for Victorians
- Small Business – Stronger security and support to help local businesses grow
- Green Spaces – Expand the urban tree canopy with native and fruit-bearing trees
- Smart Investment – Common-sense spending that benefits all residents
- Compassionate Care – Accessible rehab and harm reduction, plus pet-friendly supportive housing (e.g., above Crystal Pool); ban street camping
- Wildlife Protection – Preserve old-growth forests, build wildlife crossings, and end clearcutting

Vote Herb Collins — Working for You



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Melissa Cseszko

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

I was born and raised in Victoria, and I live here today. For the past six years, I have run a small business downtown, where I see every day what is working, what is not, and how much people still care about this city. I also have a personal stake in Victoria's success: I live here, my business is here, and my future is here. If Victoria struggles, I personally feel those consequences too.

When my store lease came up, I had a choice. Like many others, I could have left. Instead, I chose to stay and keep investing in Victoria.

Now I'm choosing to step up. I'm running for council because Victoria can be safe, vibrant, accountable, and truly working for the people who live here, work here, and visit here.

I'm running for council to help rebuild safety, restore accountability, revive Victoria.



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Matt Dell

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

Matt Dell was elected to Victoria City Council in 2022. He served as President of the South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association, volunteered on the board of National Little League and Oaklands Parent Advisory Council, and has a long history as a musician and arts organizer in Victoria. He works in policy and legislation with the BC Government.

On council, Matt pushed for homes for people, approving 4000 new rental homes, 2000 affordable homes and numerous major housing projects. He supported community investment such as Hermann's Jazz, a new Crystal Pool, expanded funding for parks, and started the OURDWTN program to make downtown more welcoming and vibrant.

Matt's top priorities for next term are to build more affordable housing, start work on a new downtown public library, increase investment in parks and recreation, keep taxes affordable, and improve safety and vibrancy in the downtown core.



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Jerry Garcia

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Running for position of CRD Director: Yes

Jerry Garcia — Candidate for Victoria City Council & CRD

I am an engineer, executive, project manager, entrepreneur, educator and community volunteer running to bring practical, results-focused leadership to Victoria City Council and the CRD. I live in downtown Victoria.

With more than 40 years of experience, I have led major organizations and projects, built small businesses and served my community. I believe city government should set clear priorities, manage public money carefully and be accountable for measurable results.

My priorities are to grow Victoria's economy, restore safe and welcoming public spaces, get housing built faster, reduce homelessness, strengthen neighbourhoods, improve access to healthcare and make City Hall work better.

I am an independent candidate, I will work collaboratively while making decisions based on evidence, costs, community needs and results, not partisan politics.

Practical experience, independent leadership and a commitment to delivering results that matter. Website: <https://jerryforvictoria.ca>



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Marg Gardiner

Contact info:

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Running for position of CRD Director: Yes

I am a Victoria City Councillor and have been a community advocate for the past 20 years.

My experience and background make me an ideal candidate for re-election.

My background includes a BSc in Chemistry and an MBA in Public Administration; business experience (consultancy practice); and experience in regulatory enforcement in government positions.

As a Councillor, I pursue 4 priorities:

- Safe streets
- Liveable neighbourhoods
- Careful use of taxpayer money
- Open and accountable City government

My voting record speaks for itself. I consistently voted in favor of police and bylaw funding to reduce disorder and crime on our streets; I opposed rampant development which threatens heritage buildings and tree canopy; I oppose 4-6 storey apartments replacing houses in residential neighbourhoods.

Every tax dollar should deliver measurable results for residents.

I have advocated (and will continue to advocate) for residents' right to appeal Council decisions and a return to meaningful community consultation.



Martin Girard

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

I've spent years advocating for the marginalized and disenfranchised of this city. Now it's your turn, to lend me your support by electing me to the Victoria municipal council this October.

Homelessness tops the concerns of the electorate, alongside housing and cost of living. Well, I used to be homeless for five years, and I've been barely scraping by living off disability benefits in a supportive housing complex for the past four years, so I feel your pain alright!

Everybody in town agrees that our past municipal council's approach to homelessness has resulted in disaster. How about putting someone with lived experience in charge? I've got a plan to address homelessness, housing affordability, high cost of living, and public safety all at once, by investing in social services instead of criminalizing poverty.

See my website for platform highlights, including homelessness, housing and rental protection, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and the environment!



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Stephen Hammond

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Facebook: Vote Stephen Hammond

Running for position of CRD Director: No

I'm a sitting city councillor, non-practising lawyer, workplace human rights author and occasional speaker/consultant, former renters' advocate, and longtime community advocate.

If re-elected, I will continue focusing on three priorities: a safer city, taxes people can afford, and housing that works for Victoria. I support practical measures to reduce public disorder while treating people with compassion, stronger fiscal discipline so City spending reflects what taxpayers can reasonably afford, and housing growth that adds homes without abandoning good planning or neighbourhood context.

I also want a City Hall that listens more carefully, explains its decisions clearly, and focuses on core services residents rely on — including public safety, streets, utilities, parks, recreation and a vibrant Downtown.



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Bella Lee

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

My name is Bella Lee, and I'm running to lower your cost of living in Victoria. As a longtime resident and a renter in Rockland, I have spent my career fighting to make sure no one gets left behind.

I believe we need to:

- Build housing that people can actually afford by investing in co-op and non-profit housing.
- Lower your energy bills by getting more heat pumps and solar panels on buildings.
- Bring more family doctors to our city and build a city-owned clinic for Victoria residents.
- Support a safe and compassionate community by investing in prevention, and treatment options.
- Improve park infrastructure like BBQs, and allow for beer on beaches.

I want to build a better Victoria. Better means a place where we take care of each other, where we can afford to live, where the communities are thriving, and our neighbourhoods are vibrant.



Krista Loughton

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Running for position of CRD Director: Yes

I am an incumbent City Councillor, local business owner, and the award-winning filmmaker behind the documentary *Us & Them*, with a deep understanding of Victoria's complex challenges.

I am running for re-election to City Council and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board to continue the work started in 2022. My priorities for the next term are clear: focus on downtown, make Victoria more affordable, and provide strong leadership at the CRD to regionalize services for the homeless because Victoria can't continue to carry the load alone.

Politics isn't a career pivot for me. It is simply the latest step in my lifelong commitment to serving our community.



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Arthur McInnis

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VictoriaCityHallForum](https://facebook.com/groups/VictoriaCityHallForum)

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Running for position of CRD Director: Yes

I live in James Bay and teach law at the University of Victoria. Previously, I worked internationally as a construction and major-projects lawyer, advising contractors, financial institutions and governments.

I am running because Victoria has an accountability problem. I saw it firsthand when I traced the approvals record for the Bayview Place project and found that the process residents were promised was not the process they received.

On Council, I will champion open government and fiscal discipline, funding core services before discretionary programs. I will support neighbourhood planning with meaningful public participation; housing policies that protect existing renters while reducing the cost and delay of small-scale infill; transportation planning that puts emergency access first; and public-safety spending tied to measurable results.

I am running as an independent. My vote will follow the evidence.



COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Karen Rothe

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

Victorians deserve a Council that acts today, with a plan for tomorrow.

I'm running because I've seen too many good ideas stall - and I know how to turn momentum into results. Victoria is home: I grew up, live, and work here, and I understand how our city budgets work and where opportunities lie.

For decades, my public-service career has focused on planning and prevention, municipal affairs, and emergency management. I've helped government programs cut through gridlock, unlock stalled projects, and turned plans into results. I want to bring that experience to the Council Chamber.

My priorities are clear: a transportation network that brings us together, a budget that delivers value for every dollar, and a coordinated plan for downtown safety.

I know how to get things moving, and I'm ready to do that for our city. Let's get to work building a better direction for Victoria.



Jack Sandor

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Running for position of CRD Director: No

I'm running for Victoria city council because too many people are being pushed out of the city they call home. Housing is crushingly expensive, good jobs are hard to find, and it's nearly impossible to imagine owning a home here anymore if you don't have generational wealth. I believe there's more that City Hall can do to address the realities that working people face every day.

I want to help change that by bringing a blue collar perspective to city government and focusing on affordability, reliable public services, and a city government that does everything possible to make life better for its citizens. I believe that my experience as a Red Seal electrician can help the city do a better job of making life affordable for the working class. Victoria should be a place where people can build stable lives, not just pass through on the way to somewhere else.

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Dave Thompson

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Running for position of CRD Director: Yes

I will continue to advance key priorities of Victoria residents, working with Council colleagues and government partners and others:

Homes for all, especially affordable, non-profit and rental homes - and speedier permit approvals.

Safe and healthy communities: working with partners to compassionately address homelessness, the drug and mental health crises, and community safety. Those on the street need better places to be.

Climate action, trees and greenspaces, and helping residents and businesses shift to clean electricity from polluting fossil fuels.

Vibrant neighbourhoods - investing in community associations, recreation, arts, festivals.

Great neighbourhoods: welcoming, healthy, safe for everyone.

At City Hall and the Capital Regional District, I've brought forward dozens of initiatives, and advocated to senior governments for resources and action. As a former lawyer and small business owner, I know how to get things done. I listen, work collaboratively, and push for civility and dialogue.

Info: www.davethompsonvictoria.ca.

