# Elect Your Future - Councillor Candidate Responses

November 5, 2021

Please note that incumbent candidates are shaded in gray

| Candidate's Name | Photo | Website | Q1: Please comment on the current relationship between Council and City Staff. Are there any changes you would work towards if elected. | Q2: Understanding that Council's time and resources are not infinite, please comment on strategies that you implement to ensure adequate energy is devoted to the issues most important to the continued growth and development of Nanaimo. | Q3: If elected as a member of Council, how would your personal strengths help shape a Council that has the ability to lead our community? | Q4: Please discuss how you would work to ensure Nanaimo is competitive in attracting employment opportunities with pay scales that are in line with our local cost of living. | Q5: What role do you see the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation playing in Nanaimo's future growth? | Q6: What initiatives do you feel offer the best opportunity for sustainable, well-paying employment in Nanaimo. | Q7: Please comment on the current community vision for Nanaimo. Are there any changes you would work towards if elected? | Q8: What do you see as Nanaimo's greatest strengths and toughest challenges? | Q9: Please share your thoughts on Council's responsibility to lead our community and how public opinion should be considered in this role. | Q10: The majority of city revenue is generated from property taxes. What's your opinion of the existing property tax structure? What, if any, changes would you make if elected? |
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| George Anderson | | www.facebook.com/SGeorgeAnderson | I believe the current relationship between Council and City Staff is strained. In order for Nanaimo to move forward we need to make sure there is a better communication system with City Staff and Council. | Strategies that I would implement would be making sure to consult members in the community about which issues they think are important in making sure that we have a vision and successful future for our city. We need to make sure that we have citizens involved in the process to make sure we have a harmonic balance in our community, bring people together and build bridges is something our city needs. | My personal strengths would be a great addition to council as I believe it is very important to listen. As a councillor I would make sure to listen and respond to people in the community, you need both a strong community or economic future without consulting the members in the community. I think my ability to find common ground, bring people together and build bridges is something our city needs. | The way I would make sure Nanaimo stays competitive is making sure to communicate with business owners to hear there concerns and work to find solutions, but to also work along side our Economic Development corporation and region, and working alongside our small business to make our town a vibrant local economy. | The role I see from our Economic development Corporation is make sure that we have sound economic policies in the city, continued economic growth and region, and working alongside our small business to make our town a vibrant local economy. | We live in one of the best places in the world and I believe if we decide where we want to go as a city that any industry that came to our city with strong planning would do well here, and be sustainable. | Nanaimo currently has the Official Community plan, but I believe that we need to do more, and work with our city staff and our residents to make our town a better place to live, work, and play. We need to work together as a city and region to make our city a vibrant place for students, more young families and a healthier community. This is a vision of our community that I want to see a city which everyone is proud of and protects. | There are many strengths our city has. Our location, the pristine naturally beauty the people and many others. As with any city we have our challenges and one that we need work on is breaking down the bridges of North and South, Business and Residents, New and Old, and just come together to make Nanaimo the best it can be. | Council has to take a responsibility in leading our community. The elected councillors I believe are elected as the best of what the electorate believe will move our City forward, but councillors need to listen and respond to members of the community. It is taking our teams as a much consensus as possible when making decisions. | In regards to taxes I believe we need to make sure we have more business here, and young families and also implement a diverse tax structure to make sure we keep taxes at a manageable level. |
| Bill Bestwick | | www.billbestwick.com | The current relationship between Council and Staff in general is improving and in transition. Individual Councilors, myself included have varying degrees of interaction with Senior levels of staff and are respectful. The Corporation has undergone a transition with the hiring of a new CAO who is bringing a different approach to the relationship between Council and Staff. It must be remembered that Council by definition has one singular employee and that is the CAO, therefore the flirtation and messaging of the information 'highway' is primarily in the power of the CAO. Also, with each election there is typically new Councillors and until such time as all Councilors have been indoctrinated into the system, it takes time to establish the very relationship you speak to. The one common denominator election over election is the staff. I would like to establish goals and objectives templates for each department that would allow for tangible measurements of service and achievements on an annual basis. A report card if you will to define accountability in all areas. | A. Research, ask questions, listen to the citizens who elected you. Seek out experts in the field for their experiences and knowledge. Don't re invent the wheel. | Experience on Council for two terms provides me with knowledge on issues past and present. I believe I possess the fortitude and common sense with integrity and willingness to represent opinion on the community. | Set Policy which has a 'Nanaimo First' guideline and lead by example at City Hall. Hire local, spend local, purchase local providing a Nanaimo First approach. Respect that work diligently to identify opportunities in partnership with other municipalities in order to achieve economies of scale. Work with the region to encourage growth in those areas, hospitality and tourism (including Film and Production and of course strategic planning to attract investment. | I envision the NEDC to play a critical role in delivering a business model to potential investors, events and consumers being attracted to Nanaimo. I am the NEDC as a 'take action' approach as opposed to the traditional government model and have operated under | In order to respond to the question our mind-set must define "industry(ies)" in the context of your question. In previous decades Nanaimo had a significant formal "industry". Belong "industry" and well before that a mining "industry." The shift away from those industries and well paying jobs that accompanied those 'industries'. These proven extremely difficult to replace. And to replace with matching 'sustainable well paying' jobs.<br>We are a regional centre and need to attract business here that by nature is Regional and servicing the needs of its residents and keeping money here local. Attracting business that compliments our region with remaining what will profit businesses and home owners to Nanaimo.<br>The film industry is viable and an area we have ignored... I would strongly support a push to attract the film industry as | Again, to respond to the question it must first be defined what the 'current community vision for Nanaimo is.' We have an OCP recently adopted but we do not have a strategic community vision. I have been a strong critic of the OCP as it does not provide a vision for our community. I would make some progress on a strategic plan that began with the creation of the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation. We need to establish a guiding principle document that is apolitical and can be accomplished in phases over time with leadership. | Our greatest strengths lie within our geographic beauty, climate, access to major centers including the Pacific Rim, metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island.<br>Our toughest challenges are bringing together all stakeholders including the Federal Government, Provincial Government, School Board, First Nations, Municipal Government to work collectively in the best interest of the entire City. | Council is elected every three years to provide governance, policy and strategic planning as part of our duties. There are many more of our duties. Our responsibility is to represent the interests of all citizens to ensure a safe, clean, fiscally responsible City operation is maintained.<br>Public opinion is critical to the decisions of Council and citizens access to the political process is fundamental. | Since on Council I have supplanted the adjustment of Industrial tax and commercial tax rates with the purpose of attracting or incenting small and medium size business to Nanaimo. Currently 60% of the Cities revenues are residential tax base. I am concerned about the 'sustainability' of continuing to tax residents at the 4 – 6% annual rate. |
| Arlene Blundell | | www.arleneblundell.ca | If I were elected to Council, I would ensure we respect the expertise and advice of Staff, knowing that they work under our direction for the best interests of the community in a cooperative, constructive manner. I would want to make sure adequate whistleblower protections are in place so that employees would feel comfortable coming forward to disclose mismanagement, waste, fraud or corruption – although I have no reason to believe that this exists in City hall at present, but in the interest of accountability, such systems must be in place for the future. | My strategy would be to prioritize the business of Council while following the overriding strategy of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan. I would work cooperatively with staff, using their knowledge and resources and those of other groups such as the Economic Development Corporation, the Cultural Commission, and environmental groups to get these items addressed. | My personal strength is that the word "can't" is not part of my working vocabulary. Having been Past President of Altrusa International three times, Chair of the Great Nanaimo Toy Drive for 20 years, Director of Commissions for BC Games, owner of my own theatre company, Gilbechat Promotions for eleven years, and with past leadership experience in arts groups, I have developed strong skills in leadership: commitment, compassion, and cooperation. | Creativity is the engine of growth. My main focus would be to make Nanaimo a Creative City. New industries must become the basis for economic growth. More creative steps need to be taken to encourage and people-friendly place that will act as a magnet to attract industries that will provide top level employment. We have the perfect location, the talent and the technicians as resources. We need to be a business friendly attraction. I would work with innovative ideas to achieve this. | A very important one! This talented group should lead the way in finding investors and increasing tourism while protecting our environment and keeping the vision of our Official Community Plan in mind. That's what the Executive Director is being paid to do! | Sustainable, well-paying employment can be found with Vancouver Island University (and spin-off industries), including those technology-related, entertainment, film, and tourism. I would be looking to the Economic Development Corporation for statistics on other prospects. | Our strengths as a city include our location, our environment, our climate, accessibility to transportation to and from the island, our talent, Vancouver Island University and our technology and technicians, our quality of life, the services provided to our citizens, The Port Theatre, and Vancouver Island Conference Centre. We don't have any challenges that with creative thinking we cannot overcome. One of the top items of business would be creating employment. | Councillors must be creative leaders to meet their responsibility of overseeing policy, the budget, and our planning for the future with the best interest of the greater community in mind. Council must be open and transparent with the public and fully communicate with citizens in order to more creative ways to perform due diligence. And they should not be afraid to admit when they're wrong. Listen Invest Act | On average 35 % of revenue is generated from property tax in shares in Nanaimo's 2021/22 Financial Plan. If elected, this would be one area I would fully analyze in order to see if there are areas of additional revenue – like attracting film industry to Nanaimo – or areas where we could reduce the cost of services. I certainly would not hesitate to propose constructive, creative changes in the structure if that deemed appropriate. |
| Diane Brennan | | www.electdianebrennan.ca | Problem: The relationship between Council and staff is strained as is the relationships amongst councillors. Trust is lacking at all levels and all actors in the organization. Honest and frank discussion is not possible in the current environment and so progress has come to a halt.<br>Solution: I would ask that at the beginning of the term, all councillors meet and come to an agreement about how communication and decision making occur. A code of Ethics should be created and agreed to by all. Each councillor would be expected to adhere to the "rules of the game" during the course of their term. Staff would be brought into the exercise as facilitators and would be part of the process. The Code of Ethics would be a living document and any breaches of the agreement would be the expected tone of all interactions between and amongst all players. Using Roberts Rules may seem a stiff way to do business but they are designed to maintain peace and decorum. I would push to make sure everyone understands and respects the Rules. | At the beginning of the term, council and staff need to meet and agree on the goals of the term. There needs to be a full discussion of priorities, what can be achieved, how and by when. Staff should be required to update council on the progress of the goals they set and articulate any obstacles, including those attributed to staff and those attributed to council. Councillors need to exercise a disciplined approach to discussion and know when a topic has been addressed and when it is time to move on. The Mayor needs to understand the rules of order and to maintain order in the meetings. Councillors need to come prepared, having read and understood the agenda. They need to have requested and obtained clarification before the meeting begins. They need to be able to ask questions of staff and understand that staff are busy and have other duties and responsibilities to do business. Within this context, staff and council can concentrate their energy on the goals and adapt to new circumstances without undue and distracting conflict that so often marks their meetings today. | My work as a paralegal, public legal educator and an online course facilitator have an given me the skills to quickly understand a problem and to consider several options to remedy the situation. I have the ability to listen, I have a good knowledge of interweaving skills so that I can quickly identify the critical connections of complex issues. I have good communication skills and have received a disciplined approach to discussion and know when a topic has been addressed and when it is time to move on. The Mayor needs to understand the rules of order and to maintain order in the meetings. 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Council would need to review the impact of adding a local cost of living factor into the overall calculation and monitor the impact on the competitiveness of Nanaimo's compensation. However, the model is in place and I am determined to suspend judgement and give the model my full confidence. I am hopeful that the Corporation will create the groundwork to drive capital and expertise to promote Nanaimo and bring prosperity our city. | I look forward to clean high tech jobs, knowledge based jobs, and traditional jobs like those associated with the shipbuilding and marine industry. Recreation, arts and culture are local economic drivers and we should capitalize on what we have and encourage more creative opportunities in this sector. | Greatest strengths: everywhere, the people, the geography (what remains), the proximity to Victoria (capital city) and Vancouver (business centre) and the number of active, creative people who live here.<br>Toughest challenges: a certain lack of confidence that Nanaimo can become a great city; the transition from a traditional economy based on natural resource extraction to a more modern diverse knowledge based economy with strong environmental, cultural and geographical strengths to the city. | City council has a clear obligation to lead the community. It must take into account opinion but ultimately represent what is in the best interest of the community. It must take into account relative of ability to pay taxes. Cities must convince the senior levels of government share their tax revenue with cities. Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities are the vehicles to assume responsibility for this. | I believe the current tax structure is inherently unfair as property values are no longer a reliable indicator of ability to pay taxes. Cities must convince the senior levels of government share their tax revenue with cities. Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities are the vehicles to assume responsibility for this. |
| Brunie Brunie | | | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received | No response to questions received |
| Chris Cathers | | www.cathersforcouncil.com | I know the current relationship between the council members appears to be very dysfunctional and I could only presume by the infighting that this is having a negative effect on their relations with staff. I would like to see the City staffer more empowered to make decisions that shouldn't be brought to council. City staff needs to be directed by council in appropriate times, but not for every small issue. | We need to initiate strategies from the ground up. We need to engage the community as we did in the vision rolls to bring forward what the community wants and needs. We need to have a balanced approach to the issues that are important to our community, social activists, environmentally, and government to the table and find out what we are doing right and where we need to improve. We need for them to form action items that the City of Nanaimo needs to do in order to move forward and be a leading example of a balanced economic, society, and environment. Let empower the people to make gross root changes and create a catalyst of change. | My personal strengths are: Education – I have obtained a degree in Business Management and Anthropology. Having a degree in Business Management I have the knowledge and understanding of how a business operates and understand the importance of cash flow and balancing a budget. My studies in anthropology give me an understanding of how society operates. I know that there are many systems that make a successful community work. Experience – I have had many different employment situations from running my own businesses, non profit business, to helping build a business from the ground up for others, to building and developing. I am experienced in community leadership from my participation in the BC Leadership Nanaimo program to my education and advocacy for the Professionals of Nanaimo. Energy – I will bring a new sense of hope to the City of Nanaimo by bringing in refreshing ideas and a goal to make Nanaimo an even better place to live. I also represent an opportunity for voters to bring some diversity to council by electing a young leadership team member. | I would work hard to make the City more efficient by reducing unnecessary expenses, by keeping our expenses low and looking for ways to increase revenue we can keep the tax burden low. I would encourage our economic development corporation to work with our business tax rate low. We could also do more to promote Nanaimo as a place to set up a business.<br>I believe if we continue to support our new Economic Development Corporation do their job we will be able to attract business. But we definitely need to be doing a better job of creating employment that supports families. | The NEDC will need to be aggressive in playing a proactive approach to marketing Nanaimo as a destination for business and tourism. Nanaimo has a great story to tell and we need to tell it. We need to be aggressive in the marketing drivers that provide long-term sustainable employment that people can raise families on. The NEDC should help facilitate round table discussions from these key economic drivers, targeting specific industries/ companies, and building a better reputation in Nanaimo so more business friendly place.<br>A couple initial businesses that we need immediately are a fast foot ferry, large hotel, and expansion of VIU's sporting facilities. | The following industries I believe we need to focus on for well-paying employment in Nanaimo:<br>• high Tech<br>• Manufacturing<br>• Construction<br>• Transportation<br>• Tourism<br>• Science (especially in marine)<br>• Film & Media<br>• Value Added Resource Based Sectors | We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We have one of the greatest climates in Canada and people want to live here. Part of the challenge will be how we accommodate the people who want to live here while preserving what we have that attracted people to come here in the first place. I believe we need to understand that to young families that keep the economy moving. We have a housing strategy that has polarized our city and people that are known to be easy going and friendly. We need to have a housing strategy that is in the best interest of the entire community. Traditionally we have been very reliant on resource based employment sectors. These resources based economies are reliant on external global market conditions, which as we have seen go up and go down quickly. It appears as though lately we have been very reliant on construction to provide good paying jobs, but again with economic conditions in the world we have seen a lot of these jobs disappear. So we need to build a business culture in Nanaimo with stable long term employment opportunities. As we continue to grow we must not lose sight that part of the reason why people love living here and the quality of life we have grown to love is because of the environment. We must continue to find ways to preserve ecologically sensitive areas, increase green space, and continue to be a leader in the protection of our environment. Finally, we must elect a new council that will get things done and don't let big-goal-it-the way. | The City of Nanaimo's Council has a better job of being transparent. After all transparency is the cornerstone of democracy. Council members need to understand that they represent the entire City and not just their friends. They need to understand that to young families that keep the economy moving. We have a housing strategy that has polarized our city and people that are known to be easy going and friendly. We need to have a housing strategy that is in the best interest of the entire community. Traditionally we have been very reliant on resource based employment sectors. These resources based economies are reliant on external global market conditions, which as we have seen go up and go down quickly. 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I am certainly not in favour of purchasing tax increases that council has no original intention of having, only to lower the taxes and be perceived as heroes. |
| Gordon Fuller | | http://gordonfuller.blogspot.com/ | I am one of the few people in the community who attends council meetings on a regular basis, over a decade, as well as works with staff in many of my other endeavours in the community. Staff members overall are very respectful and are very knowledgeable with their area of expertise. I have noticed that when someone should have an LED light, the lens is not as strong as it used to be. | If one narrows it down to recognizing the symbiotic relationship between economic and social agendas energy can be more generically focused than trying to look at it from a wider angle. Balancing the needs of both without putting more weight to one or the other is key to a healthy community. | I have a wide range of experience working with boards and committees on issues ranging from Homelessness & Affordable Housing, Food Security & Poverty, to Neighbourhood & Community Planning and Downtown Revitalization. This experience and my ability to look at things from multiple perspectives should prove useful to council. | The move from a resource to serviced based economy has had great effect on relative wages in Nanaimo. Traditionally lower paying service based jobs will be the core of employment opportunities in Nanaimo for years to come and as such it is our role to encourage the Province to increase minimum wages to reflect the cost of living. People with more disposable income will spend that income in the community.<br>Nanaimo also needs to look to attract high tech industries and if the use of temporary tax incentives is needed then so use them. We also need to lobby the province to represent the Nanaimo region in Vancouver to attract high value added instead of low tag exports.<br>We need to quit looking to the grandiose to solve our employment problems and look to the assets that the community has in attracting future employers and employees. | I really can't say it any better than is already said on the City Website with regards to The Role of Nanaimo Economic Development. "To develop and implement strategies that will assist in strengthening the local economy." One thing I can say is that in doing so Economic Development cannot come at the expense of Social Development or the Environment. Its role must be towards the betterment for all.<br>There are many experts in Nanaimo's recent, January 2021, Economic Development Strategy Report that cannot be disregarded by the new corporation. | High tech and Knowledge Based as well as eco friendly Resource based. Tourism based on the unique features and attributes of Nanaimo | I actually think the Community Vision for Nanaimo is good one that encompasses economic, social, environmental and cultural perspectives. "Change is the city will be based on the foundation of community participation." While we do well in some areas of participation I believe we could be doing better in the ways in which we engage the Community, this is a change I would work towards. I also think that citizen should be rewarded regularly and in the case of Nanaimo the time has come to do just so. | Nanaimo's greatest strengths are its people, location and surrounding environment. The challenge is in maintaining growth that is not to the detriment of the people and surrounding environment. | The primary role of council is setting goals and developing policy while also continuating previous goals and policy. It is council's responsibility to provide direction and do it says in the City's vision this direction needs to be "based on the foundation of community participation." Council and staff must review to the current community consultation mechanisms that would promote and encourage the public's participation. | Property taxes in Nanaimo comprise almost 60% of Nanaimo's revenue and are generally lower than other communities of the same population. I am generally in favor of the tax structure in Nanaimo and believe the use of tax exemptions more than adequately compensate for some of the higher rates. This said I do believe that in many cases these exemptions should be reviewed and have weighed against the drop in revenue that can be caused. I also believe that a portion of general revenue funds should be used to decrease taxes yearly. |
| Ted Greves | | http://tedgreves.shawwebspace.ca/ | Understand the relationship between Council and staff has been difficult in the recent past. There has been a concerted effort to improve this relationship by staff in a strategic plan that began implementation two years ago. I didn't find any difficulty in my short time on Council since the Election in March of this year. Staff has been very professional and helpful in their assistance to me in the course of the City's business. | The only strategy that I have personally implemented to ensure that adequate energy is devoted to the issues is to come fully prepared to each and every committee, in-camera and Council meeting and ready to discuss the matters before me and decide in a timely fashion. | My personal strength as I see it, is to be a leader in the discussions wherever possible. I have a natural tendency to lead whether it is on sports teams such as captaining the Team Canada Field Lacrosse Team, Victoria Playbox Sr. A Lacrosse Team, and the Nanaimo Timbermen or as a leader of the Nanaimo Professional Firefighters. I am forthright, honest and trusted. | The one way that I can envision attracting employment opportunities to Nanaimo with pay scales in line with our cost of living is to support the newly formed arms length Economic Development Corporation which was formed to replace Tourism Nanaimo and the city's Economic Development Department. | An example of one way the Economic Development Corporation can encourage Nanaimo's future growth is that it involves the Port Authority and the Cruise Ship terminal. I am sure they will work with the Port Authority to promote and encourage the cruise ships to dock in Nanaimo overnight rather than for a few hours in the day. How to do that? That has to be a promotional strategy that I am sure they are well aware of that is just a matter of time before it is initiated. | The industries that provide the best opportunity for sustainable, well-paying employment are jobs such as the building trades, the Vancouver Island University and the Nanaimo Port Authority. | Visions are difficult to comment on because if that is the vision then what many individuals have had input, it is what it is. My vision is simpler and we currently trying to be consistent with what we work with the Port Authority to promote and encourage the cruise ships to dock in Nanaimo overnight rather than for a few hours in the day. How to do that? That has to be a promotional strategy that I am sure they are well aware of that is just a matter of time before it is initiated. | Strengths – the harbour, transportation hub, VIU, YCC, scenic beauty, comparatively affordable housing.<br>Toughest challenges – unemployment, good paying jobs, property taxes based mainly on the residential sector, water supply for the future demand, the Housing First Initiative, Hotel for the VICC, harbour to harbour foot ferry. | It is imperative that Council and Staff, through their initiatives lead the community. Public opinion always plays a large part in the equation because the public is represented on council by each individual councillor. This is the balancing act that eventually decides on the weight given to the public opinion. | The property tax structure is different in other parts of the world. Class is based on assessed value of the property. In some countries it is based on road frontage for example. I am not sure if I would change the tax structure, but I would like to see the commercial, industrial, and residential tax rates in line with each other. I think this is more equitable. I don't believe any other changes are needed at this time. |
| Diana Johnstone | | www.dianajohnstone.ca | There is a very positive working relationship between council and city staff at the moment. There is good open communication. I have endeavoured throughout my term to develop a professional relationship and have a healthy respect for their work. Our staff has a high degree of experience and academic background. They are approachable and willing to listen to our concerns about rational in making recommendations and always prepared to listen to our views. | It is all about prioritizing. I believe that in all facets of our role as members of council every discussion, meeting, email, conference etc. is about continued growth and development of Nanaimo. This includes balancing our budget, endeavoring to keep taxes as low as possible while juggling the all-important issue of maintaining our infrastructure and ensuring quality of life. It's about communication with our partners and all community members and maintaining transparency. We can't simply focus on say- environmental concerns, rather than paying attention to economic issues as well. For me it's focusing on Community –no single group or issue can be possible while juggling the all important issue of maintaining our infrastructure and ensuring quality of life. it's about communication with our partners and all community members and maintaining transparency. We can't focus on say- environmental concerns, rather than paying attention to economic issues as well. | I have a great knowledge of our city and have served on numerous committees. I have a willingness to serve others and I believe I have a good sense of what is important to our community. I am a good listener and I believe I am a good communicator. I believe I possess the fortitude and common sense with integrity and willingness to represent opinion on the community. | I believe we have made a very important first step by development our Economic Development Corporation and hiring a new CEO. We have ensured that we have provided information about economic development opportunities and have promoted our region and market our city as an attractive, business friendly location for new businesses and industries. We must identify opportunities to diversify the economy and improve infrastructure access to our community through improved transportation (fast ferry, roads, port, airports, roads, airports etc. We must work very closely with VIU to ensure courses for our youth that encourage entrepreneurship and provision of courses that are in line with our local industry and business potential. For example – we have just been awarded ship - building opportunities. Our city should collaborate with the University to ensure shipbuilding and other related courses are being offered. In this way we are being creative and will ensure retention of our young skilled workers. | The role of the new EDC should be to establish a Sustainable Economic Development Strategy. This strategy would be developed by the corporation and approved by the City. It would be based on the vision, mission and values of our community. Of course it would be based on the Official Community Plan. It would be a strategic plan that would be implemented by the new Economic Development Corporation. It would establish a Leading Indicator Dashboard. It would be a living document. It would be reviewed annually and updated every three years. It would be a living document. It would be reviewed annually and updated every three years. | Feel that the industries that offer the best opportunity for sustainable and paying jobs are Construction, Tourism, Retail trade, High technology, Finance Insurance Real Estate Rental and Leasing, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance. | If you were referring to the Vision Statement that was developed during the commencement of the Economic Development Committee as being " Nanaimo, The most Liveable, Desirable Small City in North America," I would say that it is all encompassing. Perhaps we could remove the word "small" as at the UBCM we are defined as a "large" community.<br>Perhaps we could include " a city that is willing to embrace change and become more of what it can be!" | I believe that Nanaimo's greatest strengths are its people. It's beauty and natural environment and our excellent health care services and education opportunities. Traffic is still relatively minimal, housing prices are comparatively affordable and our environment is the envy to many. We still experience a high quality of life and through the change in demographics (an aging population) should continue to experience this trend as people move here for the amenities (symphony, other cultural activities, parks and open spaces, other leisure activities etc.) We are a service centre and this should ensure our economic growth for the future as well.<br>Our weaknesses are perhaps the fact that we are indeed an island community (although we feel that we have don't see it that way). We have an aging population – even though this has a tendency maintain Quality of Life. Job Development is not occurring like it should be – we must work closer with VIU on this all important issue and with financial institutions to ensure support for young entrepreneurs. We are a retail/ service centre – generally low paying jobs. Our development permit processing is not as it should be and we are perceived as being inefficient. Our transportation infrastructure is inadequate for the New Development Process committee will be successful in overcoming this obstacle and making recommendations to the city for improvement. | Politicians are generally elected as a result of their ability to connect with citizens in the community. We should always make a mixture of confidence and sincerity. We are stewards of the public and should move power from our constituents. We should always make decisions based on what is the best interest of the community—always consider issues from the community as a whole. | Council needs to lead and be open to public opinion. This, however, without ever losing the greater picture of what it is that is in the best interest of our complete municipality. I know, for instance, that there are citizens who believe that too much during this Council's term has been conducted" in camera" and while, unequivocally, can state that I am not aware of any business that was conducted in camera that should not have been during my term, I am open to create the sort of policy that would allow the" rise and report 1/ kind of motion which would allow certain in camera decisions to be released in a timely fashion. That said, I do need to say that there will be items which should never be released, personal items among others. I also wish to state, at this time, that in effort is being made to come to release in camera |
| Jim Kipp | | www.jkipp.ca | City Staff has been working with a corporate strategy "Building Trust" to rebuild relationships with council, the community, the unions and employees. I continue to work for ongoing accountability, transparency, compassion, cooperation, and teamwork. | Coming from a self employed background develops time management skills, the ability to multi-task and a great understanding and appreciation for balance in life allowing for full engagement in all that I undertake. I am not sure that massive debt can be considered growth but I am dedicated to our community's best interest. | Self-employed building designer, emergency manager, NGO executive director and long time coach and community advocate. I am committed and dedicated to help Nanaimo achieve its great potential. With experience as City Councillor 1992/96 and 2008/11 and Regional Director 2008/11 I have proven leadership and team work ability. | We need to develop strong policies: Economic policy supporting fiscally responsible spending, debt control, Environment policies supporting protection of natural and human environments, green initiatives and Social Issues with dignity based policy and response to issues of homelessness, addiction, crime and inner city issues. Working to create a greater sense of pride in our community. As we work to encourage the presence of large projects and not hinder the meeting of our objectives. | Unfortunately, I have neither a magic wand nor a glass ball but know that a single big payoff never comes. I see allow procurement growth, working towards the larger community visions of a strong local economy, community equity along with a clean, safe natural and human environment. I see this as our single biggest opportunity. | They are tasked with the development of our Community Economic Development Corporation plan including philosophies, objectives, goals, strategies and tactics to achieve the plan that will play a lead role in our future. | After the economic collapse of 2008 and the current global economic and social conditions the community needs to revise our vision to accommodate this rapidly changing reality. | Our toughest challenge is the economic downturn which has caused uncertainty, unemployment and the tightening of spending and support of local NGO's, charities and stakeholders and the community. To ensure our whole community, including the downtown, continues to develop in a responsible manner that meets our strengths vision | Leadership is paramount in success and I make informed decisions that include consultation with the public, stakeholders and the community. To ensure our whole community, including the downtown, continues to develop in a responsible manner that meets our strengths vision | Tax fatigue is an issue in this current and future economy. I am advocating for a Core service review to determine our municipal and discretionary services to be followed with budget reviews. One great concern to me is our aging infrastructure and the future maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation. The City Director recently stated that a Long Term Capital Plan is needed but that is currently under funded. |
| Jeet Manhas | | www.jeetmanhas.ca | As a result of a series of personal attacks against several senior staff from a group of 3-4 council members with personal vendettas, and the total lack of control of the bullies by the Council mayor, the relationship between Council and City Staff is very poor. These professional employees deserve to be treated with respect and if elected I will release all the documents on these abuses. I will also move to have the Council members who engaged in this behavior sent back to their jobs. | Access federal & provincial financial support for local facilities such as water, roads, sewer services. Demand Nanaimo's fair share.<br>A top to bottom review to repeal all unnecessary bylaws, rules, and restriction. (see QE) | I am offering my 30 years of legal training and knowledge, and 25 years experience in municipal government (9 years as Councillor, 15 years as Mayor) as a candidate for City Council. I wish to help in our unending goal of making Nanaimo an even better, healthier place to work and live. I truly believe that my calling in life is to serve Nanaimo. I know who is ripping off Nanaimo taxpayers and will be diligent in stopping it. | Use consultation with the business community to be alert to changing needs and opportunities. Make sure the education institutions are training for the jobs of the future not dead-end jobs. Promote Nanaimo's strengths. Provide fast, prompt answers for investors. Cut permitting applications, processing times. Monitor "City hall responsiveness". | Use our educational institutions (VIU and SD68) to expand international education services.<br>Use regional medical and oceanographic facilities to be centres of excellence to draw resources and jobs.<br>Promote Nanaimo's strengths. Provide fast, prompt answers for investors. Cut permitting applications, processing times. Monitor "City hall responsiveness". | Nanaimo deserves better job opportunities so everyone can prosper. Council's top priority must be to encourage investment and spur business expansion and job creation.<br>Promote Nanaimo's strengths. Provide fast, prompt answers for investors. Cut permitting applications. Restore good working relations with the Shaw/Gaetz/Kipp/Manhas Council. Nanaimo currently has a cold or creating the successful Shared Vision partnership (City, VIU, SFN, Port, & RDN). | I am guided by these fundamental principles:<br>The Golden Rule - "treat others as you would like to be treated"<br>Ethical decision-making based on what is best for all of the whole community over special interests."<br>Kaizen - "Change Through Continuous Improvement"<br>an abiding faith in Nanaimo's strengths, especially it's greatness in volunteering to help the less fortunate. | Nanaimo's greatest strengths are its people, location and surrounding environment. The challenge is in maintaining growth that is not to the detriment of the people and surrounding environment. | Nanaimo's greatest strength is its natural beauty and proximity to the ocean and the fact that we have two ferry terminals which allows for easier access for people to and from the island. It also boasts, Deep sea berths and proximity to the woods, ! feel that Nanaimo could be poised to reap the benefits once the forestry industry recovers.<br>A few of Nanaimo's toughest challenges are: the high unemployment rate, resolving the homelessness issue, maintaining urban sprawl and attracting new industries to Nanaimo while the world is facing an economic downturn. | I am guided by these fundamental principles:<br>The Golden Rule - "treat others as you would like to be treated"<br>elected officials must represent the greater good of the whole community over special interests."<br>Kaizen - "Change Through Continuous Improvement"<br>an abiding faith in Nanaimo's strengths, especially it's greatness | People elect those they think will be fiscally prudent, seek good value for taxpayers, and use thoughtful judgement in voting on tough issues.<br>It is important to be open to continuing consultation but decisions must be made that conform to one's conscience that are objective to the interests of the whole community. I will vote for what I think is right, even if unpopular. I take my responsibility for dealing with your money very seriously.<br>I always ask "Is this good value for all Nanaimo?" and "Can we Nanaimo taxpayers really afford it?" | City government is harmstrung by antiquated revenue policies from provincial and federal governments. We must lobby for modernization of revenue options.<br>Property taxes are the only revenue we have to pay for local government service priorities. Property taxes are too high. We must demand fair contributions from senior levels of government to reduce our property taxes. Nanaimo's property taxes are too high. We must demand fair contributions from senior levels of government to reduce our property taxes. Council and staff must review to the current community consultation mechanisms that would promote and encourage the public's participation. Council and staff must review to the current community consultation mechanisms that would promote and encourage the public's participation. |
| Gary Richard Korpan | | www.garykorpan.shawwebspace.ca | As a result of a series of personal attacks against several senior staff from a group of 3-4 council members with personal vendettas, and the total lack of control of the bullies by the Council mayor, the relationship between Council and City Staff is very poor. These professional employees deserve to be treated with respect and if elected I will release all the documents on these abuses. I will also move to have the Council members who engaged in this behavior sent back to their jobs.<br>reimburse the tax abused not to hide their disgraceful actions. | Access federal & provincial financial support for local facilities such as water, roads, sewer services. Demand Nanaimo's fair share.<br>A top to bottom review to repeal all unnecessary bylaws, rules, and restriction. (see QE) | I am offering my 30 years of legal training and knowledge, and 25 years experience in municipal government (9 years as Councillor, 15 years as Mayor) as a candidate for City Council. I wish to help in our unending goal of making Nanaimo an even better, healthier place to work and live. I truly believe that my calling in life is to serve Nanaimo. I know who is ripping off Nanaimo taxpayers and will be diligent in stopping it. | Use consultation with the business community to be alert to changing needs and opportunities. Make sure the education institutions are training for the jobs of the future not dead-end jobs. Promote Nanaimo's strengths. Provide fast, prompt answers for investors. Cut permitting applications, processing times. Monitor "City hall responsiveness". | Use our educational institutions (VIU and SD68 to expand international education services.<br>Use regional medical and oceanographic facilities to be centres of excellence to draw resources and jobs.<br>Promote Nanaimo's strengths. Provide fast, prompt answers for investors. Cut permitting applications, processing times. Monitor "City hall responsiveness". | Nanaimo deserves better job opportunities so everyone can prosper. Council's top priority must be to encourage investment and spur business expansion and job creation.<br>Promote Nanaimo's strengths. Provide fast, prompt answers for investors. Cut permitting applications. Restore good working relations with the Shaw/Gaetz/Kipp/Manhas Council. Nanaimo currently has a cold or creating the successful Shared Vision partnership (City, VIU, SFN, Port, & RDN). | I am guided by these fundamental principles:<br>The Golden Rule - "treat others as you would like to be treated"<br>elected officials must represent the greater good of the whole community over special interests."<br>Kaizen - "Change Through Continuous Improvement"<br>an abiding faith in Nanaimo's strengths, especially it's greatness in volunteering to help the less fortunate. | People elect those they think will be fiscally prudent, seek good value for taxpayers, and use thoughtful judgement in voting on tough issues.<br>It is important to be open to continuing consultation but decisions must be made that conform to one's conscience that are objective to the interests of the whole community. I will vote for what I think is right, even if unpopular. I take my responsibility for dealing with your money very seriously.<br>I always ask "Is this good value for all Nanaimo?" and "Can we Nanaimo taxpayers really afford it?" | City government is harmstrung by antiquated revenue policies from provincial and federal governments. We must lobby for modernization of revenue options.<br>Property taxes are the only revenue we have to pay for local government service priorities. Property taxes are too high. We must demand fair contributions from senior levels of government to reduce our property taxes. Nanaimo's property taxes are too high. We must demand fair contributions from senior levels of government to reduce our property taxes. Council and staff must review to the current community consultation mechanisms that would promote and encourage the public's participation. Council and staff must review to the current community consultation mechanisms that would promote and encourage the public's participation. |
| Fred Pattje | | www.fredpattje.ca | When I was elected to Council in 2008, I came "with a lot of baggage" regarding City Staff, and while relationship-building was easier with some than with others, I can tell you unequivocally that I have come to appreciate the commitment and professionalism of all. That is not to say that I, on occasion, did not feel the need to seek advice from outside sources, advice which I believe to have served me well on a number of occasions. I also want to give special credit to Al Kenning, our present City Manager, whom I have gotten to know very well and have great confidence in and integrity. He has every possible effort to re-establish the trust between Council and Staff that was somewhat damaged in the beginning of his term and I believe that the best thing I can do