Waterloo Region VOTES
Provincial Election – June 7th 2018

Organize a Participatory All-Candidates Session

You can organize it on one topic or on multiple topics: Education, Housing, Healthcare, Social Assistance, Energy, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Municipal Affairs, Environment or Democratic Reform!

This Is NOT A Debate!
This is an invitation to finding a common ground with people living in your community!

The Social Development Centre Waterloo Region has been the host of many all-candidates sessions and has learned that a good way to share knowledge is to put people together in a meaningful conversation. Small group conversations place us in a more equal position and open a wider space for exchange. The candidates are encouraged to ask questions and residents are encouraged to answer them!

"What a relief not to be pushed against each other but have a true chance to know the people and the issues better!"

A session described by a candidate in 2014 Provincial Election

Social Development Centre
WATERLOO REGION

For more information on the elections or the candidates
Visit www.waterlooregion.org/ontario-election-2018 or get in touch
519-579-3800, info@waterlooregion.org

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How To Organize a Participatory All-Candidates Session

Time: Plan with other organizers in your community to avoid hosting multiple sessions at the same time.

Place: Well-lit, aired and accessible space that can host all the people you are inviting. No head table. Best if there are tables spread around the room for 6 to 8 people.

Greetings: Welcome people as they arrive, introduce them to each other, use name tags and mix them around the tables.

Discussion: Both the participants and the candidates talk at the tables in an informal atmosphere. The candidates move around tables and topics.

Topics: Best if identified by the community itself (previous forums, surveys or initiatives).

Facilitation: Skilled people at the tables make sure the conversation runs smoothly and that everyone has a chance to speak. The conversation is what matters so everyone learns. No grilling of candidates.

15 min Welcome & Opening

45 min Roundtable Discussions

15 min Break
(Candidates prepare their presentations)

During the break, the candidates are encouraged to look over the notes they took and to focus their presentation on what they heard during round table discussions.

30 min Candidates' Presentations

15 min Closing & Wrap Up

Candidates can say how their programs are going to be influenced by what they have learned during the discussions.

Moderator decides on the order of presentation, as candidates signed in or in alphabetical order.

This is not the time to enter in a debate.

The candidates could have 1 minute to give their closing remarks on the evening or their future role in the community if elected.

Time keepers are responsible for giving each candidate the same time to respond.

Record the presentations (notes, audio or video), publish and share with others who could not come.

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