

2014 Ontario Election

All-Candidates Sessions

Hosted by the
Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo
and the partners



Kitchener-Centre

Date: May 28th

Time: 7-9 pm

Location: YWCA Mary's Place Community Room, 84 Frederick St. Kitchener

Kitchener-Waterloo

Date: June 5th

Time: 7-9 pm

Location: First United Church, 116 William St. Waterloo

Youth IMPACT Session

Date: June 2nd

Time: 6:30- 8:30 pm

Location: The Family Centre Auditorium

Plan for the Sessions

- 15 min Welcome & Opening
- 45 min Roundtable discussions – issues and policy directions
- 15 min Break – Candidates prepare their presentations
- 30 min Candidate presentations
- 15 min Closing statements and Wrap up

Meaningful Ways to Participate – Our Approach

This is not a debate!

The purpose of this all-candidates meeting is to provide a common ground for people with different perspectives to discuss the issues and policy directions that are important to the social wellbeing of everyone in our community.

The first part of the evening are roundtable discussions!

Topics to start discussion are identified in community work done by the Social Planning Council and members of the Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo.

Both the participants and the candidates will have the opportunity to get together and talk in an informal atmosphere, share their thoughts and concerns related to social issues and poverty.

We ask all participants to follow a few simple ground rules:

1. Keep the discussion focused on social issues, poverty and youth.
2. Respect one another's experience and perspective. We are here to listen and learn, not to debate or attack any one, any group or any party.

It is important that all candidates and political parties recognize there is a significant issue of increasing economic inequality and there is a role for the provincial government to address it. The organizers of this event are not promoting any party over another; we want all candidates and political parties to respond to these concerns.

We ask everyone to bring their campaign and issue related materials:

1. There is one table for candidates to display their campaign material.
2. There is another table available for groups and organizations.

Terms of Engagement – Candidates

Roundtable Discussions

- Candidates are encouraged to spread out in the discussion groups and to move to different tables throughout the evening.
- Candidates are encouraged to bring along supporters and have them participate in the small group discussions.
- All ground rules apply to Candidates and their supporters.

Candidate Presentations

- Candidates will get 15 minutes during the break to prepare their presentations.
- Candidates are asked to focus their presentation on the issues that were discussed at the tables.
- Candidates will make their presentations based on the order in which they signed in at the meeting. The Moderator reserves the right to make adjustments to the order. The order will be announced prior to the start of the presentations.
- Each Candidate will have at least 3 minutes to make their presentation. A longer period may be provided, depending on the total number of Candidates. The Moderator will make the decision of length of presentation prior to the break. The Time Keeper will signal to the speaker when there is 1 minute and 30 seconds to go. The Time Keeper will signal time is up.
- Each presentation will be videotaped and the camera will be stopped at the end of the allotted time period.
- After all candidates have made their 3 minute presentations, they will have 1 minute to provide a summation statement. The order will be determined by the moderator.

Roundtable Discussion topics/themes

1. Income Security
2. Employment
3. Housing and Homelessness Prevention
4. Health
5. Support to All Low-Income People / Poverty Reduction Strategy
6. Diverse and Accountable Community Sector / Civic Participation

Groups to consider in addressing fairness:

- Women
- Youth
- Seniors
- Persons with disabilities
- New Canadians
- Visible minorities
- Aboriginal peoples