

Waterloo Region VOTES

Municipal Elections – October 27th 2014

Organize a Participatory All-Candidates Session

You can focus on an area: region, city, township or ward.

You can organize it on a topic:

Transit, Health, Social Services, Housing, Parks & Recreation, Neighbourhoods, Zoning and Land Use, Local Economic Development, Education & Schools

This Is NOT A Debate!

This is an invitation to finding a common ground with people living in your community!

The Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo 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. Round tables place us in a more equal position and open a wider space for talking and listening. 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



For more information on the elections or the candidates
Visit www.waterlooregion.org/election-year-2014 or get in touch
519-579-1096 (Ext *3010) 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)

30 min Candidates' Presentations

15 min Closing & Wrap Up

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.

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.

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.

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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