

# Municipal Election 2014



## Survey Results

October 17, 2014

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WRRC is a volunteer-based community organization that is committed to building a unified voice for gender and sexual diversity for people of all ages in Waterloo Region. We promote sustainable opportunities for advocacy, awareness, education and community-building that are respectful of the diverse interests within the Rainbow community. We work together with local allies to foster a strong and inclusive community.

This candidate survey speaks to the heart of WRRC's mission. The survey has provided us the opportunity to ensure candidates are aware of their constituents within the Rainbow community, prompts candidates to take steps to educate themselves about the concerns and needs of our community, and sets the foundation for eventually engaging our elected representatives in our community building efforts. In addition, by providing the results of the survey to the general public, we are providing an opportunity for members of our community to understand where candidates stand on these important issues – helping us build our unified voice by empowering all of us to make informed decisions.

We encourage you to review the candidate responses, reach out to further engage candidates on issues important to our community and, most importantly, get out to vote on **Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**!

Ontario residents are heading to the polls to vote for the:

- City/Township Mayors and Councillors
- Regional Chair and representatives at the Regional Council
- School Board Trustees

This is your chance to exercise your right to have a say in how you think your municipality should be governed. You have the option to choose the candidate that you think best represents your interests, or to decline your ballot at the polls. Voting sends a powerful message to politicians about what is important to residents within the municipalities.

There are over 200 candidates running in the 2014 municipal election, but which of those candidates are most informed about the Rainbow community? Which candidates are best prepared to take action on issues which are of concern to the Rainbow community? We at Waterloo Region's Rainbow Coalition wanted to better understand what kind of involvement the candidates have with the Rainbow

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community, so we sent out an email survey asking 3 questions and gave them a 2 week timeframe to answer the questions. We also confirmed each response directly with the candidate to ensure accuracy.

Each candidate from the Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and surrounding Townships were asked the same questions:

1. Do you have any experience or previous involvement with LGBTQ community, or any other community that has been marginalized?
2. If elected, how might you promote inclusion and belonging for the LGBTQ community?
3. If elected, how might you address issues of concern to the LGBTQ community, such as the following: *Hate crimes and bullying - LGBTQ youth homelessness - Workplace and employment barriers - Barriers to adoption and assisted reproduction - Access to long-term care and retirement housing - Access to healthcare and social services overall*

We are pleased to report that almost half of all the candidates took the time to respond to our survey. Their responses are included here for you to read and consider when casting your vote on **Monday, October 27, 2014.**

To learn more about how to vote in the municipal election, visit the following pages:

**Kitchener** - [http://app.kitchener.ca/election/es\\_onvoterlist.aspx](http://app.kitchener.ca/election/es_onvoterlist.aspx)

**Cambridge** - <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=269>

**Waterloo** - <http://www.waterloo.ca/elections>

**Wellesley** - <http://www.wellesley.ca/misc/elections/?q=misc%2Felections>

**Woolwich** - <http://www.woolwich.ca/en/council/Municipal-Election.asp>

**Wilmot** - <http://www.wilmot.ca/departments-clerks-details.php?Election-10>

**North Dumfries**-

<http://www.northdumfries.ca/en/newslist/index.aspx?corpId=oFldMqfyp7dgBaqqB0H38geQuAleQuAl&newsId=AVJ2G0m8Wxudf5IA5HbbeVxGSweQuAleQuAl>

For more information about the election survey or how to get involved with the Waterloo Region Rainbow Coalition, please contact us at [yourwrrc@gmail.com](mailto:yourwrrc@gmail.com).

Sincerest regards,

Jeremy Steffler, Chair, Waterloo Region Rainbow Coalition

Tanya Smith, Coordinator, WRRC Municipal Election Survey