



KITCHENER WATERLOO
REAL ESTATE BOARD

Candidate Questionnaire:

While some questions may not pertain to all candidates equally– please feel free to jump in on any questions and make them relevant to your position.

REALTORS® of the Kitchener-Waterloo Real Estate Board have adopted formal “Quality of Life” principles. There are five of these principles in total:



Protecting Economic Vitality

A healthy economy sustains vibrant communities for living and working. Economic development promotes an improved Quality of Life by creating employment, expanding the tax base, and increasing the availability of goods and services.

Providing Housing Opportunities

We all want a safe, decent, and affordable range of housing near where we work, shop and play. We must grow the supply of housing, including choices about design, cost and location.”

Preserving our environment

Parks, open space, clean air and water are essential to our Quality of Life.

Protecting property owners

A strong economy depends on preserving the investment people have made in their homes by protecting the ability to freely own, use, buy and sell real property.

Building better communities

To promote livable communities governments should encourage policies that sufficiently fund infrastructure to improve Quality of Life.

Using these principles as a very general guideline, we would be interested in learning more about you.

Jane Mitchell

Regional Councillor running for Regional Councillor

City of Waterloo

1. How long have you lived in the community?

50 years

2. Please list what you feel are your three most relevant past roles in elected office, committees, or charitable groups:

Regional Councillor, 2000 to 2010

1st Vice-chair Grand River Conservation Authority

Trustee, Waterloo Region District School Board, 1990 to 2000

3. What in your opinion are the three most important challenges facing the incoming council?

The present state of the economy.

Settling the Light Rail or Bus Rapid Transit question

Managing growth

4. What do you feel are the three most significant successes of the current council?

The Regional Growth Master Plan, The Regional Transportation Master Plan, The new Regional Official Plan

Building a new bridge across the Grand River

The new Regional Museum

5. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being greatest, how would you rate the performance of the current council in the last four years?

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6. What specific ideas or new proposals do you have for your ward/constituency?

I want to see more transit everywhere to improve congestion and air quality, more subdivisions where people can live, work and play with the facilities nearby, intensification in our downtowns to preserve our countryside and agriculture.

7. Property Standards is about more than absentee student landlords...licensing rentals is one solution currently being examined, what suggestions do you have to ensure property standards are maintained?

Northdale needs a plan for the student area. In Waterloo when students do not take up the whole of an area but are integrated into residential neighbourhoods of families and couples, problems decrease.

Unfortunately this is too late for the Northdale area. Student rooming houses are already licensed. Northdale needs a whole new plan to create an area with mixed shops, housing, etc. One solution used in Winnipeg is to have the University own the buildings and have dons or other responsible adults on site.

8. Traffic is a recurring concern in the region...what recommendations do you have to manage/address this issue?

We are continuing to lobby the government for an extra interchange to the 401. A new bridge is being built across the Grand at Fairway Road and we are continuing to expand and create new roads.

But roads are not the whole answer as our population grows. We need more transit, more often and faster, everywhere and some form of rapid transit linking the city cores.

We also need to make travel by bicycle and foot easier and more pleasant.

9. Rapid buses, LRT, GO train to Toronto...what do you envision for the region?

We need GO train and VIA rail coming and going to Toronto frequently and reliably. These are provincial and federal responsibilities and we are constantly lobbying them.

I do not support increasing property taxes to support the current LRT proposal. I was the councillor who asked that a line be inserted in the LRT motion that it would not go forward without council supporting how it is funded. This was included. I want to see two thrusts to this project.

1. Put the Bus Rapid Transit project back on the table.

2. A staff report on LRT showing various ways we might build Light Rail Transit without raising property taxes.

