

Name: BERRY VRBANOVIC

Municipality: City of Kitchener

Office you are seeking: Councillor, Ward 2

1. What do you consider the three priority issues for your municipality in the next four years? Please briefly describe why you consider these issues as important.

I believe the following three issues are key issues for the new Council as if they are handled properly, they will help drive both the economic growth, and the quality of life our residents share in this community:

i) Economic Development — continued focus on new sectors like health sciences and digital media while engaging in stronger efforts in losses from traditional manufacturing sector. This must be done by working in partnership with groups like the Chamber of Commerce, CTT, labour and other governments.

ii) Sustainable Development — Future growth must strike a balance between managing traditional greenfield development and encouraging urban intensification. This requires working with the development community, educating the public and implementing appropriate planning policies. This also requires a focus on issues like parks and trails, bikeways and transit.

iii) Fiscal management — continued investments in infrastructure while ensuring we maintain our position among lowest taxed urban centres in Ontario.

2. Do you support the members of Kitchener and Waterloo councils engaging in discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of merging the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo?

Please circle/underline one: YES X NO _____

3. As you are aware the federal and provincial governments have committed a total of \$565 million for the region's proposed rapid transit system. There is a \$235 millions shortfall from the \$800 million approved by Regional Council in June of 2009.

Do you support the Region's rapid transit proposal? Yes / No

Do you support local taxpayers assuming the additional cost created by the federal and provincial shortfall? Yes / No

Do you support a system with trains, buses or both (circle/underline one)?

As you know, transit is a regional issue in the present two-tier structure within Waterloo region, and as such this is not an issue to be dealt with by municipal councillors. As a private citizen, I can say that the reading I have done suggests that when one considers both the growth planned for this area, the urban intensification expected and sustainable development practices, LRT is the best way to go. Having said that however, since the federal and provincial governments did not come forward with the dollars expected by regional Council, I believe regional council needs to go back and look at their proposal and the affordability of it for the residents of this region.

4. What measures would you propose to ensure that an adequate supply of land is available for new business relocating to Waterloo Region?

This is very important for the ongoing economic growth in this area and requires a two step approach. First we need to take a regional approach to looking at our available lands and how we can most effectively use them for the benefit of all the municipalities. Second, I believe we need to continue with favourable policies, such as adaptive re-use and brownfield policies, in order to ensure that existing, and perhaps under-utilized structures can be put to good employment use again.

5. Please provide a clearly defined strategy to attract skilled workers to the Region of Waterloo.

Attraction of skilled labour to this region that requires a partnership of both the public and the private sectors. Our three academic institutions already help to attract future skilled labour to this area. It then becomes the job of business to provide employment opportunities, which will keep them here and development and government to provide the community amenities which will help create the quality of life which will keep them here. This second point on quality of life also is essential to attract experienced skilled workers here as they will want to ensure that their families have the kinds of amenities found in larger urban centres. Investments in arts & culture, parks and trails, recreational facilities – all of these things help to create that kind of environment.

6. Will you ensure that property tax increases do not exceed the Bank of Canada's annual inflation rate? Please circle one: Yes No

Yes, I will work to keep increases related to core city services at or below the annual inflation rate as it relates to municipalities, as has been the history at the City of Kitchener. Equally importantly, I think it is important for Kitchener to maintain its position in the lowest 25% in terms of residential taxes paid, out of the 28 largest urban centres in Ontario.

7. Do-you agree with changing the funding of some services from tax-based support to a user fee system? Please circle one: Yes No

Yes, I agree with looking at this where there is a business or policy case made to support this, and only after input and dialogue with the community and other affected parties so as to ensure that all factors have been considered.