Amalgamation Yes Questionnaire
2018 Municipal Election
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1. The City of Victoria and the District of Saanich will pose a 2018 ballot question to voters on the formation of a joint Citizens' Assembly to study amalgamation of those municipalities. Do you support the citizens' assembly model as a means to independently review local government structure? Why or why not? Please explain.

2. The current Capital Region District Board consists of municipal councillors and mayors who are appointed from the 13 municipalities. By legislation, these municipal appointments are responsible to represent the interests of their home municipalities. Do you think that regional interests would be better served if the entire CRD Board was directly elected by voters region-wide? Why or why not? Please explain.

Council members listed in alphabetic order.

Name	Q 1: Supporting the Citizens' Assembly Model?	Q 2: Electing CRD Board by all voters, region-wide?
Susan Brice	I supported putting a Citizens' Assembly option to Saanich voters for this municipal election.	I support the process used in Saanich which is a separate ballot for voters to select CRD Directors. I guess it will have to be " no" given your question.I have taken a regional approach to issues at CRD board table including advocating for a Regional Transportation Service, Funding a Regional Arts Service, adding Regional Park land regardless of jurisdiction and many many other examples. I believe Directors can take a Regional perspective. I realize you only want yes or no answers for ease of reporting out but I believe the matter would need to be discussed much more thoroughly prior to a change to region-wide vote.
Judy Brownoff	Whether the Citizens'Assembly is the appropriate model for an independent review of a municipality the size of Saanich will be determined by the voters.	I am committed to validating voters decisions from a dual ballot but candidates must also be Councillors.
Nathalie Chambers	Yes, I support the Citizens' Assembly as a model to independently review local government structure and to provide input to Council in its decision-making process.	I think it is misleading to suggest that the CRD board is currently appointed. In Saanich, for example, voters effectively choose CRD directors. While the winners of this election are technically appointed to their role by council, it is Saanich residents who control the process. I oppose a move to region-wide voting. Residents in Langford do not share the same concerns as residents in Mechotsin. Allowing each community to elect their own representatives allows each community to

		have its own unique voice, putting forward its own concerns. A region-wide voting model would be dominating by the densest regions of the CRD – Victoria, Langford, and View Royal, for example, at the expense of rural communities like ours here in Saanich. I value our farming communities, our coastal communities, and the full diversity of lifestyles across the CRD, and I cannot support sacrificing their voices in favour a regional government dominated by the city centers. Saanich is more than a suburb of Victoria. Saanich is its own community, and we deserve our own voice at the CRD.
Zac Di Vries	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
Karen Harper	I absolutely support the formation of a Joint Citizen's Assembly to study the pros and cons of amalgamating Victoria and Saanich. Citizen's Assemblies are a well established and respected processes used to study, deliberate and develop recommendations on specific issues. The members are typically randomly selected and tend to reflect the demographics of the area they are studying. What is most important about this process is that it is citizen led. It is time for the residents, rather than the politicians, to investigate this matter, deliberate and recommend based on the investigations they have undertaken. While I definitely have a preferred result, I will accept the recommendations of the Assembly.	I believe that the CRD definitely needs revision. Having been established over fifty years ago, the changing nature of regional issues and relationships requires a revision to our regional level of governance. At least two things need to occur in order for the CRD to be more accountable and effective: 1. Directly elected CRD directors. These individuals should not be sitting councillors or mayors, as their focus needs to be the region as a whole. 2. The CRD must have the power to carry out the items/issue/areas for which they are given responsibility. An example of where this didn't occur, which is still fresh in all of our memories, is the sewage project. This change will likely entail a legislative redefinition of what the CRD does, and what municipalities do. There should not be a duplication of services between the municipalities and the CRD.
Fred Haynes - Mayor	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
Rebecca Mersereau	Yes. I do think citizens' assemblies are a promising tool for objective, independent review of local government structures. While it may seem tempting to hand this responsibility over to experts with appropriate professional backgrounds, it can be very difficult to avoid the influence of political agendas when considering changes to our fundamental governing structures. (For example, it has been suggested the last provincial government's review of governance in the CRD was not advanced due to a lack of political interest.) Citizen's assemblies have the advantage of objectivity because they are comprised of a representative and inclusive group of residents, and as such – they are considered highly democratic. This means their processes and recommendations are likely to be considered more trustworthy and held in higher regard by the public, which will ultimately decide on the best path forward.	Yes - it seems obvious that regional interests (transportation being a big one for me) would be better served by individuals who are specifically elected to serve in that regional role. From a democratic perspective, I can also see how this structure could improve accountability for voters and the public. However, I don't believe the solution to our regional challenges is that simple. Legislatively, our regional districts are structured as federations of municipalities and (we often forget) elected representatives of unincorporated electoral areas. This has the advantage of allowing all parties at the table to opt out of services they are not interested in participating in or receiving, although the other side of the coin is that it is not possible to compel individual member municipalities/electoral areas to participate or collaborate. Until there are regional entities with the legal authority to compel member municipalities to act (such as our own regional transportation authority), I unfortunately don't foresee our big, hairy, regional problems going away.

Colin Plant	I am supportive of the proposed Citizens' Assembly model. I support having unbiased, randomly-selected citizens study the costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and to make a recommendation to Victoria and Saanich residents on the topic.	In Saanich, where I serve as a Councillor, the public is given an opportunity to vote in a non-binding referendum to select their Saanich CRD Directors. The referendum results in the top four vote-receiving candidates and the Mayor being recommended to be appointed as CRD Directors. (It is assumed the mayor will be one of the five appointed to the CRD Board from Saanich.) As described in the question I could not currently support a region-wide election of CRD Directors. The challenge with this proposal would be with the larger municipalities being able to overwhelm the smaller municipalities/electoral areas because of their populations and the likelihood of these voters electing people from their own jurisdiction rather than those from other areas that they would likely know less about. The CRD is designed to have regional interests addressed by a diverse group of Directors from a diverse geographical area. While the idea of having a more directly elected CRD Board has merit, interests me and deserves exploration, a better method would be for other jurisdictions in the CRD to emulate Saanich where this already occurs. Thank you for asking for my thoughts on this matter.
Ned Taylor	I would prefer to have a Citizens Assembly in all 13 Municipalities, rather than only Victoria and Saanich. There are so many ways we can go about amalgamation and it's important that we look at all the options and take all CRD Municipalities into consideration. I would have also preferred one simple question on every ballot in the CRD, rather than the misleading array of questions that we had in 2014.	I think this is a really interesting idea and I'm certainly open to it. Right now the CRD Board is incredibly dysfunctional. We are seeing a lot more of Directors working against each other, rather than working together for the betterment of the entire region. If elected to the CRD, I will do everything I can to ensure collaboration and good public policy for the entire Greater Victoria region.