

2020 Provincial Election Candidate Questionnaire
Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes)
<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca>

TO EACH CANDIDATE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE on October 24, 2020
in one of the 7 Electoral Districts that form part of Greater Victoria (Capital Region District)

Please complete and return to amalgamateyes@gmail.com no later than October 17, 2020. Responses will be posted on the website page: <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca/bc-provincial-election-2020.html>

Candidate Name: Gord Baird
Political Party: BC Green Party
Electoral District: Langford-Juan de Fuca

1. The implementations of an independent Citizens' Assembly (CA) review of potential amalgamation of Victoria and Saanich, approved by voters in 2018, is still in limbo and awaits contribution of funding support by the Province. Will you pro-actively support action by the Minister responsible to get the CA process underway?

Commitments made should be upheld. This process was spawned by a democratic process which sought direction. I would support this funding.

2. Do you agree reform is needed in Greater Victoria for such regional issues as transportation, governance, and the integration of emergency service providers (fire and police)?

I agree reform in some areas makes common sense to gain efficiencies. I see transportation planning as not as effective as it should and the Green Party has noted in their Platform that they are committed to a redesign of the funding model and that we would push to establish a Regional Transportation Governance Body to overcome fractured decision making. I believe that core sections can work together, but in the riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca (Port Renfrew to Highlands) this system would fail to serve the needs as historically the rural communities get lost in the bustle and focus that is provided to the "cities". Rural communities and those in the Westshore have an excellent model of servicing agreements, excellent communications between our fire rescue, and rely on the RCMP. The RCMP have continually supported both large and small communities – and community engagement with the local governments is great.

3. The current Capital Region District Board (CRD) consists of municipal councillors and mayors

who are appointed from the 13 municipalities to represent the interests of their home municipalities. Do you support a shift to have the CRD Board reflect and represent regional interests and priorities by having it directly elected by all voters?

I do not. The elected officials that sit as representatives at the CRD have direct connections and ties to each of their community's needs and plans. An additional structure that adds an extra layer of communication is prone to further provide disintegrated policy making.

If the core, Saanich and Victoria, wish to amalgamate, this is their option, but for my riding, this is certainly a topic that has no support.