

View Royal By-Election Questionnaire

Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes)

<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca>

TO EACH CANDIDATE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE TO FILL THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT IN VIEW ROYAL MUNICIPALITY:

Thank you for participating in the November 18, 2017 by-election. We look forward to receiving your views on local governance reform. Please complete and return to amalgamateyes@gmail.com by November 8, 2017. Candidate responses will be posted on the <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca> website.

Candidate name: JODI ZWICKER

Candidate for: Councillor

Municipality: Town of View Royal

1. Are you in favour of the Provincially-funded, citizen-led, unbiased study of the current system of local government in the Capital Region District, to include municipalities and CRD? Yes or no. Please explain.

I wouldn't oppose a study as long as it included the citizens in our region. Many studies use past experiences in other regions and try to do comparisons. Having lived in Toronto during its Amalgamation I can say our region has no correlation to Toronto. When dealing with this level of change I think it would be best to involve our citizens, as well as small & large businesses directly and giving them an opportunity to express their long-term goals. Our job as counselors at a municipal level of Government is to be represent the opinions of the people in the process and bring that into the discussion. It's the process that is important, and as they say the only thing constant in our lives is change.

2. Do you believe that View Royal residents should have the opportunity to state an opinion on the subject of an governance study on a common binding referendum question on the next (2018) municipal ballot? Yes or no. Please explain.

Yes however I would like to see a non-binding question.

3. After the November 2014 election, and the 75% YES vote for reform, the (then) Premier of BC, Christy Clark, and the (then) Minister of Communities, Coralee Oakes both promised an study into amalgamation. To date, no such study has been initiated. Leading up to the May 2017 Provincial election, the NDP promised: *"You can count on BC New Democrats to follow through on our commitment to commission a study"*. But on August 13, the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Selina Robinson said she had no plans to commission an amalgamation study. As an elected councillor, what steps will you take with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to reinforce the will of the electorate and the Provincially-promised study?

I have already contacted Selina Robinsons' office. I have received a reply from her office and hope to discuss more with her once on Town Council.

4. Do you believe that the Capital Region District Board has been effective in dealing with regional service issues, such as waste water treatment (sewage), public safety (police, fire, 911), regional growth strategy, transportation and transit planning, etc? Yes or no. Please explain.
The CRD employs over 900 people. With a 24 member Board of Directors and more than 75 committees and commissions it is a valuable asset to representing our citizens and their needs. My job as Town Councillor will be to work with the elected representatives from other municipalities to eliminate repetitive excessive costs and bring to the table our common goals of serving the citizens whose hard earned tax dollars we spend.

5. What would you do to improve regional governance in Greater Victoria?
(see response above).