

## **Saanich 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 SAANICH MUNICIPALITY.**

Please complete and return to [amalgamateyes@gmail.com](mailto:amalgamateyes@gmail.com) by September 2, 2017. Responses will be posted on the <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca> website.

Candidate name: Michael Geoghegan

Candidate for: Councillor

Municipality: District of Saanich

1. Are you in favour of a 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.

*Yes I am in favour. As the next question details trying to get 13 municipalities to do anything regarding amalgamation in a co-ordinated manner is extremely difficult. A provincial study with a citizen led process will help ensure that things are done in a fair, timely and consistent manner.*

2. Leading up to the November 14, 2014 municipal election, all municipalities were requested to add a common non-binding question on the municipal ballot to gauge public interest in an study of local governance. 8 of 13 municipalities acquiesced, but placed uniquely-worded questions on each ballot. The (then) Saanich Mayor and Council resisted this request, but eventually public pressure forced the issue and the Mayor formulated an opaque question on the Saanich ballot. It resulted in an 88% YES vote, the highest affirmation in the regional average (75%). See:

<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca/answer-on-amalgamation---times-colonist-editorial.html>

<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca/saanich-election-about-governance.html>

<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca/so-greater-victoria-is-in-favour-of-amalgamation---kinda.html>

Do you believe that residents should once again have the opportunity to state an opinion on the subject of an governance study on a common **binding** referendum question on the municipal ballot? Yes or no. Please explain.

Yes. As I state on my website at [www.mikeforsaanichcouncil.ca](http://www.mikeforsaanichcouncil.ca) I am strongly in favour of giving all residents within the CRD a vote on the issue of amalgamation.

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?

As a successful government relations consultant [www.mgcltd.ca](http://www.mgcltd.ca) who enjoys a good relationship with both Premier John Horgan <http://www.mgcltd.ca/photogallery/horgan2.php> as well as interim opposition leader Rich Coleman <http://www.mgcltd.ca/photogallery/coleman2.php> I would lobby the NDP, Liberals and Greens to get all party support for such a referendum.

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, transportation and transit planning, etc? Yes or no. Please explain.

*No! The sewage treatment project is a billion dollar boondoggle that has already seen about \$100 million wasted on false starts and missteps. I think some form of amalgamation ( I personally prefer the tri city model of the peninsula, core and westshore) would prove far more cost effective than the current cumbersome and largely unaccountable CRD model.*

5. What would you do to improve regional governance in Greater Victoria?

*First of all work for greater accountability and transparency with regards to the decisions made by both Saanich and the CRD. Secondly lobby for a referendum that is CRD wide to determine the public's support for amalgamation.*