

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 by September 2, 2017. Responses will be posted on the <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca> website.

Candidate name: Ned Taylor

Candidate for: Councillor

Municipality: District of Saanich

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.

Absolutely. Citizens in the CRD voted for this in 2014 and it's time to follow through. To be frank, there's probably too many municipal governments in Greater Victoria, it's a weird system we have. I'm supportive of amalgamation of a few municipalities in our region, while still giving independence areas like Saanich, Oak Bay and others that may desire it. I honestly think there's other municipalities that would be better off to join together (like Central Saanich and North Saanich) than Saanich. I also do not want Saanich Police joined together with other forces, they do an exceptional job of policing on their own. With all this in mind, we need to take a thorough look at all the possibilities and work together as a region to develop a solution that puts the peoples interest first.

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

I think so. Especially in the region as a whole. Many of the amalgamation questions in the other CRD municipalities were quite confusing and unclear. And let's directly ask - would you support your district/city to amalgamate with other municipalities and if so which ones?

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 the leader of a 34,000 signature petition to ban caged chicken confinement in BC's egg industry, I understand how to lobby a government that doesn't exactly want to listen. I'll mobilize the Mayor, council, Amalgamation Yes and all those who would support this kind of study into pressuring the new

provincial government to keep their commitment. Additionally, I'll strive to work with the BC Green caucus on this to further pressure on the government.

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.

I think overall the CRD has done a fairly good job. They perhaps could've acted more efficiently when it came to sewage, but on public safety and emergency response they have been exceptional. When an explosive fire occurred at a construction site near my house in the Shelbourne valley a few months back, emergency response units from Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, and even Esquimalt responded within a minute or so. I was amazed with their speed and coordination.

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

I believe amalgamating certain services would benefit regional governance in Greater Victoria. For example, the CRD controls recycling in the region, why not add garbage pickup to that list? It's in the same realm as recycling. Looking at amalgamating certain services like this would be a great start to creating a region that truly thrives.

Thanks for engaging the candidates in this race.