

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: Shawn Newby

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.

Yes...this should've already been done. I need as much information as I can get to make a pragmatic decision.

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, its a very simple question. But I think you mean "non-binding"?

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 will do what I can as a councillor to work with the ministry to encourage the province to initiate a "non-binding" study. We need to understand this issue better. It's either good for the region or its not, but we need a study to know.

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.

Very subjective, I don't believe that municipal officials can leave their municipal hats at the door when dealing with regional issues. That said, we live in a pretty awesome place and it may not be the perfect system but it does work for a lot of things. I think it would helpful to hire a consultant to audit how the CRD functions financially and operationally.

5. What would you do to improve regional governance in Greater Victoria?
By working to implement my previous answers