



SIDNEY RESPONSES

**Amalgamation Yes Questionnaire
2018 Municipal Election**

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1. Are you in favour of a [citizens' assembly](#) process to look at governance in your community and its relation to the region? Why or why not? Please explain.
2. The current Capital Region District Board consists of municipal councillors and mayors who are appointed from the 13 municipalities. By legislation, these municipal appointments are responsible to represent the interests of their home municipalities. Do you think that regional interests would be better served if the entire CRD Board was directly elected by voters region-wide? Why or why not? Please explain.

SIDNEY CANDIDATE RESPONSES: (NOTE: Candidates listed in alphabetic order. Mayoral candidates denoted with “M”)

Name	Q 1: Supporting the Citizens' Assembly Model?	Q 2: Electing CRD Board by all voters, region-wide?
Sara Duncan	Yes. In 2014, 67% of Sidney residents voted ‘yes’ to the question of whether the province should fund a cost-bene fit analysis of the amalgamation of the three municipalities on the peninsula (Sidney, North Saanich and Central Saanich), and the residents of the other two municipalities also voted in the affirmative, so the electorate has already indicated it would like a study. I also believe that a Citizen’s Assembly would be a very good way to answer this question. The quality of the effort and depth of the analysis produced by the Citizen Assembly evaluating the Duncan-North Cowichan amalgamation suggests that the results would be technically trustworthy; but the fact it would be done by “regular citizens” and not politicians, staff or consultants with potentially strong real, or publicly perceived, biases would also recommend it as a process in our polarizing political climate.	I am not sure; I have seen discussion on this question where I thought both points of view had some reasonable points of support, and my familiarity with the operation of the CRD Board is too limited to have a definite opinion. On the one hand, given that municipal election voter turnout hovers around a dismal 30% in the comparatively engaged electorate of Sidney, and is typically much lower in other municipalities (e.g. Langford), many citizens probably don’t have a good understanding of their municipal government, let alone what the regional government is or does, and having the ability to vote for the municipal members of the Board does not therefore necessarily translate into a better quality regional governance. However, perhaps with more direct accountability, people would become more engaged in regional politics, since they would believe they had more control over Board function. I would need to be engaged in more discussion about the costs and bene fits of doing so prior to being sure of my stance.

Barbara Fallot	I don't know enough about a "citizens' assembly" process to give a definitive response to that model. In the 2014 election, the question put to the voters of Sidney referred to a Provincially funded amalgamation study of the three Saanich Peninsula municipalities - Central Saanich, North Saanich and the Town of Sidney. 67% of our voters said yes. I believe our electorate remain interested and open to knowing whether and how amalgamation could benefit us.	I do not see that the region would be better served if the CRD Board were to be directly elected by voters region-wide. Individual councils are better suited to appoint their representative(s) to sit at the CRD Board table. The CRD rep should come from within the ranks of the council rather than a separate stand alone position.
Scott Garnett		
Melissa Hailey		
Gord Lynn		
Cam McLennan		
Terri O'Keeffe	Yes, I think we should look at this. I think it's worthwhile to see if there's a better way of operating.	It concerns me that the CRD has an extraordinary amount of influence over our community and our tax dollars. However, I'm not convinced that having our CRD Board reps elected directly by voters would do much to increase accountability. If we don't think the CRD is meeting our needs, then our appointees need to be doing a better job at holding the CRD accountable. If they're not, then we should be letting our Council know, and if they're not responsive, we consider that at the next election. If we were to elect CRD reps directly, I'm concerned that we could end up with a fractured approach, where an independently elected CRD rep may not be acting in concert with our elected Mayor and Council.
Steve Price - M		
Chad Rintoul	Yes, I am in favour of a Citizens' Assembly to consider the future of regional governance. I believe it would be a healthy process for a cross-section of the public to study a variety of options. Any recommendations from a Citizens' Assembly, and the question of regional governance must be put to the electorate; first as an authorization to support study of the recommendations, and ultimately in a referendum of the people on the question of regional governance.	Yes, I believe regional interests would be better served if the CRD Board was elected on a regional basis. The CRD has a very significant 2018 operating budget of \$309M, and capital program budget of \$381M. Direct participation in the selection of the CRD Board representation through regional elections may contribute to improved public participation, accountability and decision making. A process similar to that of the election of School Trustees may be a model considered.
Cliff McNeil-Smith - M		
Jordan Templeman		
Peter Wainwright	In the 2014 election 67% of our community voted in favour of a study on amalgamation. That hasn't happened yet and I believe our community would still support such a study. We never asked them about having a citizens' assembly look into this and I don't know how they would feel about it. I'm familiar with the process that was	While the interests of the region might be better served, there is a problem with this approach. CRD is responsible for several services where the service area is only the Peninsula, for example the Peninsula sewage treatment plant and Peninsula recreation. Regionwide voting creates the possibility that the elected Board will

	<p>followed in Duncan and North Cowichan and that seems like a good process to me. However, the devil is in the details. If this were to be proposed for the Peninsula, all 3 municipal councils would have to agree to hand this over to a citizens' assembly, the terms of reference of the assembly, the composition of the assembly, how the members of the assembly would be selected, the budget for the project and how that budget would be shared. I'm open to exploring this, but I do not see it as high a priority for our community as the review of our OCP.</p>	<p>have nobody on it representing the Peninsula but be making decisions about our services and the tax levy that our community will pay for them. That is not an acceptable possibility. Even if it were required that a representative from Sidney must be elected to the Board by regionwide voting, I don't see any reason to expect that the voters beyond the Peninsula would be informed enough to elect a good representative for Sidney.</p>
Stephen Weller		