

2020 Victoria By-election Questionnaire
Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes)
<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca>

TO EACH CANDIDATE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE in the City of Victoria By-Election, December 12 , 2020.

Please complete and return to amalgamateyes@gmail.com by November 30, 2020. Responses will be posted on the <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca> website.

Candidate name: Hailey McLeod

1. The electorate-approved Citizens' Assembly (CA), which is well underway in Saanich and Victoria, will be tasked to make recommendations to those respective councils on the potential for unification. If the CA recommends that the two municipalities merge, what will you do to facilitate this process and ensure the voters have an opportunity to vote on the recommendations in a binding referendum?

I do not currently know much about the amalgamation processes, so I would listen to the recommendations of the CA regarding unification. I think we need to make decisions based on what community members want, and make sure that we balance effectively spending resources, with making sure that members of all the communities around Greater Victoria have their voices heard. Amalgamation has been talked about for a long time with little action, so if the CA recommends unification, I would support an early referendum and joining of the two municipalities administration and governance.

2. Notwithstanding a municipal merger, do you agree that combining critical services, such as policing and fire fighting, would provide more effective and efficient public safety for the residents of Greater Victoria? Yes or no. Please explain.

With the information I currently have, I think combining critical services such as policing and fire fighting would allow us to use resources more effectively and efficiently. My hope would be that some of the administrative costs could be cut, while direct community services could be expanded.

3. 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 could be better served if the entire CRD Board was directly elected by voters region-wide? Why or why not? Please explain.

I think it is important to have the voices of all communities heard, and unfortunately this could get lost if the entire CRD Board was elected by region wide-voters. That said, I think we need to look at the needs of our larger community and the reality is that many aspects of life in Victoria cross municipal borders. Working together on regional issues such as transportation, roads and bike-ways, arts funding, and others seems more practical.

