



## OAK BAY 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.

#### OAK BAY CANDIDATE RESPONSES: (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?
<b>Andrew Appleton</b>		
<b>Anton Brakhage</b>	I believe that there are pros and cons to amalgamation, or to greater cooperation between municipalities on certain issues. These issues are worth discussing, and a citizens' assembly process would provide one avenue for exploring them. However, as amalgamation would directly affect the representation of residents in their local government, any concrete steps towards amalgamation should proceed only if there is clear majority support from voters.	While I can see benefits to democracy in allowing voters to directly elect the CRD Board, in terms of allowing voters a more direct role in choosing their representatives, I am concerned that holding region-wide elections for the Board could lead to situations where some parts of the CRD receive little or no representation. As above, I believe that any amalgamation of municipalities should occur only if there is support from a clear majority of voters.
<b>Hazel Braithwaite</b>		
<b>Cairine Green</b>	Four years ago, during the 2014 municipal election, a non-binding question was posed to Oak Bay voters, asking whether or not they supported the concept of amalgamation. A definitive majority of voters voted NO, that they did not support the concept of amalgamation for Oak Bay. As a key part of my current campaign platform is supporting frequent and open public consultation and engagement on topics that matter to residents, and in light of the results of the	This topic speaks to the issue of accountability, again a key part of my current campaign platform. I link accountability with healthy public engagement and consultation. If the CRD and/or individual municipalities want to change the CRD governance model, then again, this is a topic best addressed through a public engagement process. This question links back

	<p>2014 municipal election on the non-binding amalgamation question, I would be in favour of consulting with the community on whether or not they would support a Citizens' Assembly process to further explore the amalgamation question. Ultimately, this will be their decision. I do believe, however, that until there is a comprehensive analysis of the financial, social and governance pros and cons of amalgamation, voters cannot have an informed dialogue nor make an informed decision on amalgamation.</p>	<p>to your question 1 and I would expect it form a part of a citizens' assembly process</p>
<b>Nils Jensen - M</b>	<p>NO. Oak Bay residents rejected amalgamation by a clear majority in the 2014 referendum and a subsequent survey showed no change in that position. Oak Bay Council has effective tools for listening to and communicating with Oak Bay residents. We continue to monitor citizens' views and if there should be a significant change in future, we would address it.</p>	<p>NO. I am not in favour of direct elections to the CRD Board. The current system is simple and simple to apply. There is flexibility and accountability in having the representative appointed by Council. While in most instances the representative is the Mayor – the spokesperson for the municipality – the flexibility allows a Council to make a different choice. If the CRD Board was elected then the same approach would logically have to apply to the Capital Regional Hospital Board, the Regional Water Supply Commission and other regional organizations. The voting ballot would be long, confusing and a barrier to voter turnout.</p>
<b>Isabella Lee</b>		
<b>Kevin Murdoch - M</b>		
<b>Tara Ney</b>	<p>OB residents were asked four years ago if they favoured being amalgamated. The majority of voters in Oak Bay (62%) were not in favor of moving in this direction, and then an OB Community Survey in 2016 affirmed this position. Most people I talk to say they appreciate the political responsivity of the current system and prefer to continue the strategy of shared services rather than amalgamation. In 2013 Oak Bay endorsed the Good Neighbor Protocol which has successfully encouraged increased shared services to create efficiencies. If Saanich and Victoria move forward with a Citizen's Assembly, we would want to monitor any changes in the will of our constituency.</p>	<p>I would support exploring the feasibility of a hybridized model where voters region-wide directly elect the Chair position only. This model ensures district representation but takes away the conflict of interest for the Chair, who can cleanly take a leadership role to facilitate the regional interests. Appointing a representative (usually a mayor, but not a requirement) from each District allows Districts to represent their interest in the regional context. This is important for good decision-making. There are times when district and regional issues are at odds, but tussling through these tensions is the work of the representatives and leadership. Generally, region-wide direct elections by voters for all seats would be unwieldy. Direct elections regionally could drown the voice of some districts, and I am not convinced that better decisions for the region and districts would be had.</p>
<b>Ester Paterson</b>		
<b>Andrew Stinson</b>		
<b>Ronald Telfer</b>		
<b>Eric Zhelka</b>		