

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Jim Hanson

Councillor Candidate – District of North Vancouver

Born and raised in North Vancouver, Jim Hanson was elected to North Vancouver District Council in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. Prior to serving on Council, Jim was active in the community as a member of the Blueridge Community Association. Jim is a lawyer and is the founder and proprietor of Hanson & Co lawyers in North Vancouver. Jim has been a self employed lawyer since 1993. Jim lives in the Blueridge neighbourhood with his spouse Ruth Hanson. Together they have two adult children. When not engaged in politics, Jim enjoys the outdoors. He can often be seen hiking on our North Shore trails with friends and family.

Investment in Public Transit

Q1: If elected, what will you do to advance local, provincial and federal government commitments to transit infrastructure investments to, from and across North Vancouver?

By the end of the upcoming term in Council, we must ensure that we have a specific plan for rapid transit to the North Shore with a budget and construction deadlines in place. If re-elected, I will work diligently to ensure that this is a key mandate of the new Council. The time has come for significant investments by all levels of government in rapid transit to and from the North Shore.

Access to Primary Health Care

Q2: If elected, what will you do, in the short and long term, to support better access to primary physical and mental health care (doctors, dentists, etc.) in North Vancouver?

I would support making District land available for urgent health care centres on the North Shore. I will lobby for an expedited approval process for health-care related permitting and re-zoning.

Rising Costs / Property Taxes

Q3 – Many businesses continue to feel the impact of the pandemic and need support to navigate the current environment, in particular seeking help to reduce their costs and to increase the pool of skilled workers from which to hire and train. If elected, what will you do to help reduce the burden of costs on business? What policies or programs will you introduce to reduce cost pressures and make North Vancouver a more tax-competitive jurisdiction for businesses?

I will advocate that North Vancouver District continue with its policy of raising taxes 2% for operating and 1% for infrastructure for a total of 3% per year, as has been our policy for several years. I will resist any calls to increase the taxes levied beyond this rate of increase due to ongoing inflation. I will resist calls to shift a greater portion of the tax burden onto the business classes.

Availability of Affordable Housing

Q4– Local governments play a central role in housing. If elected, what will you do to accelerate investments to increase the availability of affordable housing options for people and employees who live and work in North Vancouver?

I will advocate for a streamlined approval process for rental and affordable housing. I will continue to advocate for the use of District land to create affordable housing.

Local Government services – Support for Businesses

Q5 – A municipal government’s processes can greatly affect the economics of doing business. If elected, what will you do to support more efficient transactions and timelines in support of businesses in North Vancouver?

I believe that we need to increase staffing for the approval process to ensure shorter turn-around times. I also believe that we need to undertake a review of our operations at District Hall to ensure greater efficiency.

•

