

09/09/2026 23:01:06

Candidate Details

kw4wrc@gmail.com

Kevin White

Regional Councillor (Kitchener)

What is your motivation for running for election?

I believe the Region's stated value of "care for people and the land we share" is an admirable one, and that it should be the primary consideration in all decision making. On a personal level, I am trying to find a way to help bridge grassroots organizing with policy making.

What are your top three priority issues you want to address at Regional Council?

That the value of "care for people and the land we share" is the primary consideration in all decision making. My agenda beyond that is rather limited. Housing and homelessness, accessibility of and sustainability for public transit (and other public services), and fostering resilient communities would perhaps summarize what I hope to prioritize.

What is your vision for each of the issues you identified above?

I again tie everything to the Region's stated core value of "care for people and the land we share". I have been quite disappointed with the lack of Regional advocacy in defending incredible services such as the safe consumption and treatment site, the failure to even begin relating with residents at 100 Victoria (hence a court case that was titled "The Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained", which is unconscionable), the failure to consult with A Better Tent City co-founder Nadine Green when transferring operations to The Working Centre, and I feel a lot of that would have been handled differently if the core value had been maintained and adhered to. With the provincial government acting in ways which are effectively hostile to the public good and appointing a Regional Chair to further their will, I think it will be important to have clear principles in decision making to have people retain any confidence in local government. Care for people and the land we share may sound vague, but it is not abstract, especially in collaboration with others.

What tangible steps would you take to increase the supply of affordable housing across the Region?

I think the Region needs to stop hoping for private development and landlords to supply housing benevolently and engage more directly with legislative options. More creative options on uses of public land could be considered. No example is perfect, but I think the YWKW supportive housing units on Block Line offer some ideas as to how the Region and municipalities could make use of land and begin to address the waitlist for affordable housing. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has also released a document in 2024 asking for an adjustment to the funding framework for municipalities, which is most certainly necessary if the Region is going to take on full responsibility for housing.

What is your plan to expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and create additional child care spaces?

When we think about "care for people and the land we share", I think a number of priorities could be adjusted, particularly regarding the budget. Realistically, to accomplish the ideal, a widely accessible and inclusive program that would be affordable even for those unable to pay, a substantial amount of external funding would need to be found. However, I am not personally aware of what options may exist to work toward that. Part of collectively adhering to the value of "care for people and the land we share" would be in consulting with those most impacted, per the principle of affected interest, and considering options that meet with those needs. While an unsatisfying answer lacking in specificity, this would be an effort made up of different components of the Region, its partners, and the community at large, not a single person's unilateral voice and will. I have seen that the Region has recently added some childcare spaces, so some of the will exists already, but there will be a need to maintain close adherence to "care for people and the land we share" in expanding services further.

What is your position on the Provincial government's efforts to increase private sector involvement in drinking water and wastewater services?

Privatization of water services is a horrendous prospect and I unequivocally reject it. Water and water services need to remain in public/municipal control.

What role should the Region play in protecting publicly owned water services?

The Region should staunchly refuse any privatization of water services, including defying provincial orders. "Care for people and the land we share" must not be compromised.

What forms of inequity do you believe are the most significant challenges in our community? How would you address them?

Material inequities seem to be most prevalent, and worsening. Cost of living exceeds wage increases, and the more time that is spent hustling to maintain the status quo, the less time there is for local organizing and relationship development necessary for fostering resilient and supportive communities. No one person has a plan, and it will take collaborative, truly collaborative, efforts of community partners, organizations, and volunteers to meet the manifold and diverse needs across the Region. Expanding public services and reallocating budget to support meeting material needs through this, and always with "care for people and the land we share" as the guiding principle would be the way I operate.

What organizations, initiatives, or movements have you supported that work to address systemic discrimination or oppression? Please describe your involvement.

I am a roster member with the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, and I have previously supported the work of groups including Workers Alliance (Waterloo-Wellington), Unsheltered Campaign, Fight Back! KW, Queer Youth Defense, WR YIMBY, and GroundUp WR.

Can you commit to publicly speaking up in favour of these demands, including at Council meetings?

Yes