

1. UDI estimates that approximately 30% of the cost of a new home is the result of taxes and fees. In June of this year, the CMHC issued a report that stated that the last time housing was affordable in Canada was in 2003. With the need for a variety of housing required in Surrey, how would you address the need for affordable housing in Surrey?

The taxes and fees pay for the infrastructure that allows a neighbourhood to exist. This infrastructure must be built to last a century, and a neighborhood is designed to last generations. The value of a home is not the actual piece of land that it sits upon, or the walls that hold up the roof, it is the community that surrounds it. Are there schools for your children? A park for your elders? Are the roads paved? Are the sewers hooked up? Is the water running? Are there sidewalks? If the answer is yes then you are in a location that you can call home. In many parts of Surrey we still have open ditches and there are no sidewalks. These are places that were built 50+ years ago when the average house on a 120 foot lot was \$90,000. In many of those neighbourhoods, the sidewalks have still not been installed, and the ditches are still open. You can have a house on land, or you can have a home. Surrey will always be a place you can call home.

2. We know there is always a debate between perception and reality when it comes to street level crime and safety. Everyone wants a safe place to live and do business and it seems that in so many of our urban centers, things seem to be getting worse not better.

a. What is your strategy to deal with the root causes of crime?

b. Do you support the recent call by BIABC (speaking on behalf of 70 BIAs within BC) to make a commitment to support core funding that will mitigate main street issues through increased policing resources, street lighting, sanitation, and anti-graffiti programs, as well as stronger bylaw enforcement?

The last thing that a small business owner wants is to be called to their shop at 3 in the morning to find most of their inventory stolen or destroyed. What Jinny wants as Mayor is for every small business to succeed and for the owners to provide for their families. Street level crime is an ongoing issue that every large city faces and Surrey is no exception.

Jinny Sims and Surrey Forward will follow one simple rule. We will find the easiest and quickest way to solve a problem and do it today. This credo will be a part of every city department.

In Surrey, we need to address housing first and foremost. Solving the housing issue will make our streets safe. If a rich city like Surrey can't clean up its garbage, or keep the lights on, then your previous Mayor and Council have failed and you are duty bound to be rid of them.

3. Andy Ramlo – demographer for Rennie - estimates that 70,000 people annually move to BC – most of those people locate in the Lower Mainland.

What are your plans to deal with this growth in Surrey?

a. How will you provide, and fund needed infrastructure including roads, community centres, parks, swimming pools, and ice rinks?

More than 15,000 people will move into the City of Surrey in the next year. We are not ready now, nor have we ever been ready for this growth.

Surrey is in a perpetual state of catch-up. New residents will need to have a place to live, so we will build more homes. New residents need a place to work, Surrey Forward will provide new commercial space. New Residents need a place to play, so we will need to provide more parks, more fields and more rinks. This will be funded by the City of Surrey, but we will also be looking to senior levels of government to assist us, by applying for every single grant, and cost sharing program Canada has to offer. We get woefully little from senior governments, it is time for them to pay up.

4. Voter turnout in municipal elections is historically low compared to provincial and federal elections. The risk of low voter engagement is an erosion of faith in our democracy and institutions of government.

a. Do you think that a change to the ward system would heighten awareness on local issues and ultimately increase voter turnout?

b. If not, what do you think would increase voter turnout?

Jinny Sims and Surrey Forward will, at the first council meeting after the October 15th election, bring forward a motion to enact a ward system in the City of Surrey. We will even write the legislation so all Victoria has to do is pass it.

5. How do you see Surrey taking advantage of the Skytrain extension to Langley? What would be your plans to connect the rest of Surrey to City Centre and each other (Cloverdale to Guildford, Fleetwood to Newton, etc.)?

Jinny Sims and Surrey Forward plan to ensure that Surrey residents can get around Surrey, not through Surrey. More and more of Surrey residents work in Surrey so our next focus is ensuring that we serve those needs.

We need rapid buses along our North South Corridors, which will eventually lead to rapid transit to connect to South Surrey. Newton is the first target to get this transit expansion as the current mayor and council decided that Langley was a better destination than Newton.

6. We are going over a demographic cliff: we have an aging population

combined with not enough people entering the job market. Stats Can reported in the summer that there are a million job vacancies in Canada.

a. *What plans do you have to recruit and retain employees at City Hall to ensure that we have the people required to deliver vital services?*

Every organization, large and small is facing a crunch with hiring right now. But let's remember that there are about 1600 new people taking up residence in Surrey every month. We will have the ability to manage our growth and bring in the people we need. Our current Mayor has made City Hall a toxic place to work and we can not afford to push out the talented people that provide our services only to be hired by other Cities that know how to treat people.

Addressing homelessness is as much about managing challenges with mental health and substance abuse as it is about providing housing. What do you see as the City's role in tackling these issues and what would your first steps be if elected?

Housing is the first priority. Without a roof over your head, nothing else will improve. Currently there are only 215 emergency housing beds in the City of Surrey. Surrey Forward will build 1,000 more spaces over the next 4 years. We will do this by working with senior levels of government, housing societies and community groups.