

2026 Candidate Questionnaire Results



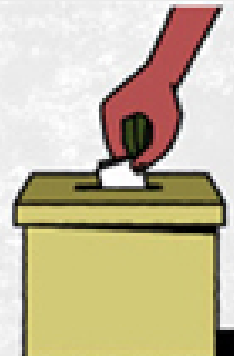
District of West Vancouver

Election Day: October 17th

Advanced Voting: October 7, 10, 12

election.westvancouver.ca

2026 General Local Elections



2026 Candidate Questionnaire Results



Background:

With upcoming renovations to Karen Magnussen Arena that may disrupt league operations, and given the current waitlist of youth and adults looking to join the League, the board of the NSIHL has been working to advocate for preserving and expanding inline capacity on the North Shore. This includes a petition that has been circulated to members, as well as information gathering and relationship building with municipal candidates in the 2026 Local General Election. This package contains the results from a questionnaire sent out to all candidates on September 29. Some responses have been edited for space. A link to the full set of responses will also be given.

This package will start by showing summary charts. Candidates who did not respond to the questionnaire will not be included. Longer answers, including the “other” selections, will be at the end of this package.

Would you support prioritizing dry floor recreation facilities that could be used for inline hockey in future recreation facility developments?			
Name	I would prioritize year-round dry floor facilities, given the current shortfalls	I would consider dry floor equally with other demands on recreation	I do not support expanding recreation capacity at this time
FOR MAYOR			
Kirk LaPointe:		X	
FOR COUNCIL			
John O'Flynn		X	
Jaime Webbe		X	
Earl Babich	X		
Alexis Chicoine		X	
Peter Lambur		X	
Sherry Keane		X	
Melinda Slater		X	
Annsabelle Pronych		X	
Sylvia Olson		X	
Ben Hunter	X		

What actions would you take to support dry floor expansion on the North Shore (select all that apply)							
Name	Giving unused, or underused municipal land for facilities	Giving financial resources	A public/private partnership to build subsidized facilities	Seeking senior government funding	Build more ice facilities that could be dry floor off-season	Adding more dry floor space into future rec centres	Other
FOR MAYOR							
Kirk LaPointe:			X	X	X	X	
FOR COUNCIL							
John O'Flynn					X		X
Jaime Webbe	X		X	X	X		
Earl Babich						X	X
Alexis Chicoine							X
Peter Lambur			X	X			
Sherry Keane				X		X	X
Melinda Slater				X		X	X
Annsabelle Pronych			X	X	X	X	
Sylvia Olson				X		X	X
Ben Hunter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

How would you support paying for expansions or developments of dry-floor space on the North Shore?								
Name	Raising taxes to build more recreation facilities	Reallocating existing resources	Seeking senior government funding	Seeking Private Partnerships	Fundraising campaigns	Increasing user fees at recreation facilities	From developers, when approving new developments	Other
FOR MAYOR								
Kirk LaPointe:			X	X	X			
FOR COUNCIL								
John O'Flynn			X	X	X	X	X	
Jaime Webbe			X	X	X		X	
Earl Babich								X
Alexis Chicoine			X		X		X	X
Peter Lambur			X	X	X			
Sherry Keane			X	X	X		X	X
Melinda Slater			X	X	X			X
Annsabelle Pronych			X	X			X	
Sylvia Olson			X	X	X			
Ben Hunter	X	X	X	X	X			X

Do you have ideas or suggestions of where a new dry floor facility could be built in your community?

FOR MAYOR	
Kirk LaPointe:	No, I don't. The next council will evaluate a business plan for a new skating centre.
FOR COUNCIL	
John O'Flynn	N/A
Jaime Webbe	In West Vancouver the next council will be considering the construction of a second ice sheet. The inclusion of a dry-floor facility should be considered as a top choice with seasonal use as a dry floor a sensible second choice.
Earl Babich	Yes, secret until land is secure.
Alexis Chicoine	Two opportunities in West Vancouver are worth examining. The District has authorized a feasibility study for a proposed multi-sheet ice complex, which could explore the potential for summer dry-floor use. The approved Cypress Village plan also includes a future community centre, presenting an opportunity to consider flexible, multipurpose recreation space as that community develops. Both would require further assessment of facility requirements, demonstrated demand, costs and opportunities for regional use. Planning facilities that can accommodate several sports and activities throughout the year could help address recreation needs across the North Shore.
Peter Lambur	
Sherry Keane	Before identifying a specific site, I would want to understand community demand, access, parking, transportation, neighbouring uses, cost and whether the space could serve multiple sports and age groups throughout the year.
Melinda Slater	I would begin with a regional inventory rather than nominate a site prematurely. Existing or adaptable buildings and seasonal arena capacity should be examined first. West Vancouver's arena has a dry surface in July and August, so staff could determine whether any limited programming could be accommodated without displacing existing users and whether the specialized flooring is compatible. Any permanent proposal would require assessment of the site, access, neighbourhood impacts and a complete financial plan.
Annsabelle Pronych	I don't have enough familiarity with available sites on the North Shore to suggest a specific location. I would support the municipality identifying suitable sites through its recreation and land-use planning, with consideration given to multi-purpose facilities that could serve a range of community sports and activities
Sylvia Olson	I do not have a specific site identified yet. I would support asking staff to assess opportunities at existing recreation sites and underused municipal spaces in West Vancouver, as well as potential shared-use arrangements with schools. Any location would need to be suitable for the sports involved, accessible to residents and affordable to build and maintain.
Ben Hunter	Ambleside beach gravel parking around pickleball courts. Criminally underused as parking.

Please describe any connections you may have to the North Shore Inline Hockey League, or Inline hockey in general

FOR MAYOR	
Kirk LaPointe:	I am a goaltender and play both ice and inline. Difficult to discern which one I am worse at..
FOR COUNCIL	
John O'Flynn	2014 - My son, Michael, played at the Squirt Competitive level. Great enjoyment!
Jaime Webbe	Only through my children's friends who play
Earl Babich	My son is Blake Babich who is in a hockey arena everyday for up to 7 hours a day.
Alexis Chicoine	I do not have any connection to either.
Peter Lambur	
Sherry Keane	
Melinda Slater	I do not have a personal connection to the league or to inline hockey, but I recognize the recreational and community value of an established program serving a large number of children and adults.
Annsabelle Pronych	I don't have a direct personal connection to the North Shore Inline Hockey League or inline hockey, and I don't play hockey myself. However, I love sports in general and enjoy watching and supporting different sports and the people who participate in them. My interest in this issue comes from wanting to understand the broader recreation needs of the North Shore and supporting opportunities for people of all ages to participate in sports. I would like to see multi-use dry-floor facilities that can support inline hockey, basketball, lacrosse, pickleball, floor hockey and other community activities. I think having opportunities for different sports to succeed is important for a healthy and active community.
Sylvia Olson	I do not have a direct personal connection to the NSIHL or inline hockey. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the league, its inclusive programs and the challenges it faces in securing space.
Ben Hunter	Not much. Love pickleball, skateparks, basketball

Do you have anything else you would like to share with League members?

FOR MAYOR	
Kirk LaPointe:	I declare my conflict of interest as a goalie, but anything that can attract and keep the population active and build their community networks earns my support.
FOR COUNCIL	
John O'Flynn	Thank you for your engagement with the sport on the North Shore and beyond. Active Living = Inline Hockey too! Well in!
Jaime Webbe	I am a member of the sponsorship committee for West Van Minor Hockey and the Coordinator of the Hockey for Autism Program so I know very well the importance of supporting our youth sports associations.
Earl Babich	Hockey is my life! Let us bring the Stanley Cup to Vancouver!
Alexis Chicoine	Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about your league. Your growth and waiting lists demonstrate the demand for recreational opportunities on the North Shore. Having travelled to Richmond twice a week for years to play wheelchair tennis, I understand the importance of having access to a sport you love, as well as the challenges when suitable facilities aren't available locally. I appreciate the work of your volunteers and the opportunities you provide for children and adults.
Peter Lambur	
Sherry Keane	Sports and recreation are incredibly important for children, youth and families. They provide more than physical activity, they create friendships, confidence, teamwork, mentorship and a sense of belonging. As a parent, I also recognize how important it is for young people to have positive places to spend their time and opportunities to connect with their community. I support looking for practical ways to expand access to recreation, including flexible facilities that can accommodate hockey and multiple other sports. If we invest in new recreation space, I believe we should design it to serve as many people, sports and generations as possible.
Melinda Slater	The league's participation and waitlists demonstrate substantial demand. I support North Shore municipalities and recreation providers working together on a practical 2027 solution, including schedule adjustments, temporary space and compatible flooring, provided essential repairs are not compromised and costs and effects on other users are transparent. Longer term, dry-floor needs should be assessed regionally alongside other recreation demands. Any new facility or municipal contribution should have a demonstrated need, disclosed capital and operating costs, a sustainable funding plan and meaningful public review.
Annsabelle Pronych	Although I don't play inline hockey myself, I believe recreation facilities should serve a wide range of sports and community needs. I appreciate the League bringing attention to the importance of dry-floor space on the North Shore. I hope the municipalities will look at practical, sustainable options that allow inline hockey and other sports to grow, while also balancing the needs of the broader community. I love seeing people of all ages have opportunities to participate in sports, and I would like to see the North Shore continue investing in those opportunities.
Sylvia Olson	Thank you to the volunteers, coaches and staff who make this league possible. Community sports bring families together and give younger generations a place to build friendships, learn teamwork and feel they belong. The growing waitlists and uncertainty about future seasons deserve attention. If elected, I would welcome a conversation about practical options in West Vancouver, including better use of existing spaces, outside funding and cooperation with neighbouring municipalities. My approach is to listen, maintain what we have and spend responsibly, while keeping recreation accessible and affordable for families.
Ben Hunter	I'm youngish (37), educated (civil eng), played sports all my life. Vote for me is a vote for housing, transit, and using our space well for recreation.

Responses to “Other” Options

How would you support paying for expansions or developments of dry-floor space on the North Shore?

Earl Babich: There is money in legacy funds throughout Canada as well as contingency funds in all levels of government to pay for the construction of great assets

Alexis Chicone: I believe funding for new recreation facilities should be considered as part of broader community and regional planning, rather than relying on any single funding source. Before committing public funds or reallocating existing resources, we need to understand the demonstrated demand, opportunities for multipurpose facilities, capital and ongoing operating costs, and the needs of other recreation users across the North Shore. Tax increases or higher user fees should be considered in the context of those broader financial implications, including affordability and accessibility. The objective should be a financially sustainable approach that expands recreation opportunities without losing sight of other municipal priorities.

Sherry Keane: I would support a blended funding approach that first looks at existing municipal resources, senior-government grants, development-related amenity contributions, community fundraising and appropriate partnerships before placing additional costs on taxpayers or recreation users

Melinda Slater: Regional cost-sharing among the municipalities, user groups and other beneficiaries should also be considered. Any proposal should disclose its full capital, operating and renewal costs and include a sustainable funding plan.

Ben Hunter: User fees discourage use. Dev charges make housing expensive for young people.

Responses to “Other” Options

What actions would you take to support dry floor expansion on the North Shore?

Jack O’Flynn: I would support a new/ or "renewed" ice arena in West Van that could be dry floor for a time each year.

Earl Babich: Langley Arenas is the new model for West Vancouver constructed in three years.

Alexis Chicone: I would look at dry-floor recreation as part of broader, long-term recreation planning across the North Shore. That includes examining opportunities for flexible, multipurpose space when existing facilities are renewed or new ones are developed, as well as potential partnerships between municipalities, community organizations and private partners. Any expansion should be informed by demonstrated demand across different sports, available land, capital and operating costs, and opportunities for senior government funding. Where new development creates additional demand, appropriate developer contributions should also be considered. I would want to understand the needs of all recreation users before committing municipal land or financial resources to a particular project.

Sherry Keane: I support expanding access to dry-floor recreation space, particularly when facilities can serve multiple sports and age groups. I would prioritize incorporating flexible dry-floor space into future recreation-centre planning, pursuing senior-government funding and exploring appropriate partnerships.

Melinda Slater: Undertake a North Shore-wide assessment of demonstrated demand, existing seasonal and underused space, possible retrofits, specialized flooring requirements, transportation access, effects on existing users, and full capital and operating costs. Dry-floor capacity should also be considered when recreation facilities are renewed or redeveloped.

Sylvia Olson: I would support adding more dry floor space into future rec centre redevelopments, I would support reviewing existing facilities and underused spaces for opportunities to accommodate more dry-floor recreation, working with the league and neighbouring municipalities on shared solutions. I would also support seeking grants and partnerships, with any expansion assessed for construction costs, ongoing maintenance and affordability for residents.

Ben Hunter: Much parking space on the North Shore would be better used for recreation.