

KIRK LAPOINTE

Candidate for Mayor, District of West Vancouver

Trusted Leadership for West Vancouver's Future

The Plan West Vancouver Wants

After months of listening to the community, here is what I've learned are the priorities for West Vancouver I need to deliver as mayor.

PART 1 OF 3

Taxes, Trust and Transparency

Change how government behaves: lower the tax trajectory, restore trust, and make Municipal Hall and Metro Vancouver more accountable.

FIVE COMMITMENTS

- 1. Cut the planned 2027 tax increase by more than half.** Conduct an immediate spending, service and reserve review to reduce the projected 2027 increase of nearly 7% to 3%, saving the average homeowner about \$250 next year, and impose lasting spending discipline.
- 2. Control spending growth to no more than half the rate of inflation.** Cap municipal spending growth post-2027 at no more than half the rate of inflation while protecting essential services.
- 3. Introduce strong community consultation to put residents back into decisions.** Restore advisory committees, consult before preferred options are chosen, show how public input made an impact.
- 4. Open Municipal Hall to scrutiny.** Reduce closed-door decision-making, publish contracts and ethics information, set service standards and report on them, and make accountability easier to follow.
- 5. Demand reform at Metro Vancouver.** Press for an independent wastewater review, better project oversight, a smaller mandate and governing structure, and refuse extra Metro compensation.

HOW I WILL SUPPORT THESE COMMITMENTS

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **Conduct an immediate comprehensive spending, service and reserve review to reduce the proposed 2027 tax increase.** — Reduce the near-term tax burden by finding efficiencies and testing whether current services and reserve practices still make sense.
- **Cap municipal spending growth at no more than half the rate of inflation.** — Break the pattern of spending growth that pushes taxes higher year after year.
- **Commit every year of the term that municipal spending will grow at no more than half the inflation rate, while protecting essential services.** — Make the spending rule measurable, predictable and difficult to evade through quiet additions to the base budget.
- **Stop using reserves to fund recurring operating costs or artificially suppress ongoing tax increases.** — Prevent one-time money from masking the true continuing cost of municipal operations.
- **Disclose short- and longer-term infrastructure needs and anticipate schedules, costs and funding requirements.** — Give taxpayers early warning of major costs instead of allowing infrastructure bills to arrive as surprises.
- **Require every new recurring program to identify a recurring funding source.** — Avoid creating permanent obligations without identifying how they will be paid for.
- **Require a published business case and funding plan before approving major new capital projects.** — Make major investments prove their need, cost and financing before Council commits taxpayers.
- **Pursue federal, provincial, philanthropic and private-partner funding before major new capital costs fall on West Vancouver taxpayers.** — Use outside funding wherever appropriate so local property taxpayers are not the first and only source of capital.
- **Publish an annual West Vancouver report card showing where the 53% of residential property taxes collected for other taxing authorities goes, what those agencies provide in return, and what additional costs they impose.** — Make the full tax bill understandable and strengthen West Vancouver's case when outside agencies increase costs.

CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- **Restore advisory committees where continuing community expertise can improve decisions.** — *Bring experienced residents back into the policy process before decisions reach Council.*
- **Consult the community before a preferred option is selected or a final staff recommendation is prepared.** — *Make consultation part of decision-making rather than an exercise after the direction has effectively been set.*
- **Provide adequate notice and accessible times for community input to Council.** — *Give residents a practical opportunity to participate rather than making engagement difficult by timing or short notice.*
- **Publish options, costs and trade-offs of spending initiatives under consideration.** — *Let residents see the real choices and consequences before Council chooses among them.*
- **Reform the budget process to provide a stronger multi-year spending forecast for public consultation.** — *Move the budget conversation beyond a single year and expose future cost pressures earlier.*
- **Report back to the public on what residents said and how their input affected decisions.** — *Close the consultation loop and show whether participation made a difference.*
- **Move Council meetings to neighbourhoods when their specific issues arise.** — *Bring local government closer to the people most affected by neighbourhood decisions.*
- **Hold twice-monthly Ask-Me-Anything meetings with the public at Municipal Hall.** — *Create regular direct access to the mayor and make questions and accountability routine rather than exceptional.*

ACCOUNTABILITY, OPENNESS AND SERVICE

- **Introduce ethics-forward governance to restore trust and accountability.** — *Make ethical conduct and public confidence central tests of how Council operates.*
- **Reduce closed-door Council meetings and clearly identify the statutory reason when Council meets in camera.** — *Keep more public business in public and make every closed meeting easier to justify and scrutinize.*
- **Publish municipal contracts, procurement awards and contract amendments to the fullest extent permitted by law.** — *Give taxpayers a clearer view of who receives public money and how contracts change after approval.*
- **Establish published service standards and guaranteed response times for complete permit applications, with delays and their causes publicly reported.** — *Make municipal service performance measurable and give applicants predictable expectations.*
- **Use technology to provide services more efficiently, particularly renovation permits, with human oversight and privacy protection.** — *Reduce unnecessary delay and paperwork without surrendering judgment, accountability or privacy.*

- **Provide a clearer tax bill showing municipal and regional levies and where the money goes.** — *Help residents distinguish District costs from charges imposed by regional and other authorities.*
- **Support in principle the province-wide Code of Conduct as a common ethical floor, while ensuring West Vancouver maintains strong local standards.** — *Create a credible, fair process for handling serious conduct complaints.*
- **Make final findings and sanctions public wherever legally permitted.** — *Ensure accountability is visible rather than hidden when misconduct is established.*
- **Publish conflicts, recusals, Council expenses and outside-board compensation in accessible public registers.** — *Let residents readily see potential conflicts and the full compensation and expense picture.*
- **Report annually on the operation, cost and effectiveness of the ethics system.** — *Measure whether the accountability system works instead of merely creating it.*

METRO VANCOUVER REFORM

- **Demand an independent review by the Inspector of Municipalities of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant project.** — *Establish an investigation independent of Metro Vancouver into how the project reached its extraordinary cost.*
- **Fight for a new funding formula and longer amortization period for the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant.** — *Reduce the disproportionate financial burden on North Shore taxpayers and spread unavoidable costs more fairly.*
- **Refuse to accept income and per diem compensation from Metro Vancouver.** — *Treat regional representation as part of the mayor's public service rather than a second source of pay.*
- **Support an independent review of Metro Vancouver core services within 90 days of the election.** — *Test what Metro should continue doing, what it should stop doing, and where its mandate can be narrowed.*
- **Establish an independent West Vancouver expert panel to scrutinize major Metro Vancouver projects, costs and financial impacts.** — *Give West Vancouver directors the specialized expertise they need before voting on complex regional projects.*
- **Support restoring an Auditor General for Local Government.** — *Restore independent scrutiny of municipal and regional spending and performance.*
- **Advocate for the transfer of Metro Vancouver housing activities to BC Housing where this would improve accountability.** — *Reduce overlap and place housing responsibilities where they can be delivered and scrutinized most effectively.*
- **Support reform toward a smaller, directly elected Mayors' Council with oversight of Metro Vancouver, TransLink and E-Comm 911.** — *Create clearer regional accountability and a governing body residents can more easily understand and judge.*

Part 2 — Better Neighbourhoods, Stronger Business, to be released Tuesday, Sept. 15

Part 3 — A Plan for West Vancouver's Future, to be released Thursday, Sept. 17