



Engagement in the 2018 Local Elections

Hon. Iain J.S. Black, ICD.D
President and CEO
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

Thrive Series
October 10, 2018

General Local Elections

- The general local elections in B.C. are on **Saturday, October 20, 2018**
- Resources: Elections.bc.ca
 - Register to vote or update your voter registration
 - List of candidates
 - Voting Rules
 - Election Results
 - FAQ

But who to vote for???

General Local Elections

- Low voter turnout for local elections
 - 2015 federal election → 68.3%
 - 2017 provincial election → 57.7%
 - 2014 B.C. local elections → 44.%
- However, your vote is one in hundreds in local elections
 - In provincial and federal elections, your vote is one of *millions*

General Local Elections

CHANGING LANDSCAPE

- High turn over: Only 8 of the region's 21 mayors are seeking re-election
- In 2014, 16 mayors campaigned to keep their jobs (14 won)
- Long standing mayors leaving office:
 - Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver (10 years)
 - Mayor Greg Moore, City of Port Coquitlam (10 years)
 - Mayor Darell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver (12 years)
 - Mayor Richard Walton, District of North Vancouver (13 years)
 - Mayor Lois Jackson, Delta (19 years)

GVBOT Local Elections Advocacy

- VoteLocal **Survey**
- 2018 Local Elections **Handbook**
- Local Elections **Candidate briefing**
- Local Elections **Dashboard**



GREATER VANCOUVER
BOARD OF TRADE

#VoteLocalBC

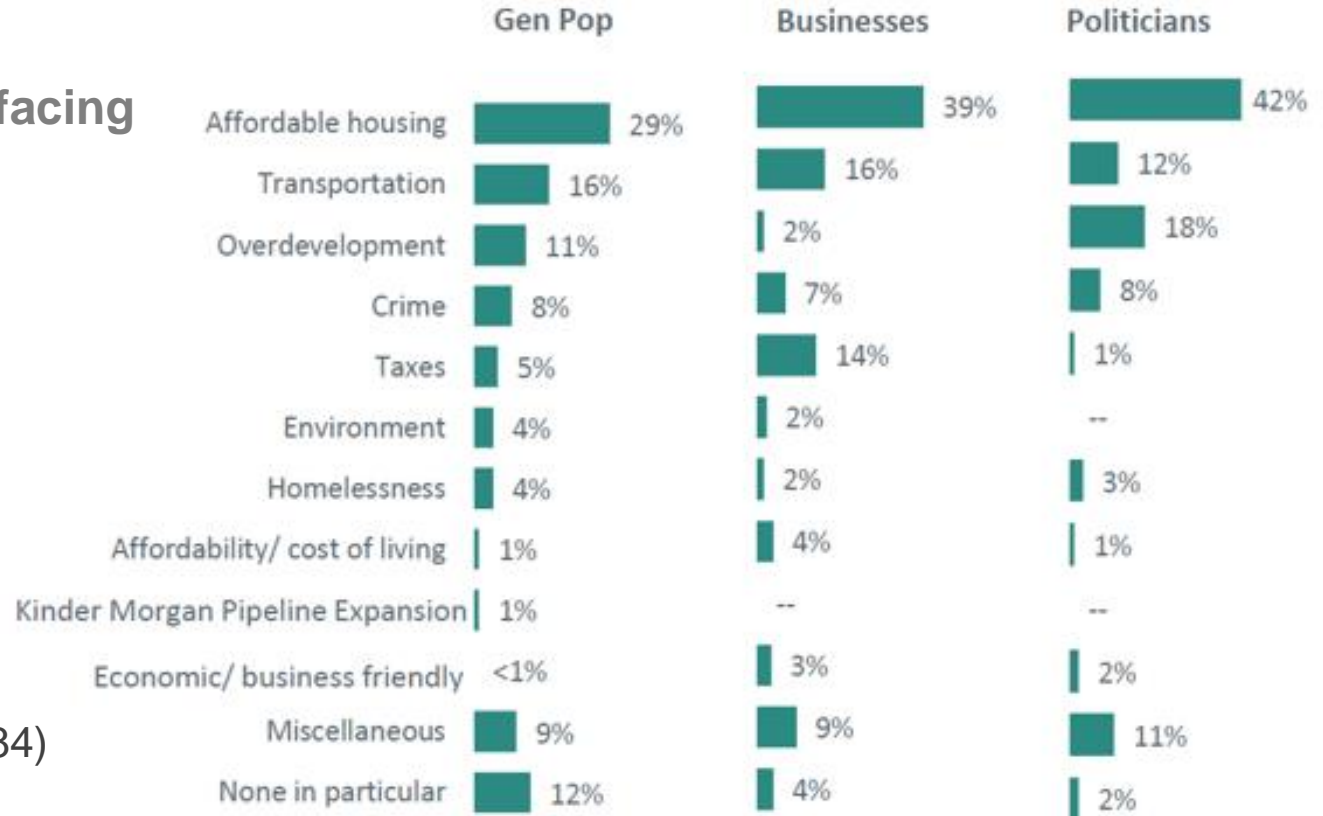
2018 METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPAL ELECTION SURVEY

VoteLocal Survey – Key Findings

SURVEY:

Most important issue facing your municipality

Gen pop (n=533)
Business community (n=184)
Politicians (n=93)



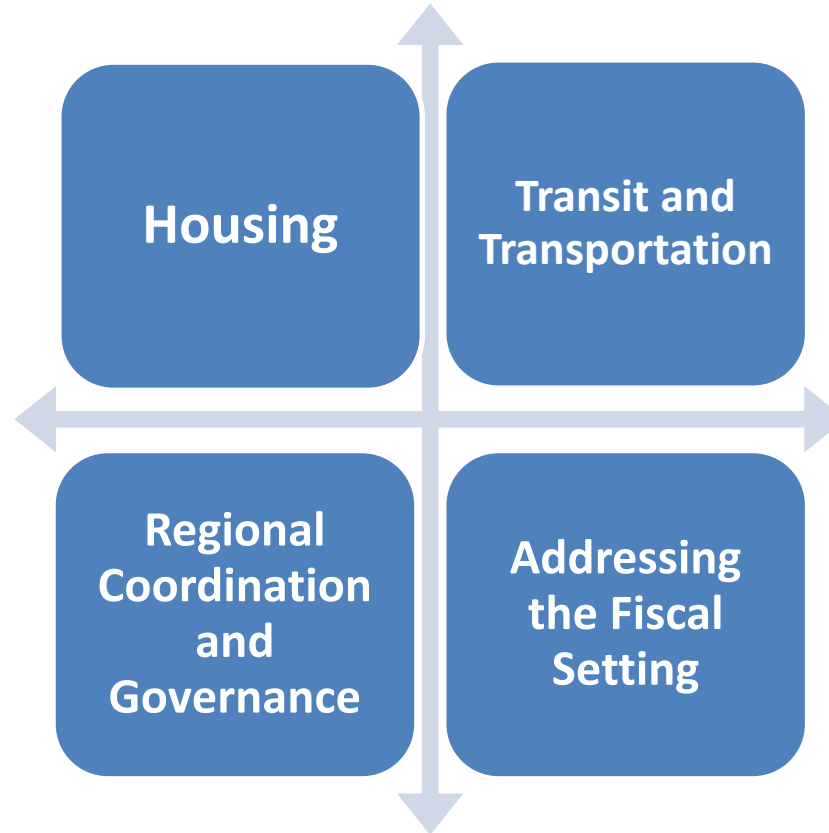
VoteLocal Survey – Key Findings

BUSINESSES: Top 3 priorities for municipal spending

1. Local road maintenance and traffic management
2. Planning and permitting to enable new development
3. Economic development

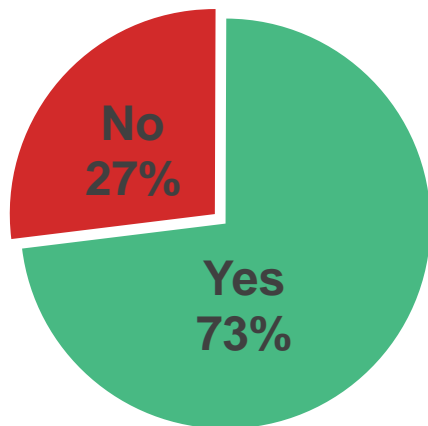
2018 Local Elections Handbook

FOUR CATEGORIES



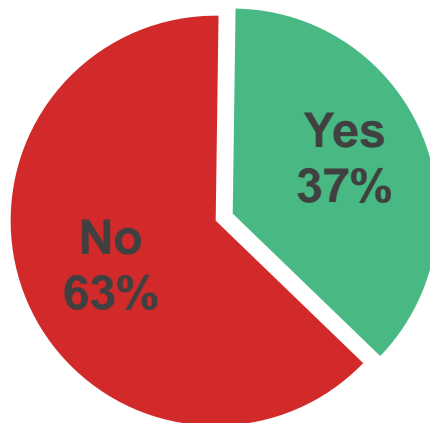
2018 Local Elections Handbook: Housing

SURVEY: Has your business' ability to recruit or retain employees been affected by the cost of housing?

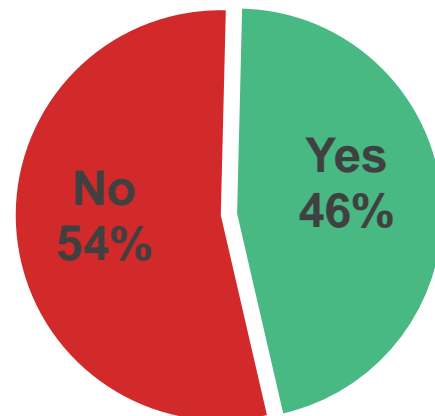


SURVEY: Have you recently considered moving away from the Metro Vancouver region due to quality of life or affordability concerns?

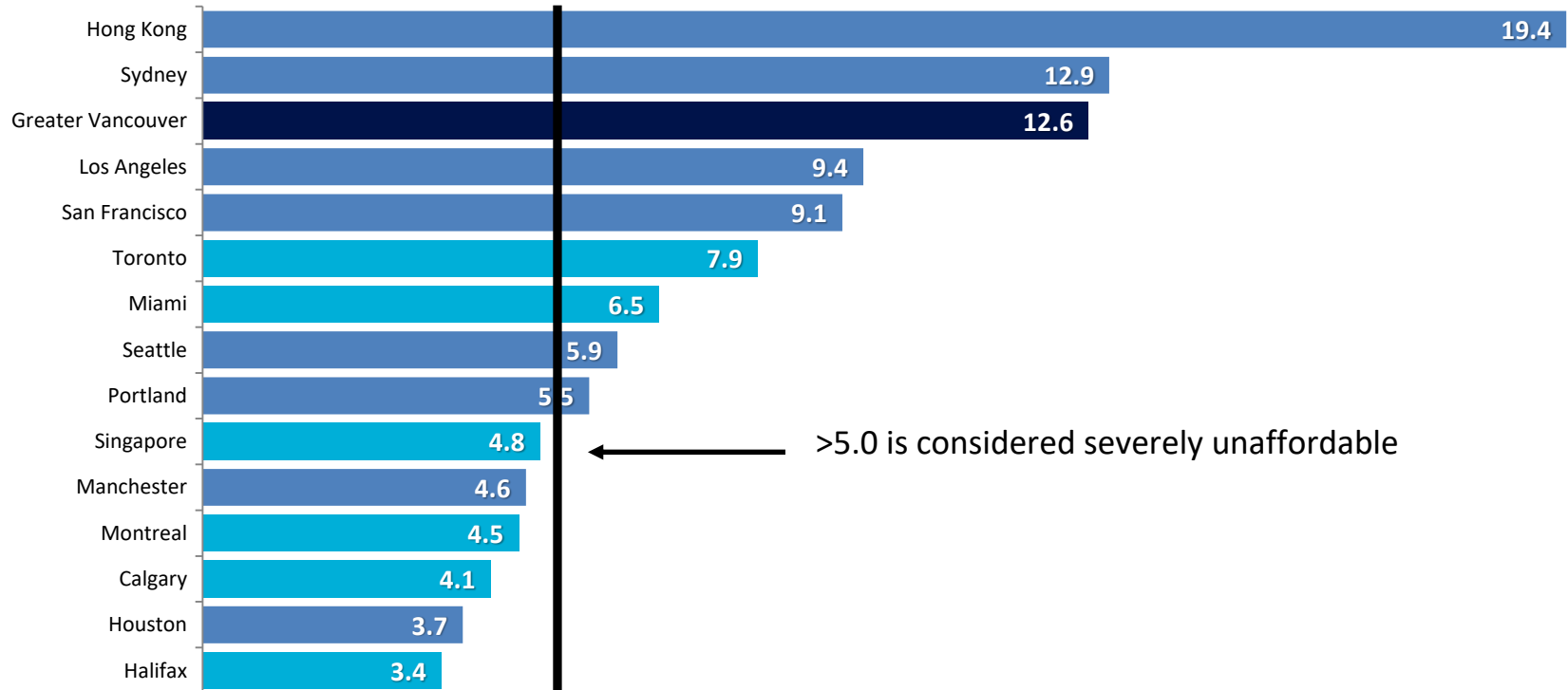
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General Population



2018 Local Elections Handbook: Housing



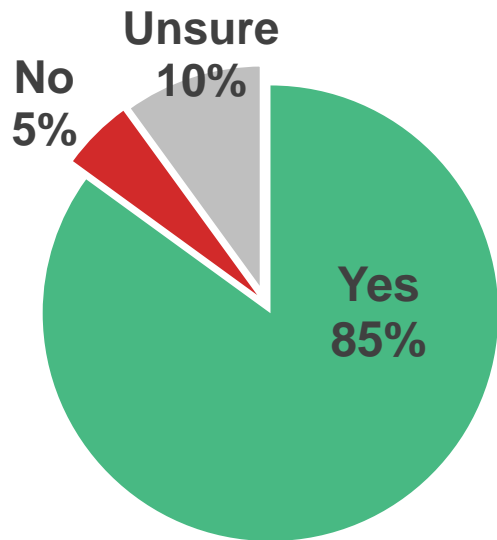
2018 Local Elections Handbook: Housing

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increasing **density** in metropolitan areas,
- Increasing **diversity** in housing stock (i.e. build a variety of housing types such as condos, town houses, lane way houses, etc.),
- Pre-zone **for transit oriented development**,
- **Reduce development timelines** through concurrent reviews of different stages.

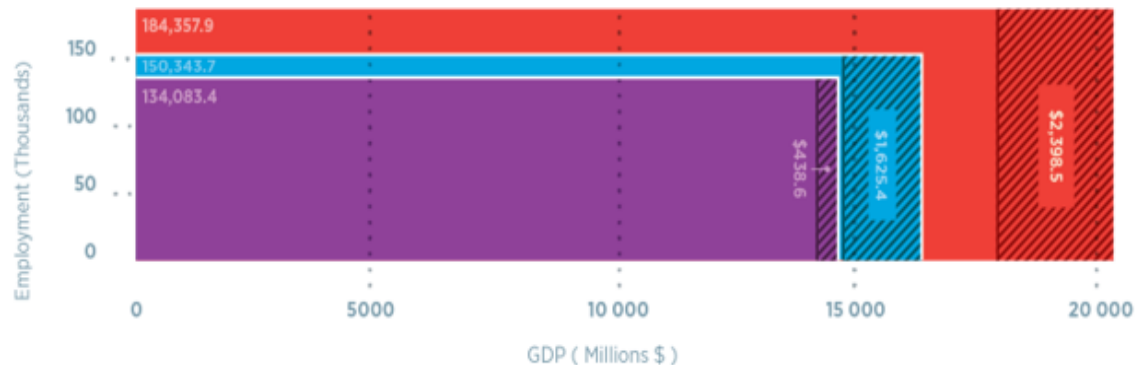
2018 Local Elections Handbook: Transit and Transportation

SURVEY: Should local governments work with the Provincial Government to allow ridesharing (e.g. Uber or Lyft)?



Economic Footprint of Greater Vancouver's Gateway

2016 | TOTAL REVENUE: \$19,750.4M



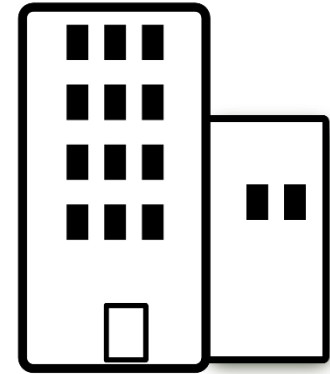
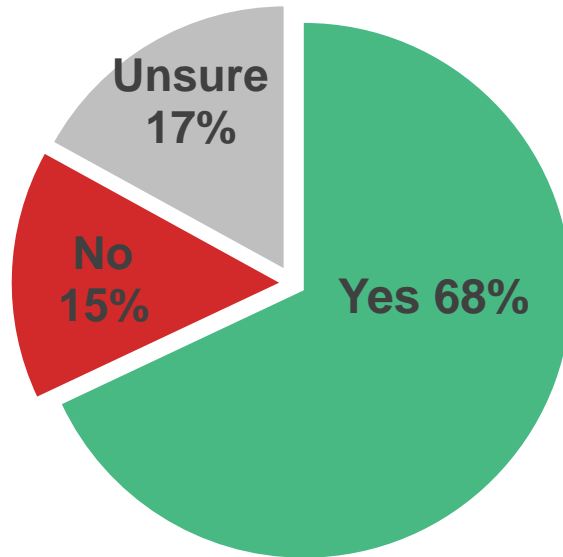
2018 Local Elections Handbook: Transit and Transportation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop and maintain necessary **gateway infrastructure**;
- Protect **industrial land**; and
- Develop a **region-wide land use strategy** with an inventory of industrial land.

2018 Local Elections Handbook: Regional Coordination and Governance

SURVEY: Do you support some degree of amalgamation of local government within the Greater Vancouver Region?



**Business Licenses
and Permitting**

2018 Local Elections Handbook: Regional Coordination and Governance

SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES

- Political borders of local governments rarely coincide with a region's economic or social boundaries:
 - often leads to a mismatch between where people pay taxes and where they benefit from local government services and infrastructure
- Fostering inter-municipal cooperation is difficult:
 - governments are reluctant to subsidize another municipality's services

2018 Local Elections Handbook: Regional Coordination and Governance

HIGH-LEVEL OBSERVATIONS (Economic Scorecard 2018)

- Two unique regional bodies:
 - Metro Vancouver
 - TransLink
- Regional issues clearly persist:
 - Housing affordability
 - Industrial land scarcity
 - Transportation
 - Policing
 - Economic development

2018 Local Elections Handbook: Regional Coordination and Governance

BEST PRACTICES (Economic Scorecard 2018)

If attempts of regional governance reform are made, they should reflect these best practices:

1. Voluntary to maintain focus and increase flexibility
2. Decentralized when appropriate to maintain local government autonomy and keep decision-making close to constituents
3. Private sector outsourcing and private-public partnerships, but only when there is sufficient competition
4. Higher levels of government act to support and augment collaboration and cooperation between municipalities

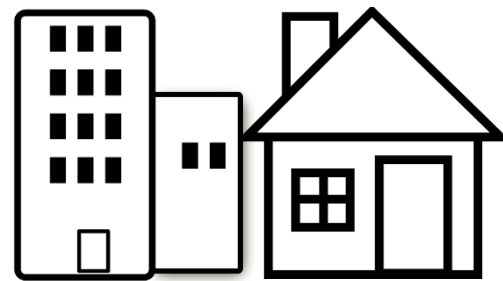
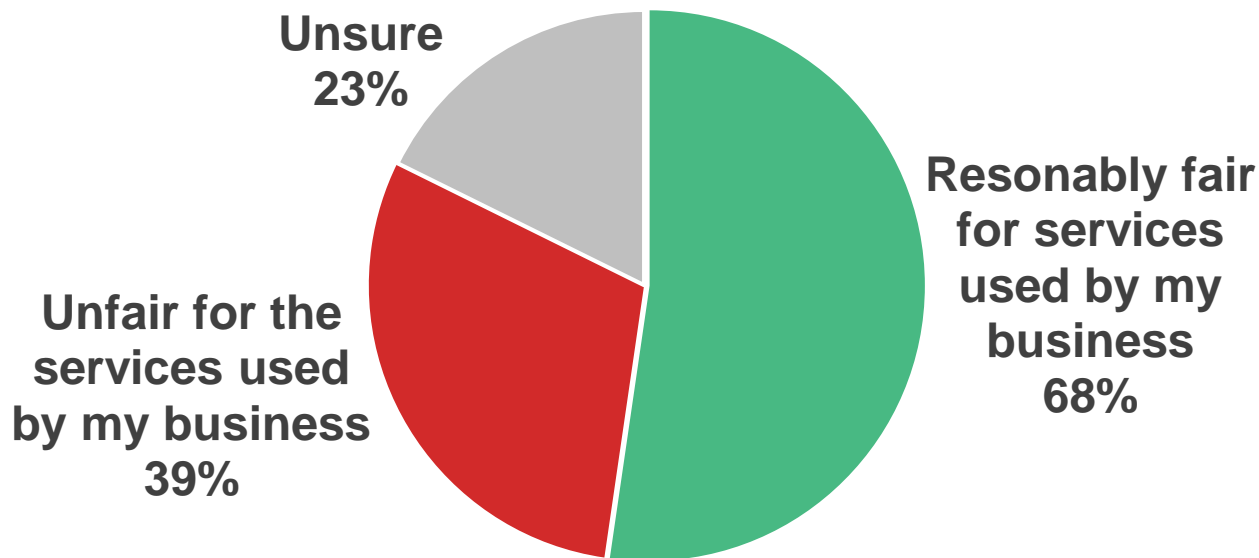
2018 Local Elections Handbook: **Regional Coordination and Governance**

IDEAS FOR REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT (Economic Scorecard 2018)

- Directly Elect Metro Vancouver's Board
- Centralize Economic Development and Investment Promotion
- Increase Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreements & Private-Sector Provision (e.g. fully implement mobile business licenses)

2018 Local Elections Handbook: Addressing the Fiscal Setting

SURVEY: How would you describe the local government tax burden for your business over the past four years



Commercial vs
Residential
Property Taxes

5:1

Event: Local Elections Candidate Briefing

- September 5, 2018
- Chambers from Greater Vancouver host mayoral and city councillor candidates
- Brief candidates on critical policy issues:
 - Housing affordability
 - Transit and Transportation
 - Human capital
 - Health care
 - Major economic drivers: Port & YVR





2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS DASHBOARD



Key Takeaways

- Municipal-level policy issues impact YOU.
- Key issues include: housing affordability, transportation, and quality of life
- Resources:
 - **2018 Local Election Handbook**: highlights key issues & provides recommendations
 - **GVBOT Dashboard**: get real-time access to local election news, updates & analyses ...and member blog posts!

Stay informed ... and VOTE on **October 20, 2018**





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