

1 Rosemary: My name is Rosemary Hagiwara, my pronouns
2 are she/her and I am the chief elections officer for
3 the city of Vancouver. Welcome and thank you for
4 joining us tonight.

5 Before we get started, I want to acknowledge
6 that the 2022 Vancouver election is taking place on
7 the traditional unceded ancestral and shared
8 territories of the Hunkumnum and Squamish speaking
9 peoples including the Musqueam Indian band, Squamish
10 nation and the Tsleil Waututh nation. These nations
11 have stewarded the lands since time immemorial.
12 Before we begin, a few housekeeping items this
13 session is being recorded and will be available at
14 Vancouver.ca/vote after this event.

15 We intend to keep our attendees anonymous. We
16 will not mention a name if you ask a question. Only
17 the organizers of this event will see the names.

18 You may view more accurate transcriptions
19 through the Stream Text link which is now in the
20 chat. Or you can also find it in the e-mail we sent
21 out today.

22 We also have registered American Sign Language
23 interpreters with us tonight. There's no need to
24 worry about being on mute as we have deactivated this
25 function.

1 If you have a question for the panelist or
2 guest speakers tonight, we will address them at the
3 end of the presentation.

4 Please click on the icon with Q&A on your
5 screen to leave your questions.

6 If you have technical questions or questions
7 for our organizers, please use the chat button.

8 The chat button will otherwise be deactivated
9 through communicating with others to minimize
10 disruptions during the presentation. You may also use
11 the closed captioning feature available on your
12 screen.

13 This is our plan today. This is the first of
14 four sessions and we will cover other topics about
15 becoming a candidate in other sessions. My colleagues
16 Cheryl Chan from the Vancouver Art Board as well as
17 David Green from the Vancouver School Board will be
18 presenting with me tonight.

19 Dr. Joy Masuhara and Trudi Goels of Women
20 Transforming Cities and Professor Gerald Baier of
21 UBC Studies of Democratic Institutions will be
22 joining us later as our special guests.

23 Let us get started with an overview of the role
24 of an elected official.

25 What are your duties as an elected official?

1 Some examples are-- spending a considerable
2 amount of time connecting with citizens. Listening to
3 their comments and concerns. You'll need to commit to
4 understand existing policies. And programs or
5 potential impacts of policies and programs before
6 making decisions. You need to be proactive in working
7 and finding collective solutions with other officials
8 and partners in other government agencies.

9 You expect to make decisions around budget and
10 to create more housing in the city. And while doing
11 the job you are bound by the rules and policies in
12 how you exercise your authority as an elected
13 official we will discuss this in greater detail in a
14 future session.

15 I will spend a few minutes now on focusing what
16 the city is responsible for before I turn it over to
17 the other panelists. The city of Vancouver is
18 responsible for providing access to local roads.
19 Maintaining sidewalks.

20 Street lights, cemeteries, collecting garbage,
21 providing residents access to water. Approving
22 changes to zonings and developments. Approving
23 building permits. Regulating businesses.

24 Providing funding to the police department and
25 libraries.

1 As an elected official, you'll be expected to
2 make decisions on behalf of the community and address
3 issues in all areas in the city.

4 Different elective official positions support
5 in different ways. So let's explore.

6 Council is made up of one mayor and ten
7 councillors. The role of council is but not limited
8 to setting strategic direction such as the Vancouver
9 plan. Future cells.

10 And adapting policies to enable more housing.
11 Adopting city's financial plans through a setting
12 property tax rate to fund services and programs.

13 And allocating resource services competing
14 capital projects and either priorities.

15 Some examples of programs include allocating
16 programs to non-profit groups or business improvement
17 areas such as commercial drive, Camby Village,
18 Hastings North. And creating public plazas to allow
19 liquor consumption.

20 The role of the mayor has additional
21 responsibilities. That includes chairing council
22 meetings and public hearings. Maintaining the order
23 and facilitate debates in meetings.

24 Ensuring that the meeting rules are followed
25 and encourage expression of differing viewpoints. The

1 mayor also chairs the police board and represents
2 council when meeting with dignitaries, First Nations,
3 provincial and federal governments.

4 The mayor communicates primarily with the city
5 manager also known as chief administrative officer.

6 We will now hear from the park board. Cheryl
7 Chan, pronouns are she/her, has been at the park
8 board since 2013. In her role she has been
9 responsible for providing procedural,
10 intergovernmental protocol and organizational support
11 and guidance to three different terms over that time.
12 Her team coordinates and delivers all meetings,
13 briefings, workshops. Riding office and
14 administrative support to commissioners. Her team
15 also manages and responds to public inquiries,
16 maintains and tracks official park decisions, and
17 assists commissioners with event invitations and
18 special guests.

19 Cheryl?

20 Cheryl: Thank you, Rosemary. I'm pleased to be joining
21 you from the traditional territories of the Musqueam,
22 Squamish and tooth coast Salish peoples where I am
23 honoured to live, work and play. I'm going to provide
24 you with a bit of an overview of the park board. It
25 is responsible for over 240 public parks in the city

1 of Vancouver. With exclusive jurisdiction and control
2 over those designated as permanent or temporary
3 parks. And the park board also manages all other
4 parks under the care and custody of the park board as
5 determined by council.

6 It's an extensive system of pools, rinks,
7 fitness centres, beaches, golf courses. Marinas,
8 sports fields and much more. You may have seen our
9 diverse horticultural display, community gardens,
10 destination attractions such as Van Dusen Garden and
11 Stanley Park and Vancouver's lush urban forests
12 including the street trees which our park board urban
13 staff maintain. Next slide please.

14 Protecting environmental biodiversity is one of
15 the key responsibilities of the park board. Along
16 with promoting resilience and park stewardship.

17 The park board also supports special events.
18 Fosters stakeholder and community partnerships. A lot
19 of the park board services are provided through
20 integral stakeholder and community relationships. The
21 park board also provides-- preserves and advocates
22 parks and recreation services to benefit all people,
23 communities and the environment. Next slide.

24 The park board itself is comprised of seven
25 park board commissioners. And those commissioners are

1 responsible for enacting bylaws for the control,
2 regulation, protection and government of parks and
3 the activities that occur in those parks.

4 They approve strategic policy, they set the
5 vision and service levels that guide parks and
6 recreation services and programs.

7 They represent the board on council and park
8 board advisory bodies in liaison roles.

9 They engage with the community acting as their
10 voice to ensure that Vancouver's parks and recreation
11 services remain accessible and sustainable.

12 Next slide please? And that's my cue to hand it
13 over to David.

14 To introduce the Vancouver School Board
15 section.

16 Rosemary: Thank you Cheryl. This is Rosemary.
17 We will now hear from the Vancouver school board.

18 David Green's pronouns he/him has been the
19 Secretary Treasurer in the kindergarten to grade 12
20 provincial education program for almost 20 years and
21 the Secretary Treasurer of the Vancouver school
22 districts in September 2017.

23 He has been chief election officer for seven
24 previous trustee elections and one trustee
25 by-election. He is interested in emphasizing the

1 government's role of board of education and
2 candidates seeking the office of trustee and the
3 separation of that role from the operation role of
4 district staff.

5 Thank you for joining us today, David.

6 David: Thank you, Rosemary. I'm pleased to be
7 speaking to you tonight from the traditional unceded
8 lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh
9 nations. Just want to give some background about the
10 Vancouver school board. Probably one of the most
11 diverse public school systems in Canada. We have
12 approximately 50,000 students.

13 Grades kindergarten to grade 12. And we are
14 responsible for providing educational services.

15 To students in about 110 elementary and
16 Secondary schools. We also have adult education
17 program.

18 And we also provide distance learning
19 opportunities for students.

20 Who wish to learn online. And of course we have
21 international students from several different
22 countries.

23 Next slide please.

1 So the board of education is comprised of nine
2 elected trustees. It's an independent body from city
3 council.

4 It's incorporated under the school act as a
5 separate corporation. The board has some very
6 important responsibilities. The primary one being the
7 improvement of student achievement in the district.
8 We are responsible for providing quality education
9 services to schools in the city but also in the
10 university endowment lands. You will find if you run
11 for school board, you will find that the city of
12 Vancouver actually runs the election for the school
13 district. But the people who live in the endowment
14 lands and UBC lands are actually allowed to vote in
15 the trustees. But not for councillors. We're
16 also-- trustees also will represent the school
17 district at various provincial associations. The BC
18 School Trustees Association. The BC Public School
19 Employers Association.

20 And most importantly, there's a governance role
21 as mentioned that we set education policy that we
22 collect what the community desires to see in the
23 education plan that we have. And also consistent with
24 provincial guidelines. The basic structure that is we
25 have there is only one employee of the school board

1 and that's the super intendant of the schools, and
2 all the others report to the super intendant. So
3 Rosemary mentioned about the governance the
4 separation,

5 The board is responsible to the governance
6 function to the super intendant who will provide
7 direction to staff on the operational side. Next
8 slide, please.

9 Rosemary: Thank you David. That would be back
10 to me now.

11 And we will turn back to the city.

12 And speak briefly about roles and city
13 departments.

14 City manager and the Parkwood general manager
15 are hired by the elected officials. They work closely
16 with elected officials to provide them with advice.

17 They give direction to staff who are in turn
18 responsible for implementing decisions of council or
19 the board. This is another slide reporting structure
20 at the city. The city manager reporting to council
21 and departments reporting to the city manager. A
22 future session will cover more detail on the city
23 departments particularly on the priorities and
24 mandates.

1 And just wanted to highlight the Vancouver
2 board and structure that's highlighted in a different
3 colour.

4 Both funding to operate libraries in the police
5 department approved by council. The elections of the
6 board members are independent of council and governed
7 under the library act and the police act
8 respectively.

9 As for the board and parks recreation, council also
10 approves the budget and the city runs the election of
11 park board commissioners.

12 So what happens after the election? Once elected, we
13 will contact you with an overview of what you can
14 expect over the next few weeks after the election.

15 After you are sworn in at the inauguration ceremony,
16 you will be expected to attend orientation sessions
17 to review your role and authority as an elected
18 official. Review rules for council meetings and
19 public hearings.

20 You will attend training sessions where mock
21 council meetings will be set up. Attend information
22 session on the priorities and mandates of each
23 department over the next few months.

24 Please know that you are not expected to be an
25 expert in the areas of the city but rather to

1 represent the areas of the city. You will be provided
2 with information at the orientation sessions so you
3 can make the decisions at meetings.

4 What support is available for you once you are
5 settled into your new role? The mayor will have their
6 own team of political staff typically around 3 to 6
7 staff in addition to support staff provided by the
8 city. Councils will share one support staff for every
9 two councillors. To assist with administrative
10 functions of the role. Now I will invite Cheryl Chan
11 back.

12 Cheryl: Hi there, similar to city council,
13 there is support available for park board
14 commissioners as well and there is no expectation
15 that commissioners are experts in the field of parks
16 and recreation.

17 There is a general manager's office, the
18 general manager is hired by the board, park board
19 commissioners and it provides strategic consultation,
20 communications support and any other advice as
21 required.

22 The board relations office which I manage then
23 also supports the GM's office. We're embedded in the
24 GM's office and provide procedures and protocols to
25 facilitate the liaison relationship,

1 intergovernmental communications. And as well any
2 other support that the commissioners may need. We
3 facilitate the orientation sessions and site visits
4 that all new candidates will be asked to participate
5 in to learn a little bit more about parks and
6 recreation. And we will provide an information packet
7 of park board along with city departments and
8 reference materials to help you with that
9 orientation. And we do provide administration support
10 as needed. So assisting and scheduling meetings,
11 coordinating events, invitations, managing inquiries,
12 and there's lots of public inquiries. Park board is
13 very public facing.

14 And assisting with meeting preparation and any
15 motions in research that may go along with that.

16 And on that, I believe I will hand it over to
17 David on the next slide.

18 David: Thank you Cheryl, I mentioned earlier that the
19 super intendant is the only employee of the board of
20 education.

21 And the board chair and the super intendant
22 will always have a close relationship.

23 The connection between the board and the school
24 district is through the super intendant, but the
25 supports that are available to trustees come to my

1 office with respect to certain procedures and
2 protocols.

3 We will also organize orientation sessions
4 after the election in the fall. Throughout the term
5 of the four-year term of the board. There will be
6 regular trustee workshops.

7 That we will provide information to the board
8 members.

9 Current developments and ongoing matters that
10 impact the district.

11 We also provide information updates of all the
12 different departments and school-based events.

13 Media response is always through the board
14 chair and is coordinated through our communications
15 department. So we have a four-member communications
16 team, in my office I have three assistants who help
17 me organize the work of the trustees and arrangement
18 meetings and set up that sort of thing.

19 So the administrative support is quite strong
20 from my perspective and I'm happy now to pass it back
21 to Rosemary, I believe.

22 Rosemary: Thank you David.

23 Now that you know more about the functions of
24 the city and the park board and the school board.
25 Let's talk about why you should become a candidate.

1 So why would you consider becoming a candidate
2 in the upcoming election? Not only is it rewarding
3 but you can make a difference in representing the
4 residents of the city. You can be a voice at the
5 table to help resolve the many issues that the city
6 is facing.

7 But despite the challenges of making stuff
8 decisions and managing work life balance, it is
9 really a rewarding role.

10 And you will hear more from our guest speakers
11 on this later. Considering this job you will need to
12 be realistic about what is expected of you.

13 For elected positions on council you will spend
14 a minimum of 4 to 6 hours in reviewing meeting agenda
15 packages prior to attending meetings. Expect to
16 attend many community events in addition to those
17 council meetings.

18 Because you represent the whole city, remember
19 you are elected in a large electoral system, you are
20 expected to be available to all residents. This is a
21 full-time job and it will be difficult to juggle
22 another full-time or part-time job.

23 In smaller municipalities, it makes sense for
24 this role to be part-time job. But as you can see
25 later on, not in Vancouver.

1 I'm sure some of you have attended council
2 meetings and they could be long. This is the reality
3 of what you can expect in terms of time commitment.

4 As you can see, you will be spending many hours
5 in meetings.

6 For council and corporate commissioners the
7 number of hours exclude meetings as council appointed
8 liaison to advisor committee meetings. External
9 organizations such as metro Vancouver union of BC
10 municipalities. There's also workshops and briefings
11 to be attending during the week.

12 And for school trustees, the numbers exclude
13 community meetings in a bookshops. These would be
14 approximately an average of 55 meetings or 110 hours
15 per year.

16 As mentioned before, expect a high volume of
17 learning and reading in preparation for meetings. You
18 will attend council meetings and public hearings that
19 occur every two weeks.

20 Sometimes they extend to the following week
21 which means meetings are happening every week.

22 Meetings held in the mornings very often until
23 late at night.

1 Numerous community events that you will be
2 invited to and you will be obligated to attend them.
3 I'm going to invite Cheryl back to speak.

4 Cheryl: Thanks Rosemary. For park board
5 commissioners, there is also a pretty extensive time
6 commitment.

7 Not as much as it is for council. On average
8 most park board meetings are held in the evenings on
9 Monday evenings.

10 But they can also when necessary be scheduled
11 on other evenings. They are generally every two to
12 three weeks and so on average over the course of the
13 year that can range from 10 to 30 hours per week as a
14 commitment for just attending the board and committee
15 meetings and preparing for those meetings. In
16 addition to that other staff briefings, board
17 workshops to ensure that commissioners are kept well
18 informed of especially detailed projects. And then
19 they also will be asked to attend advisory committee,
20 community association and park stake holder meetings
21 as the appointed park board liaison. And those hours
22 can vary greatly. Depending on the number of
23 meetings, the particular group and the amount of time
24 or the amount of time at each meeting that
25 commissioners choose to attend.

1 Participating in community engagement
2 activities is one of the great parts of being the
3 park board commissioner, but that also requires a
4 time commitment. And then as well there's responding
5 to media and a high, high volume of public inquiries.
6 But there is staff to assist with that.

7 And so passing the next slide over to David.
8 David: Thank you, Cheryl. So school board trustees are
9 expected on average to work about 20 to 25 hours a
10 week. And that's meant to appear for an attend board
11 and committee meetings. But we generally operate ten
12 months of the year. We don't generally have meetings
13 in July and August. So we meet during the school year
14 itself. We also-- trustees are also responsible for
15 attending community meetings representing the board.
16 And like I've said earlier, sometimes for
17 association-- provincial association meetings. We
18 also have a very good connection with the city.
19 Trustees, individual trustees will sit at advisory
20 committees with the city. And report out at board
21 meetings as to the activities that go on in those
22 meetings. So we have a good connection with the city.
23 And the meetings that take place throughout the year
24 are-- they are live broadcast. On YouTube channel.
25 And we-- now that we're getting back into in-person

1 meetings again, I expect by the time the next board
2 is in office, we will be doing all of our meetings in
3 person I suspect.

4 Back to you Rosemary.

5 Rosemary: Thank you Cheryl and David. I would now like
6 to introduce our guest speakers. From Women
7 Transforming Cities, joining us today we have Dr. Joy
8 Masuhara and Trudi Goels and from the centre for
9 study of democratic institutions, school of public
10 policy and global affairs University of British
11 Columbia joining us professor Gerald Baier. Dr. Joy
12 Masuhara pronouns she/her is the co-chair of Women
13 Transforming Cities international society. Is a
14 family physician and has been engaged in equity
15 inclusion work for many years. WTC along with
16 Canadian research institutes for the advancement of
17 women completed a three year project actions to
18 barriers of womens' participation in local government
19 in 2020. Trudi Goels pronouns she/her is the other
20 co-chair of Women Transforming Cities. A long-time
21 fan of municipal politics Trudi has worked on
22 campaigns and been an advocate and one of the
23 cofounders of the feminist campaign school. Currently
24 she is part of a coalition to bring in an ethics

1 commissioner to create a path of safety for elected
2 officials.

3 Professor Gerald Baiers pronouns he/him is an
4 associate professor of political science at UBC where
5 he teaches and conducts research in the field of
6 Canadian federalism, parliamentary government and the
7 constitution. Along with Professor Maxwell Cameron he
8 created the institute for legislators at UBC which
9 has strained over 500 aspiring politicians since
10 2013. I now invite Joy to present.

11 Joy: Thank you Rosemary. I'm coming from the unceded
12 the ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish
13 and Tsleil Waututh peoples and I would like to say
14 hello to all of you and thank you to the city of
15 Vancouver for organizing this session.

16 And asking Trudi and I to speak tonight. And I
17 just want to say that I applaud you all for being
18 here for even considering running for public office.
19 I wish you all well on this journey. There is so much
20 to be done to help our city thrive and be a place of
21 safety and well being for everyone.

22 So thank you for all your interest and efforts.
23 So Women Transforming Cities is a charitable
24 organization that was founded by former Vancouver
25 city councillor Ellen Woodsworth and women

1 transforming cities works to dismantle intersecting
2 systems of oppression with equity seeking genders and
3 movements to transform where we live into places
4 where everyone can belong, participate and have
5 social economic and political equity. So we do this
6 in many ways and a few years ago we collaborated with
7 the Canadian Research Institute for the advancement
8 of women on a three-year project. Looking at barriers
9 to womens' participation in local government. With a
10 focus on the cities of Surrey and Vancouver.

11 In 2020, we did an informal look. Basically
12 just using publicly-available information so it
13 wasn't a scientific rigorous examination. We did this
14 to determine the gender diversity and other diversity
15 amongst mayors and council members in metro
16 Vancouver. Of the 16 largest communities, 13 of the
17 mayors are men. Three are women, all are white.

18 Of the 110 city councillors, 53 or 48% are
19 women.

20 So there seems to be gender parody and I
21 apologize keeping this to a binary but there were
22 limitations on the information we could obtain
23 publicly. 13 of those 110, so 12% are non-white. Less
24 than half of the non-white councillors are women. So
25 we can see that the local governments do not fully

1 reflect the population. We know that metro Vancouver
2 has one of the highest proportion of multicultural
3 communities in the world. Living here with racialized
4 folk being about 50% of the community from census
5 data. This is not reflected in our municipal
6 governments. So in our project, we looked at what
7 some of the barriers were for diverse women. We did a
8 literature review and conducted interviews with many
9 diverse women who had run for office. Some
10 successfully and some not. So these are some of the
11 barriers and I'll just go through them one by one. We
12 know they are not unique to women. But we do know
13 there is a disproportionate affect on women and more
14 often more so for diverse women. So first barrier,
15 finances. Costs money to run a campaign. There's
16 still a gender pay gap in Canada. And the world.

17 And the gap widens if you are racialized. Women
18 and racialized women generally have fewer financial
19 resources.

20 So this becomes a barrier.

21 Number two, unpaid work. Despite some changes
22 and progress, women still do more child care, elder
23 care and household management than men.

24 This adds more pressure in terms of time
25 management and work life balance. Number three,

1 societal expectations and stereotypes for women.
2 Women are not expected to be leaders and face the
3 known situation. As if they are too bold for example,
4 taking on characteristics than when seen men are
5 positives, this is a negative. At the same time if
6 they are too timid or ladylike, they are seen as less
7 capable. And this can often be worse for diverse
8 women with additional stereotypes.

9 So we heard stories of diverse candidates not
10 being supported by some of their own cultural
11 communities. Even though they may be in the first
12 person from that community to ever get elected to
13 office because the expectation was for the woman to
14 be working in the home.

15 Number four, racism, tokenism and misogyny. So
16 I won't comment too much on these. So they are all
17 fairly self-evident. Women candidates are portrayed
18 by the media often the portrayal is focused on what
19 the candidate is wearing rather than what they are
20 saying. Sexist and racist attacks in the political
21 environment and particularly now with social media
22 can undermine and deter women for entering or
23 remaining in public office. And number five, the
24 electoral system itself.

1 The electoral system of first pass the post
2 favours incumbents. So again, in particular diverse
3 women have a disadvantage. So ward systems and
4 proportional representation are felt to improve this.
5 But we are not going to have that for this upcoming
6 election. So these are some of the findings from our
7 project. And I hope I haven't been too discouraging.
8 I know, listen to Rosemary she says it's very
9 rewarding. So luckily, I am able to pass over to
10 Trudi who will discuss things that can be down reduce
11 some of these barriers as well as just some practical
12 tips for all of you for your campaign. So thank you
13 and I'll pass it over to Trudi.

14 Trudi: Hi everyone. Thanks Joy. Thank you for
15 laying out all of those barriers because that is a
16 great place for us to start from. I want to echo what
17 Joy say thank you everyone for everyone who is here
18 who is thinking about running or has decided to run
19 or maybe you're here because you want to support a
20 candidate. All of those are really good reasons to
21 get involved this year. And be involved in this
22 election. We've deserved to have elected officials
23 who reflect our communities. And the more diversity
24 we can bring to our elected table the richer
25 communities are going to be. So thinking about-- Joy

1 has given me the nicer job of talking about how to
2 overcome some of these barriers or how to address
3 some of them. And I'm going to start by naming a few
4 of the ones that she just talked about. And how we
5 can actually challenge them. So we know that our
6 electoral system and the way that we campaign is
7 designed specifically for white men.

8 And even more for able bodied white men. And
9 this is a barrier for a lot of people to be able to
10 participate. Campaigning itself is very ableist. It
11 is very challenging to go out and door knock when you
12 are not physically able to. Or attend a town hall
13 meeting if you are neurodivergent. These are ways
14 that you might find we are coming into this space.
15 And we can talk about ways to campaign that work for
16 you specifically.

17 So there are some legal obligations to being a
18 candidate and the mayor laid out very clearly on the
19 elections BC website. Which also has an e-mail
20 address and a 1-800 number on there. Those are the
21 laws that you are required to follow around financial
22 obligations. For filing, how you apply, who can make
23 donations to your campaign and such. But outside of
24 that, have a lot of wiggle room as to how you're
25 actually going to campaign. One of the barriers that

1 we found in this research that we did earlier was the
2 amount of unpaid work of women especially but also
3 just want to say folks who come from marginalized
4 homes whether it is the fact that you have to work
5 two jobs in order to support the family, you may do
6 more caregiving duties in the home. You may work a
7 job that isn't 9 to 5 Monday to Friday that wouldn't
8 leave you with evenings and weekends to campaign in.
9 So we need to think about other ways that folks can
10 engage besides the traditional ways of actually
11 getting out. And some of that there's sort of an
12 over-arching thought that I would like you to
13 consider around this. And it's how you create a
14 campaign team. Being able to work with folks that you
15 trust and who can come and support you in a myriad of
16 ways to create a really viable campaign for you is
17 really important. There are the same tools and basic
18 strategies that work for everyone which is identify
19 who is going to vote for you and then get them out on
20 election day to vote for you. But how you go about
21 actually doing that doesn't need to be the way it's
22 always been done. So rather than bringing only
23 experts or people that you might consider an expert
24 into your campaign, you might want to bring in two or
25 three people who want to learn and can work together.

1 You may want to consider having a group of people who
2 support you at home. Maybe they come in and help you
3 do laundry and meals and child care so you can spend
4 more time talking to voters. You may want to bring in
5 people to address things like the financial barrier
6 that women and other folks of gender often face in
7 campaigns.

8 Some of it's really cultural. It's not the same
9 in every culture to go out and ask for donations.

10 And we don't address this in our campaigns. So
11 how do we address this so that you can go out and be
12 successful in raising enough money in order to run a
13 successful campaign? And that might be bringing in
14 other folks who can do your fundraising for you.

15 It might be looking at different strategies to
16 go outside of your community. It might be some
17 education and opportunity for your family or your
18 community to support you in other ways.

19 And I find out your financial contributions
20 come from somewhere else. They are all barriers that
21 we need to be thoughtful about and ways that we're
22 going to address them. And there are strategies that
23 we can address them together with. One of the other
24 big pieces that I think that we don't talk enough
25 about is how we campaign is a lot about how we're

1 going to lead once we're elected. So if you think
2 about the kind of person you want to be when you're
3 elected. That you want perhaps to be working with
4 communities to create great solutions to the problems
5 that our cities are facing? Be that person in your
6 campaign. Bring those communities together while
7 you're campaigning. Bring them together before you
8 start campaigning. Work in community with folks so
9 that you are truly representing the folks that you
10 are going to serve. As opposed to what we seem to
11 perceive as an individual leadership style. Where
12 there's one person who stands away and picks up the
13 phone and makes a phone call and consults
14 occasionally. As opposed to is really in the
15 community and working with people. We have this great
16 opportunity to be able to shift that way of working.
17 We've seen it successfully done in other communities.
18 We've seen other folks who are not white, who are
19 queer, disabled, who are a variety of genders who
20 have been elected because they choose to do things
21 differently and they are bringing a real richness to
22 our communities. And solving problems in ways that
23 really matter. One of the last things that I would
24 like you to think about as you are going into this is
25 that you get to make a lot of choices in your

1 campaign. And we like you to make intentional
2 choices. I say this because we have a tendency to
3 default to what we've seen and think to be true. One
4 of the great examples that I like to talk about is
5 the idea that we all need to be loud, bold speakers
6 when we come out in public. Not everybody is like
7 this.

8 Some are quite soft spoken for instance. And
9 rather than having somebody practice and learn to be
10 louder, maybe we learn to use technology better. So
11 we bring microphones closer to our mouths so we can
12 speak in a way that's comfortable and genuine to us.
13 So we don't need to show up like somebody else in our
14 campaign but we can truly be ourselves when we come
15 out on the campaign trail and the voters get to know
16 us and they elect the people they want to elect.
17 Thanks.

18 Rosemary: Thank you Trudi. I think now we are
19 passing it to Professor Baier?

20 Gerry: That's okay with me if that's okay with you.

21 Thanks everyone. I will also acknowledge where I am
22 is on the unceded and traditional territories of the
23 Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh nations. Very
24 grateful for this opportunity to participate with you
25 today. I will also echo what I heard from a couple of

1 other presenters. Just super excited by the chance to
2 engage with folks who are interested in running for
3 office. When Max Cameron and the centre study for
4 democratic institutions-- when we put together the
5 institute for future legislators it was for exactly
6 that purpose. That there are barriers for a lot of
7 people who want to try and run for office. One of
8 them is an information barrier. And we thought our
9 role could be to help overcome some of that. But
10 we've also learned that when you give people that
11 information, give them that opportunity to start to
12 think about running for office, we can see real
13 transformation in the way those institutions
14 themselves work. More collaboratively and more
15 deliberatively when people have a better idea of the
16 opportunities there. And when there's a more diverse
17 group of folks participating in those institutions.
18 So the people with the foot already in the door
19 aren't attending candidate 101 sessions. So I applaud
20 those of you who are for trying to take that step to
21 find out more.

22 To learn and get that opportunity for office.
23 One of the things that I think is important to
24 emphasize for a group like this, who are probably
25 raised mostly on national and maybe provincial

1 politics if you pay active attention to what's going
2 on in the world around you, is how differently
3 municipal government works from the provincial or the
4 federal government. You got a hint of that of course
5 from the presentations from Rosemary and David and
6 Cheryl. There are some division of functions and
7 separate boards for school for parks and for the city
8 as a whole. And obviously subject matters the city
9 deals with exclusively and other things are left to
10 the provinces and to the federal government. But one
11 of the unique things is how even though city councils
12 make laws, we call them bylaws but they're laws. And
13 the fact that the city council governs actively
14 executively runs a multibillion dollar in the case of
15 Vancouver organization, we don't have the executive
16 and the parliamentary systems that we would see at
17 the provincial and the federal level. That means
18 there isn't an equivalent of the Prime Minister or
19 the Premier at the municipal level. The mayor is very
20 much a first among equals in the council because the
21 mayor only has one vote in council. Just like every
22 other councillor does. The mayor is not the chief
23 executive of the city.

1 Not the exclusive provider of advice to the
2 city manager. Those things are real important
3 structural differences.

4 Between municipal politics. In addition to the
5 kind of substance or subject matter or differences
6 those municipalities have and Vancouver works with.
7 So there are two separate functions that you can
8 think about if you are thinking about being a city
9 councillor or park board trustee or school trustee.
10 That is the law-making side of the job and the
11 executive side of the job, that you're providing
12 executive directives to the staff or the park boards
13 that run the city and that is a collective function
14 that has to be worked out between a group of people
15 who don't always agree about everything, right? So
16 Rosemary showed us the number of hours that
17 councillors have been spending in meetings. Both at
18 all three of these forums that we're talking about
19 today. And they are relatively high. Higher than they
20 sometimes normally are right now because we don't
21 have a city council in particular in Vancouver that
22 is dominated by a single party. And so there's much
23 more hesitation to approve the kinds of initiatives
24 that one member or other of council might bring to
25 that collective decision-making body. So that's a

1 challenge. That means you have to learn to work
2 together with fellow councillors and fellow trustees
3 to be able to do that at the local level here in
4 British Columbia. Particularly here in Vancouver.
5 Parties do exist for that purpose. To try and make
6 that coordination a little bit easier. But there's a
7 fractioning of that system right now too. So there
8 isn't just two clear alternatives. There are multiple
9 alternatives and they can all get elected. Some
10 independently then have to work through that
11 challenge of diverse opinions that come on council.
12

13 There was a great notice in one of the slides
14 earlier that policy work takes time. And making big
15 changes takes time. A lot of people run for office
16 because they are motivated by great ideas about what
17 should be done differently in the way that the city
18 or the province or the country works. They may have
19 very specific ideas. May be motivated by something
20 very particular to their neighbourhood, their
21 community, their cultural community or an interest
22 based on schools or parks and so on. And making that
23 kind of change requires assembling allies. Making
24 sure that's something the whole community wants. And
25 getting through some of the institutional constraints

1 that collective decision making bodies like a council
2 have.

3 So those institutions always come with
4 constraints. They have formalized procedures for a
5 reason. Democracy is messy and it takes time. There
6 are public hearings to attend and to hear. To not
7 just formally do, but to actually get the public
8 input into those collective decisions. So that law
9 making function is a powerful one, but it is not a
10 particularly efficient one. Nor is it something that
11 means people can get a lot done really quickly.
12 Councils will have a lot of goals. They'll want to
13 fix homelessness and the overdose crisis. But it
14 takes time to get agreement on the approach that they
15 should take. Then to see that implemented and find
16 the resources to do it and to make it happen.

17 On the executive function I reiterate that we
18 don't have a strong mayor system in Canada. Certainly
19 not in this province. Mayors are the figurehead of
20 council.

21 They are the people who talk to Prime Ministers
22 and Premiers and visiting dignitaries of all kinds.
23 They are the face of the city in a lot of ways. But
24 they don't have command over council. Certainly they
25 don't if they don't have a party that has a majority

1 of votes on council. So mayors have to work with the
2 council they get elected with to be able to give
3 direction to the city staff. And again that's true
4 imitated at the park level and the school trustee
5 level where there are chairs for those bodies, but
6 they chair the meetings and they don't instruct the
7 staff directly the way a cabinet minister would in
8 our provincial or federal systems. So there's a
9 handful of things that I think are really unique to
10 Vancouver that I would want to highlight. Just to
11 make those things clear for folks. The challenges of
12 governing in Vancouver, one is the at-large system
13 that we have. So every councillor represents the
14 whole city. They don't have wards, they don't have
15 neighbourhoods to cover. And that is sort of-- stops
16 individual councillors from being advocates only of
17 particular neighbourhoods. But it's a challenge to
18 get elected and a challenge to fully represent the
19 whole city.

20 It's a diverse and large city with lots of
21 different pockets of interest and community. And it's
22 hard for every councillor to be able to represent all
23 of that. Not every councillor tries to represent all
24 of that but the demands are very high as a result.

1 Every community organization. Every organized
2 interest. Every commercial and corporate interest in
3 the city knows that they need to be able to
4 communicate with councillors. They need to try to get
5 the support of councillors for the goals that they
6 may have in their own activities. So there's a lot of
7 demands on individual councillors to be engaged with
8 those communities. There's a lot of breakfasts. A lot
9 of lunches. A lot of community events to attend. And
10 high expectations from the city as a whole that
11 councillors will be available for that. So there's no
12 limit and being that Vancouver the city is embedded
13 within a larger metro Vancouver that has adjacent
14 cities that you don't really know the boundary to,
15 that doesn't always mean that your car stays within
16 the boundaries of Vancouver when you're engaging with
17 that community. Might end up in a banquet hall in
18 Richmond or community hall in Burnaby to speak to
19 Vancouver interests sometimes because that's where
20 those folks end up and want to be involved and
21 engaged with you. Vancouver does have a party system
22 that can make things a little bit more efficient
23 within the way council works.

24 But it also means certainly at the present that
25 it can be a much more divided council.

1 When you have three or four parties instead of
2 one or two that can make the whole efficiencies a
3 party is supposed to represent in our political
4 systems a little bit less efficient.

5 So there are multiple interests who have to
6 align and realign with each other in order to get
7 things done. And that is truly different than again
8 our parliamentary system that we see at the
9 provincial or federal level. The other thing we
10 acknowledged in our territorial acknowledgments of
11 course are our Indigenous communities within the city
12 of Vancouver.

13 So like all communities in Canada that is a
14 unique thing city councils have to try and engage
15 with. Try and push forward the project of
16 reconciliation. To deal with the Indigenous
17 communities that are on this land that is part of the
18 city. But also with the Indigenous policy issues that
19 occur in bigger cities in Canada, right? Indigenous
20 populations which may not always be ancestral to the
21 region. So all those things I think are another
22 concern. The last thing-- and this is what truly
23 makes local government politics unique from
24 provincial and federal is the immediacy of access to

1 the citizenry of the people you represent. So use the
2 phrase high expectations a couple of times.

3 If you become a city councillor or even a park
4 board or school trustee, good luck buying a jug of
5 milk without hearing from your constituents, right?
6 You're immediately accessible to them anywhere you go
7 within the city. And the higher the profile someone
8 has, the more likely they are going to hear it
9 everywhere they go. There'll be public events and
10 others where you'll be clapped on and booed, but
11 there will also be just one on one interactions that
12 people would have normally. And again federal and
13 provincial politicians can sometimes escape those
14 when they are farther away from their constituents
15 and national and provincial capitals doing their job.
16 So I think what it comes down to is you have to have
17 two kinds of enthusiasms to be a good councillor. One
18 is an enthusiasm for engagement with others. You
19 can't do this job and be a bookworm exclusively. You
20 have to be ready to get out there and engage with
21 people. Trudi and Joy talked about campaigning, but
22 even engagement doesn't stop when the office has won.
23 There's more and more demands for that kind of
24 engagement. And then an enthusiasm for learning. A
25 lot of the time that people will spend as trustees or

1 as councillors is reading briefing books. Getting up
2 to speed on the issues that staff have identified for
3 decisions. The things that are multimillion dollar
4 choices in some cases. But that require some studying
5 to get ready for. So capacity to learn is much more
6 important than any particular expertise. But a
7 willingness to put in that time. Or to not just wait
8 for a nod from somebody else in your party to say
9 which way you should vote. But to have some sense
10 because there is a true independence and opportunity
11 for councillors and trustees to participate in those
12 decisions. So I'll leave it at that a bit of an
13 overview some of the things we've seen for people who
14 are contemplating office that they might not have
15 thought of. But also how to be better when you're
16 there. To be ready and be prepared and be willing to
17 continue that enthusiasm for engagement and learning
18 I think which are so critical to success in elected
19 office.

20 Rosemary: Thank you so much to all of our
21 guest speakers for your invaluable insights and
22 advice. I'm sure we'd love to have you speak a few
23 more minutes. But we do have a lot of questions.
24 We'll have time for a few questions now. I will read
25 out the questions without identifying who asked the

1 questions. If we don't get to your questions tonight,
2 please e-mail us at elections@vancouver.ca and we
3 will provide you with whatever we can. If the
4 questions are for our panelists, we can get responses
5 as well for you. Okay, so the first question if I
6 could ask our panelists join me on the WebEx so we
7 can see each other, that would be great. First
8 question regarding school trustee position. Is there
9 a pattern to when these meetings happen? Mornings?
10 Spread throughout the days or mainly in the evening?
11 So David are you able to answer this question?

12 David: Yes, most of the meetings that the trustees
13 would have to attend are in the evenings.

14 Board meetings are scheduled the last Monday of
15 every month in the 10 months of the school year.
16 Committee meetings are Wednesday nights. Depending on
17 the number of meetings for each committee over the
18 course of the year, they usually try to have about
19 five or six meetings with each committee on the
20 board. And they are held on Wednesday nights. And
21 then trustee workshops can happen any time but most
22 meetings and workshops with trustees are always in
23 the evenings. Hope that answers the question.

24 Rosemary: Great, thank you David. Next question for
25 Cheryl. Can park commissioner hold a full-time day

1 job? Vancouver is an expensive city and
2 commissioner's pay isn't enough to live here.

3 Cheryl: That is very true, it is not enough.
4 Yes, many of the commissioners do have full-time day
5 jobs and it is a big commitment for them.

6 Does have a lot of impact on their lives. I
7 think it is rewarding but something to be mindful of.

8 Rosemary: The next question I think I'm going
9 to ask Gerry to answer and then pass it on to Joy or
10 Trudi-- you've covered this in your presentation. But
11 maybe you can provide a bit more context around that.

12 What education or experience is needed?

13 Gerry: Well I mean I think that's a really open
14 qualification. There is certainly not-- I mean I
15 started studying political science in the late 1980s
16 and I think every relative was oh you're going to be
17 Prime Minister are ya'? No that's not my intention.
18 And certainly there's some value in understanding our
19 political system for people who might want to run for
20 office, but our expectation in our institute for
21 example is we want nurses and people who have worked
22 in warehouses. These are people who inhabit the city
23 and the choices are affecting their lives-- we want
24 people all across the spectrum. There's a lot of
25 lawyers and a lot of professional politicians as they

1 are sometimes called. And I don't think that's wrong
2 either.

3 But we want to see a wide variety of people as
4 Joy and Trudi pointed out some of the kinds of jobs
5 that people have can be a barrier to their ability to
6 do this kind of work.

7 If you are working 12-hour shifts that can be
8 hard to make meetings without a lot of juggling. I
9 think we've seen a bit of a shift. Maybe more at the
10 provincial and federal level where parliaments are
11 relatively 9 to 5 and can be a bit more accommodating
12 about some things.

13 The council model has always assumed to be
14 part-time so it's evenings and all that sort of stuff
15 so that can make it challenging. As far as
16 credentials go it should be something open to
17 everyone.

18 I think the challenge for every council and
19 people who get into it is if you're not coming into
20 it with the idea that you're ready to learn some
21 more.

22 You have to have some enthusiasm for wanting to
23 learn some more. Either about subjects themselves so
24 maybe a deep dive in to transit planning or you are
25 ready to learn about the community as Trudi pointed

1 out. Gather some people together before you get
2 there. Not just say you're going to but to learn from
3 those parts of the community so you can actually show
4 that in the work that you end up doing. And again
5 that's my point about enthusiasm both for engagement
6 and for learning to be able to do that is much more
7 important I think than any specific training people
8 might have. But I'd be happy to hear what Joy and
9 Trudi think too.

10 Trudi: Yeah thanks Gerry. I'm happy to jump
11 in here. I once went to see some panelists who went
12 to municipally elected council tables with four women
13 and one man. And the four women talked extensively
14 about experience at work and education they had
15 before they wanted to come to this role and when they
16 got him and asked him what made you want to run? He
17 shrugged his shoulders and said I coached sports for
18 25 years and I got bored so I thought I'd do this.

19 So the point of my story is I think we
20 overthink the idea that we need qualifications. I
21 think we need a desire to want to do the work.

22 The real only criteria is you need to be 18 on
23 voting day and a Canadian citizen and not be
24 disqualified for a criminal record I think.

25 No one needs to ask you.

1 There is a ridiculous stat that women need to
2 be asked multiple times to run.

3 No one needs to ask you.

4 You need to bring that enthusiasm for the work
5 to the role.

6 Joy: Yeah, I agree with Trudi. And you know I
7 think there is no sort of best credentials for this
8 work. It really is about bringing in the value of
9 your lived experience.

10 Living in a city. Having a diversity on your
11 council in school board and park board is really
12 valuable.

13 And also I think having that capacity to
14 continue to listen and continue to learn. Those are
15 really the skills we need to bring into this work.
16 And you know yes, maybe we talk about the-- people
17 needing to be extroverted et cetera.

18 But there's lots of value to people more
19 introverted as well.

20 Give them the space and the chance to have
21 their views known. And you can learn lots of really
22 great things and be led in very good ways. So
23 yeah-- that's all I'll say about that.

24 Gerry: Just engaged not extroverted. You can't hide.
25 That's all that matters.

1 Rosemary: Thank you for that. I just wanted to add as
2 mentioned in my presentation we don't expect
3 officials to be experts in any areas of the city.

4 We will provide information as you go along.
5 First two months of your job. So we will provide
6 information before you make those decisions the next
7 question I think for me. Do I have to join a party to
8 register to become a candidate? No, you can be an
9 independent absolutely. You don't need to register at
10 all until you submit your nomination with me.

11 If you want to join party there's a few more
12 steps and a future session will have more on that as
13 well. Hopefully that's enough information. The next
14 one I think for Joy and Trudi. Given the targeted
15 attacks and violence on many BIPOC and LGBTQ plus
16 women face during elections is there guidance of
17 resources for how to navigate municipal elections
18 from an intersectional lens to support visual and
19 gender diversity? In the election and feel free to
20 jump in after as well.

21 Trudi: Do you want to take this Joy? Or--
22 Okay well the short answer is no, there aren't really
23 any safety protocols in place or any resources for
24 folks. Which is terrible and it's because this is not
25 something that men generally experience when they are

1 running for elections. Not in the same way that folks
2 who experience oppression because of their gender or
3 their race or other identities.

4 And it is real and it does exist. I don't want
5 to minimize that it doesn't exist. In feminist
6 campaign school, we do talk about some strategies
7 around this which include bringing in people who can
8 help you deflect those pieces. Who can help you
9 debrief it at the end of the day. To help identify
10 and validate when it is really harmful versus maybe
11 annoying pieces. I know it often comes up that we
12 discuss about it being targeted on social media.
13 Which can be really devastating and it can lead to
14 more in-person harmful experiences as well. So yeah
15 the short answer is no, there is nothing particularly
16 set up to protect folks. I don't know if the city of
17 Vancouver is exploring some way of people to report
18 harassment or not. I'm not even sure what
19 jurisdiction they would have to take any action on
20 unfortunately which is one of the bigger challenges.
21 Not to deflate people's desire to do this. But I just
22 want to validate for people that it is real and you
23 do experience it. And there is some support out there
24 is probably a better way to address it.

1 Gerry: We used to say people who want to run for office
2 you just have to have a thick skin. I don't think
3 that's enough anymore to say, right? I don't think
4 there's anything acceptable about the kind of stuff
5 you are talking about that people are experiencing.
6 We've seen at the provincial and federal level as
7 well. Graffiti on campaign offices and in addition
8 very physical manifestation of it as opposed to sort
9 of more social media side of it. And it really so
10 policy challenge too. What is the best tool to try to
11 stop this? We at the centre actually had done some
12 work in trolling on the campaign trail. A report
13 there showing that it is of course just as you would
14 expect.

15 Largely targeting the kinds of groups.

16 That it's not white men being bothered on
17 social media so much as others. It's really
18 unfortunate element.

19 Lots of different people and backgrounds to run
20 with the possibility that some will be much more
21 harmed much more in the process than others. So we
22 have to find policy solution to this I think to be
23 able to honestly encourage people so we can say it's
24 going to be okay. And I think some of the solutions

1 suggested as well around the campaign team and the
2 tips from campaign schools are also very helpful.

3 Rosemary: It is a collective effort and all need to
4 speak out against having the media supporting us,
5 voters, other candidates.

6 It is a collective effort and it won't go away
7 overnight. It's going to take time to change the
8 mentality. We are well aware of the issue.

9 Hopefully we'll find some solutions for that.
10 Thank you. The next question is-- I think this is for
11 Gerry. Independent candidates are becoming more
12 common.

13 Traditionally they have not often been
14 successful.

15 How can an independent get his or her message
16 better known?

17 Gerry: Rosemary, you can help me with this. How
18 many people ran for council last time?

19 Rosemary: 158. I think it was about 76 ,I want
20 to say. For councillors. Yeah.

21 Gerry: Yeah, so that's one of these consequences of an
22 at-large system, right? That it's easy to get lost in
23 that 76. And so I think the likelihood of Vancouver
24 system as long as we have at large, not being a party
25 system is really low. Independents are going to have

1 a much harder time to get that name recognition or to
2 be seen at the top of a ballot. In addition you can't
3 change your name to Ardvark Anderson because Rosemary
4 will at some point pick your name out of a hat to
5 decide where your name is randomized. So getting at
6 the top of the ballot does help but it's randomized
7 so it's not going to be able to work that way.

8 So it's an unfortunate truth that independents
9 will have a really hard time in the Vancouver system
10 because of that at large nature of it. Even people
11 with a party label may have a hard time if they are
12 newer to the party. So we do see three opportunities
13 here between park, school and in general. We know a
14 lot of people start on the park board or school
15 trustee that way there's a smaller pool of
16 candidates to get elected. Make a name for
17 themselves. Work hard and demonstrate and maybe get
18 some of that recognition that helps them get elected
19 city wide as well.

20 And again often that's through the parties
21 themselves. So I think Councillor DeGenova was parks
22 board commissioner right before she was on the parks
23 board before she ran for council. I know Andrea
24 Reimer was a school trustee before she ran for
25 council with vision.

1 That's quite a common path for folks who want
2 to try it out. Not that any one is any less than the
3 other. I know there's staff from about all three.

4 So we won't make that distinction.

5 Rosemary: I just want to also add, have your network
6 advocate for you.

7 Get out there in the community. Attend all
8 candidates meeting. You will be part of the group,
9 right? Get your name out there. During nomination
10 period, we would be asking candidates to submit their
11 biography so it's really important you have that for
12 us. And that will be including-- that's another way
13 we can help facilitate your name out there for the
14 election. Yeah, thank you for that.

15 The next question deals with dates with
16 registration. So I'm just going to comment that that
17 information will be made available on our website.
18 And actually the next session that we're hosting I
19 think at the end of the month will have a lot of the
20 information. I just want to have some time for the
21 other questions that we have. The next one is I'd
22 like to run for city council, but I'm a person with
23 disability receiving social assistance. And I don't
24 know a lot of people with lots of money. So how much
25 do I need to raise and what are the main reasons for

1 raising money other than campaign costs? So I'm going
2 to open that up to maybe Gerry you want to start with
3 that and join Trudi?

4 Gerry: I'd rather Trudi start, she's the
5 campaign expert.

6 Trudi: Well you don't have to raise any particular
7 amount of money. There's a maximum that you can
8 raise, there is no minimum that you have to raise.
9 Really depends on how much money you want to spend.
10 Candidates will often buy lawn signs. Do a mailout
11 and they are very expensive. Getting your stuff
12 printed for your mailout. One of the strategies to
13 get people to remember your name at the ballot is
14 make sure they have a card with your name on it for
15 election day. There are all kinds of places you could
16 spend your money and you don't have to. So if you
17 were looking to run a more budget friendly campaign
18 you may want to register a website so you have a
19 digital presence and maybe get buttons made for all
20 of your supporters to wear, something that's a little
21 more cost effective but it doesn't have to be an
22 expensive campaign.

23 Gerry: And I think marketing and giving that
24 name recognition is the challenge and there's lots of
25 different tactics to make sure. Mailing lists and

1 getting to be able to get people to sign up-- so that
2 you can get in touch with them. If you have a bank of
3 volunteers I think that could be as important as
4 anything.

5 That there really are different kinds of power
6 in this world and one is the network power of being
7 able to communicate and connect with a lot of people.
8 Money can help grease that a little bit and certainly
9 lots of road signs and the like. But we don't have an
10 open ended system as Trudi points out. So it's not
11 like you can buy everything with millions of dollars.
12 But money does kind of make the wheels move a little
13 bit smoother as well. But it's not the only thing
14 that will help people get elected for sure.

15 Rosemary: Thank you for that. The next
16 question is what is the ratio of success between
17 independent candidates and party-supported
18 candidates? Is there any historical data available?

19 Gerry: Not signing up for a PhD defense. I don't have
20 that on hand. Rosemary again you would have some
21 idea.

22 Anecdotally I would say it's a much lower
23 success rate, right? And the independents that do
24 succeed are more likely to have been a party member
25 and they are an incumbent or something like that.

1 And again that'd be true in provincial and
2 federal politics as well. But kind of had these
3 expectations about parties. Talking outside the city
4 of Vancouver, that's a different game. If we're
5 talking about Cranbrook or some place like that it
6 tends to work in that way. But for Vancouver and
7 surrounding municipalities I think it tends to work
8 in that way.

9 Rosemary: Yeah, you're absolutely right. The other
10 question we touched a bit this is an important one I
11 think if we have time maybe we can talk about it
12 again, unfortunately in the current world we live in,
13 some politicians can face personal attacks both
14 online and sometimes in public. What would you say to
15 someone considering running for public office in
16 regards to the risks and how one should prepare to
17 handle themselves online and public should they end
18 up being elected? What is the best way for someone
19 who wants to make a difference in the community to
20 not be discouraged by some of these challenges?
21 Trudi? I'm going to ask you for some advice again.

22 Trudi: It is such a real thing and I don't
23 want it to be the thing that discourages you. I think
24 the best advice that I have around that is to go in
25 with a plan.

1 Have a plan for when this happens so you know
2 what you want to do. Are you going to respond on
3 twitter when somebody is difficult, critical, rude,
4 harassing, or are you going to call ten people who
5 can all go on and bury that comment for you so that
6 no one else has to see it? There's strategies you can
7 use to deal with it so you don't have to. Do you want
8 to be the candidate who addresses these things
9 publicly? Some people can do it and it really works
10 for them. Others can't and it deflects from the real
11 work.

12 And that really is the role of the harassment
13 is to deflect you from getting the work done. If you
14 are committing to getting the work done, find some
15 strategies that work for you. I'm happy to talk with
16 you after this if folks have really specific
17 concerns. But I think it is just going in with a
18 really clear plan for how you want to deal with
19 things.

20 Rosemary: Great, thank you. Before I asked
21 Gerry if they have further to add, is there anymore
22 questions? If you do, please send them in. We will be
23 ending the session shortly after the last question.
24 Thank you. Gerry or Joy?

1 Joy: I would just add as well as having specific plans
2 that people pay attention to self-care. It's really
3 important particularly while campaigning which can
4 be-- well the whole job actually, but campaigning can
5 be quite brutal. So self-care is important and if you
6 can get it into your daily plan ahead of time, so
7 it's there, and it's working, and it's effective. You
8 know which strategies are the most effective for you
9 to keep yourself physically, emotionally,
10 psychologically well. Then you'll perform the best
11 and you'll have the most impact when you're elected.

12 Gerry: I think I could almost tie those
13 things together. One of the things we've listened to
14 presentations from former politicians in our
15 institute for the last seven or eight years, and one
16 of the differences I guess between federal,
17 provincial and municipal politics is of course that
18 immediacy I was talking about.

19 Running into your constituents all the time in
20 the grocery store or elsewhere, but it also means you
21 are closer to family and friends on a regular basis.
22 But there is that advantage I guess of local
23 municipal politics. You are not in some far off town
24 trying to do the job and keep the family together and
25 respond to those pressures. There are a lot of time

1 demands of course and that's where self-care and rest
2 comes in but hopefully you can rely on some others as
3 well to be able to deal with that either in terms of
4 the-- massive incoming that is social media and the
5 rest. Or just to deal with the logistical challenges
6 of the day, getting from a to b and making sure
7 you're fed and your clothes are clean when you're
8 there. Because those are all-- they are really
9 mundane things, but a campaign demonstrates who can
10 get a hold of those things and who can't. Because I
11 think they are a real test. They are marathons at a
12 sprint pace for the most part I think. When the
13 campaign window opens.

14 Rosemary: Great, thank you very much. I think
15 we are at our time. Any questions related to
16 campaigning? The best thing to do is go on the
17 elections BC website and we have that link on the
18 city of Vancouver website. If you can't find it or if
19 you have any other questions, please do e-mail us.

20 elections@vancouver.ca. Maybe what I'll do now
21 is ask our panelists last piece of advice for our
22 future candidates? Maybe we'll start with Trudi?

23 Trudi: Make good decisions. This is your time to plan.
24 Make your decisions so you don't have to be planning
25 and campaigning at the same time.

1 So you have lots of choices. Make the choices
2 that you want and be the candidate that you really
3 want to be.

4 Joy: I hadn't really thought about this but
5 remember to have some fun as well. Because it is a
6 tough job and I really do applaud people for stepping
7 up for public office. But remember to have fun.

8 Gerry: We kicked off the whole project of our
9 institute the conference on why don't more good
10 people go into politics? Dealt with many of the kinds
11 of things we've heard in these questions. Bad
12 reputations or online abuse for people who step up
13 and run for office and one of the things we've been
14 trying to do is get rid of some of those barriers for
15 people's thinking about running. And so my advice is
16 to encourage people to think they can do it. Because
17 I think everyone can. And we need everyone to step
18 up. We need people who are willing to engage and to
19 learn for their communities. It can't just be the
20 folks who have always done it for years or the folks
21 whose foot is already in the door, right? So it
22 really is very encouraging to see lots of interest
23 and people to take that chance. They might not win
24 the first time they try, but try hard and give it

1 your all. A lot of encouragement to folks who want to
2 make the system work. I really it. Thanks.

3 Rosemary: Well thank you very much for those involved.
4 Including Cheryl, David, Joy, Trudi, Gerry, our
5 closed captioner and registered ALS interpreters and
6 my city of Vancouver colleagues who helped put this
7 session together tonight. Thank you for attending
8 whether it's in person or online. We hope this
9 session was helpful. The recording of the session
10 will be made available on our website which comes
11 with transcripts soon. When you exit the platform,
12 you'll be directed to our feedback forum or you can
13 click on the feedback form in the chat which is now
14 there.

15 And we will also e-mail it to you.

16 Please consider registering for our next
17 session on April 26th where we will discuss deadlines,
18 finances and key dates.

19 We have included that also in the chat. Thank
20 you everyone and have a great evening.

21 Pam Heggie, CSR(A) RPR

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