



ELECTION
2026



2026 Candidate Profile Guide

The Candidate Profile Guide has been prepared to assist voters in the District of Central Saanich in accessing information and making informed choices about the candidates in the 2026 General Local Elections.

All candidates for Mayor and Councillor were given the opportunity to submit a brief profile to introduce themselves and their platforms. Contact information is also provided.

All candidate information has been supplied by the candidate and has not been edited by the District of Central Saanich. The views and opinions expressed in the profiles are those of the candidates and do not reflect the position of the District of Central Saanich.

This publication is offered as a service to voters and does not constitute endorsement of any candidate.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Mayor



BRYANT, Pat



Pat is an independent candidate for Mayor of Central Saanich who believes leadership starts with listening, earning trust, and making fact-based decisions in the community's best interests. With 37 years of policing experience, including 21 years serving Central Saanich, Pat brings proven leadership, collaboration, accountability, and strong community relationships. His commitment to service also includes volunteer work and fundraising for Wounded Warriors Canada, Special Olympics, and Cops for Cancer. An active Toastmasters member, Pat values clear communication, transparency, and respectful dialogue. As a husband and father, he understands the importance of safe neighbourhoods, responsible growth, and protecting Central Saanich's unique rural character. As Mayor, Pat will provide steady, independent leadership, foster a respectful and collaborative council, manage taxpayers' dollars responsibly, and ensure local government remains open, accountable, and responsive to every resident.

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Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Mayor



KING, Zeb



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I am running for Mayor of Central Saanich because I believe local government works best when elected representatives listen to residents carefully and welcome the public in the decision-making process.

My roots in the community run deep. As a third-generation Central Saanich resident, my grandmother ran for Council in 1979. Her example taught me that local government matters.

While working constructively with my colleagues on Central Saanich Council for 21 years, I have nevertheless been prepared to propose alternative solutions when the community interest calls for it.

Experience has taught me to listen, ask difficult questions, weigh competing perspectives and exercise independent judgment.

As Mayor, I will bring that same balanced approach to growth, housing, farmland protection and public trust, while working to build a more transparent, participatory and accountable Council.

With deep roots in the community, proven experience and an independent voice, I am ready to lead.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



FUENTES, Rafael Regalado



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I want to advocate for the residents of Central Saanich the best that I can by the following: Being patient with major decisions, listening and collaborating with community feedback. Also, I am for referendums for large developments and I am not a member of any political party .

I was a government employee with Victoria Youth Custody Centre for 15 years (1997-2013) and I was a pre-school owner for 5 years. In 1992, I received diplomas in Arts and Science plus Physical Education from Malaspina College/VIU. Currently, I am in customer service at Victoria International Airport.

I care about the residents of Central Saanich and I care about all demographics. In 2025, I was a member of the Canadian Cancer Society Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock team as an Honourary Parent. I rode in memory of my daughter Madrona and our team raised money for paediatric cancer research.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



GRAHAM, Christopher

This candidate did not submit a profile for inclusion in the 2026 Candidate Profile Guide.

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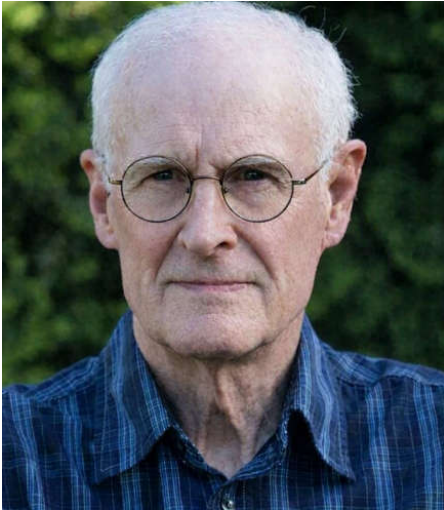
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Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



LAWSON, David



CONTACT INFORMATION

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I was raised in Nanaimo and moved to Central Saanich about 40 years ago. My attraction to the area was, and still is, the rural nature of the area. Within the CRD, I believe our community is unique and I believe it is worth standing up for. That is why I am running for Council. For the last number of years, I have been very actively involved in gaining an understanding of the 'workings' of Council and the District operations and, with this, I feel I have much to offer in shaping our future.

My background is in finance implementation and it is experience in this area that I feel I will be most helpful and useful at the Council table. As a councillor, other areas I will focus on are land applications and development, traffic planning and improved Council accountability.

David Lawson

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



MICHELL, Ben



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Ben Michell was born and raised in Central Saanich and is a sixth-generation member of a local farming family. Today, he manages his family farm, with additional experience in small-business operations and hands-on farm and residential projects.

Ben is running for Council to bring a practical, independent and next-generation perspective to the decisions ahead. His approach focuses on supporting working agriculture, directing housing growth to appropriate serviced areas, maintaining infrastructure responsibly, and carefully scrutinizing municipal spending.

He believes these issues need to be considered together. Growth should reflect infrastructure capacity and community context, while long-term planning should protect the qualities people value about Central Saanich today.

Ben's connection to Central Saanich has given him a strong sense of responsibility for its future. He wants to bring that perspective to Council while helping prepare the community thoughtfully for the years ahead.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



RIDDELL, Sarah



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Sarah Riddell is a local parent, community leader, organizer and volunteer. The Executive Director of Shoreline Medical Society, she brings 20 years of government and non-profit experience, including senior leadership and board governance. She has delivered major provincial initiatives and helped strengthen accountability for public dollars. Sarah holds master's degrees in public administration and health administration.

Sarah takes a practical, balanced approach to local government: listening to different perspectives, weighing competing needs, finding common ground and turning good ideas from the community into action.

Her priorities include safe, connected neighbourhoods; parks, trails and recreation; housing and essential services that strengthen the community we know and love; strong farms and local businesses; and responsible long-term decisions that take care of our infrastructure, environment and public dollars.

If re-elected, Sarah will stay focused on the things that make everyday life better, while keeping local decisions practical, affordable and predictable.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



SCOONES, Anny M.



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Anny has lived on the Peninsula for most of her life and believes that the rural and agricultural features are vital to maintain and enhance in Central Saanich.

She lives on a small farm in Central Saanich with her rescue dogs and one elderly horse.

Anny was a three term Councillor in North Saanich (2002-2012) and knows the significance of resident and business-owner communication (she makes a mean cup of coffee).

Strengthening and creating resident led advisory commissions such as Planning/Design, Environmental, Coastal Shores, Traffic and Safety, Heritage and Agricultural is a high priority.

Other major priorities are sustainable taxes and pausing the construction of intrusive and invasive apartment complexes and to look at creative housing options instead.

Anny believes that we should enhance what we already have and “if it’s not broken, don’t fix it”.

Endorsed by Sustain Our Central Saanich (SOCS).

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Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



SHAW, Lori Anne



CONTACT INFORMATION

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My family has been in Central Saanich since 1924. I live in a carriage house on a small piece of land that was once part of my grandfather's farm. I grew up here — collecting eggs, feeding our cows, eating our farm-grown produce, and playing outside are among my favourite childhood memories. Now, I'm the mother of three grown children; my youngest did her first nursing practicum at Saan.Pen. I was a school secretary for over 20 years. I currently work for UVic, advising international researchers and professors on immigration. Change is inevitable, as more people move to this beautiful area. If elected, I'd like to explore different, creative, and affordable options for housing.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



THOMPSON, Robert



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My wife and I moved to Saanichton in 1991. I've lived, worked and volunteered in our community for 35 years. I'm running for re-election as an independent Councillor. My strength is making balanced and informed decisions that help maintain a sustainable community. My extensive Council experience is an asset for community decision-making.

- ✓ Review public processes and strive to improve public satisfaction with decision-making. Many residents feel unheard and are unhappy with the level and pace of new development.
- ✓ Present new development applications at Council Committee meetings before coming to Council, giving Councillors more opportunities to provide direction and allow for "second sober thought".
- ✓ Reconcile Official Community Plan (OCP) policies with community expectations. Given pressures for growth and affordable housing, many residents are worried we are losing our small-town character.
- ✓ Review what services the community needs and wants as a basis to manage reasonable annual tax increases.

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



ZEDEL, Susan



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I have lived in Central Saanich for 40+ years and love this community. I grew up in Victoria, have a B.Sc. in Geography from UVic and retired from the BC Ministry of Forests in 2019 after 35 years of public service. I have done extensive volunteer work with Girl Guides, environmental organizations and local community groups.

I have been a member of the Advisory Planning Commission for over 5 years, attend council meetings and speak at public hearings.

I believe that council members should do more community consultation prior to making major decisions. Local government must consider current infrastructure before approving major development projects.

I support farmers, local food production and more council engagement with the agricultural community.

I am passionate about protecting and enhancing our natural environment, including coastal shorelines, rural forests, streams, wetlands, parks and trails.

Website: susanzedel.ca

Endorsed by: Sustain OUR Central Saanich

Council Candidate Profile Guide

Office of Councillor



ZIMMERMAN, Kathleen



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I am a mother, grandmother, gardener, former Professional Agrologist, and passionate advocate for agriculture, farmers, and public engagement in our rural community.

I was raised on a 10-acre family farm, and at university, I studied how vital agriculture is to our society and our lives.

For 20 years, I worked as a P.Ag. in BC, with a very strong public service focus. I supported local governments and their agriculture advisory committees across the Lower Mainland with respect to their bylaws, Official Community Plans, and ALR applications.

I retired to Vancouver Island, and since retirement, I have been an active volunteer in the community.

I promise to:

1. **Vote independently.**
2. Work hard to establish tax rates that are closer to **cost-of-living increases.**
3. **Balance land development** with existing infrastructure and community needs.
4. **Respect our Official Community Plan.**
5. Direct staff to provide a **community-first services focus.**

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