

## Port Phillip Council candidate questionnaire

Candidate name	Bernadene Voss
Candidate for which ward	Gateway Ward
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Which political party are you a member	Nil
What are your qualifications	Bachelor Arts, Masters, MAICD + others
What is your current employment	Mayor, City of Port Phillip
How long have you lived in Port Phillip	17 years
Which ward do you live in	Gateway Ward
What is your expertise that you bring to Council	Experienced Councillor, Business owner, Community development, Strong Governance focus, lateral thinker and Community focus, IT Skills, Marketing skills,
What are your personal policy priorities	To represent my community in a professional and sensible way, the best I can.
What inspired you to stand for Council	Community activism and advocacy
What is your policy on council issues relating to	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council governance</li> </ul>	Essential for strong good governance at all levels. I believe all Councillors should undergo essential training on good governance as it seems to be poorly understood.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council finances</li> </ul>	Being on the Audit & Risk committee for City of Port Phillip, I have seen firsthand the complexity of Councils Business. With over 150 services being delivered to our community, it is essential that Council continues to provide value for money and that the services are reviewed regularly. Council cannot accept doing something because it has always been done that way. Similarly, there are many opportunities for efficiency savings, by doing things smarter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council rates</li> </ul>	Are now capped at 2.5%. Council spending and projects will need to be kept within its means. Given the expected population doubling of the municipality over the next 15 years, the budget will be stretched to accommodate all the required infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social housing</li> </ul>	I am a strong supporter of Social housing. I would like to see the number of affordable housing projects increase and Council should continue to help fund this program, as it has done for many years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning and Development</li> </ul>	Late September, the State Government announced the freeze on planning fees to be lifted. This means that Rate payers will not be funding the planning permit process. It will be user pays. I have strongly advocated for this. I would like to see a simpler process for planning applications and an increase in transparency at all levels of the process. I would like to see the community debate the heritage vs

	<p>sustainability issues. This may mean that heritage houses could have appropriate solar panels on their roof, even if it can be seen from the street. I would also like to see Property owners that allow their property to become an eyesore or unkempt and dilapidated be subject to enforcement and fines that will compel them to take action to remediate the situation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Triangle project</li> </ul>	<p>Council is the committee of management for this State Government owned land. The Planning amendment should be completed and an advocacy project to the State Government to deliver a state significant project that opens up Melbourne tourism to the Bay and provides significant economic boost to the local economy, all within the agreed confines of the planning scheme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisherman’s Bend planning</li> </ul>	<p>This is what keeps me awake at night !  As CoPP is the smallest and the most densely populated municipality in Victoria and it is set to double.  There are no third party rights and City of Port Philip is the responsible authority for a small portion of the precinct.  Needs a formal governance authority  Needs appropriate State &amp; Federal funding  Land needs to be reserved and set aside now for PT, open space etc. Needs a proper open space plan, public acquisition overlays in place  Transport needs to be committed and delivered early to set the tone for the developments.  Promotion of the vision, ‘big and bold’ and deliver on it.  Get the structure planning right  Facilitation of commercial and community uses  Incentives for early delivery / work with the private sector  Get land use mix right to support employment  Zoning / planning controls &amp; development facilitation  PPP  Government needs to signal we are open for business/promote globally – Fed/state/LG  More catalytic showcase/demonstration projects  Lead with catalyst community infrastructure  Bipartisan agreement  Place based and business incubation, activate and enliven streets  Heritage protection  Re-use/ re-purpose buildings – character  Housing mix and affordability targets and mechanisms</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts &amp; entertainment</li> </ul>	<p>CoPP has a strong arts &amp; entertainment focus, which is strongly focused in St Kilda. This includes the St Kilda Festival, The St Kilda film festival and many of the events, that occur in Catani gardens that necessitate closing the roads. I support capping the number of events that require road closures per year. I will not support events that destroy the gardens, they should be banned for future applications.  Council has a focus on street art currently and this is well received by the community. More work needs to be done with Lindon &amp; Gasworks to ensure the community is involved and they provide strong and lively interaction.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport &amp; recreation</li> </ul>	<p>Our growing population means that we need to review all our</p>

	<p>sporting assets and ensure they are fit for purpose, and cater for the growing needs of our community. Netball courts need to be up to standard for games, Footy fields need to be kept in good condition, changes rooms and social facilities that meet the demands of our community. Cricket needs for general community use. We also need to work out a way to progress Parks Vic plans for Albert Park precinct. As most of our community uses these facilities, Council needs to be mindful that budget priorities are different and help the clubs become self-sufficient and sustainable. Running and walking along the Beach needs to be safe and fun.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community services</li> </ul>	<p>Council offers around 150 services to the community. Something for everyone. Some Council community services may need to be rationalised, and reviewed to ensure that Council continues to deliver value for money and caters for the community need.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aged care services</li> </ul>	<p>I am a board member of CaspaCare. The Emerald Hill residence has recently celebrated its first year since opening. It is a truly stunning and unique home. I would love to go there myself when the time comes. Council has contributed \$3 million dollars to CaspaCare in support of aged care services, as long as it maintains affordable care and also care for our local residents. Napier Street Aged Care is also community run also has its rent subsidised significantly by CoPP for the value of just under \$3 million.</p> <p>I support the Community bus, and the home and community care HACC services. This is a service that now runs across the state and first commenced in South Melbourne. For many the meals and the home maintenance is a life line.</p> <p>Other organisations such as Daylinks are vital for continued community connection, drivers volunteer to pick up the elderly to take them shopping, to the doctors or to social outings. I am supportive of this service expanding to cover more of CoPP.</p> <p>The new myagedcare service is confusing for many, and council should continue to provide support for our community members. Councils Older Persons committee provides valuable advice and insight on many council issues.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child care services</li> </ul>	<p>As a board member of Bubup Womindjeka, the largest children's centre in CoPP, I see the issues and opportunities. Council has a number of buildings that have community run children's services and Kindergarten's in them. These buildings need significant maintenance to bring them up to standard. Council also has Council owned and run premises, some of which are also substandard and need money spent on them to bring them to standards expected by our community. The next four years will see rationalisation and changes. The childcare waiting list has been significantly reduced over the past few years. This has been due to the increase in the childcare places, as well as a better and more up to date waiting list. The complicated maintenance and infrastructure fee needs to be streamlined for a fairer and simpler process. Council also needs to become more agile in dealing with significant maintenance issues.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLBTIQ</li> </ul>	<p>Supportive of having the Pride centre in St Kilda Continue to support our proud history of inclusivity, diversity and</p>

	<p>tolerance</p> <p>Continue to support the annual Pride March</p> <p>Proud that CoPP was the first LG to get the HACC rainbow tick</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Kilda festival</li> </ul>	<p>A big ticket item in the budget, which really should come under the arts and entertainment point. Many in our community believe Council spends too much money on the St Kilda Festival. I believe it is very good value for money, when you consider 440,000 people attended Festival Sunday earlier this year. Many local St Kilda traders benefit significantly. I think the success stories of small start-up bands having their first big gig at the festival and then have gone on to major things is impressive. I would like to work on sharing the benefits that the traders get around the municipality. It is unfortunate that the biggest costs is the fencing and security.</p> <p>Moving 'Live n local' to winter, has been a very good move, and I would encourage this to continue.</p> <p>The Yulukit Wilam festival that commences the week long St Kilda Festival, is growing in momentum and play an important part in closing the gap of understanding our 1<sup>st</sup> Peoples.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads</li> </ul>	<p>Council could save money by upgrading roads a little less frequently, the roads are in very good condition.</p> <p>Congestion needs to be looked at and at ways to reduce it. Some roads are rat runs, especially through residential areas, review mechanisms for calming traffic and making it safe. I am supportive of 40km zones in residential areas. Roads should be safe to cycle along for all in our community.</p> <p>Parking fees continue to be an issue and I encourage Council to do a review of parking costs for residents.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubbish</li> </ul>	<p>Beach, and parks attract people, however some do not feel the need to pick up their rubbish. This is a disgrace and there is no excuse. Bins are provided. Hot days and public holidays attract tourists and rubbish. It is not acceptable to litter. More Solutions are needed here.</p> <p>Better rubbish programs are possible, bins are now able to compact and recycle rubbish.</p> <p>Plastic bags, plastic straws and single use plastic destroy our environment.</p> <p>Dumped rubbish continues to be an issue</p> <p>Dog poo – non pick up – continues to be an issue and needs better enforcement.</p> <p>I think the 4 free large rubbish collections per annum works well. Our Volunteer Beach Patrol Groups are fantastic and I will continue to support them doing a sterling job.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council website and use of technology for communication</li> </ul>	<p>Council has not spent much money on technology upgrades for many years, and is now faced with out of date hardware and software systems, which are causing security issues. Strategic investment is now needed to ensure efficiency savings can be obtained in operations of the daily business. For example, online parking permits, online plans and planning permits, to ensure simple information access to lodge objections and make submissions.</p> <p>I support open data solutions and increased in transparency. I would like to see all reports in a single accessible location online.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council response and finalisation of complaints</li> </ul>	<p>Every issue should be assessed and treated respectfully and reviewed on its merits.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing community</li> </ul>	<p>Council to continue to facilitate community interaction and events that promote community. City of Port Phillip has extremely active groups, which promotes civic responses, pride and activism. A great community is one which participates in what is going on.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<p>Graffiti – I want to do more to advocate to the state Govt for better policing and enforcement. Council is proactive, but Victrack, VicRoads and other authorities, let down our community as they do not have the same standards.</p> <p>Sharing around the activities – St Kilda centric – I would like to see more of the cultural and entertainment activities spread around the municipality. It doesn't need to be in St Kilda all the time</p> <p>Cut the red tape – Council complicates so many good initiatives. I want to make it easier for community initiatives to develop.</p>

**unChain Inc**, established in 2007, continues to be an active contributor to policy development in the City of Port Phillip.

As such, we are seeking your cooperation and giving you the opportunity to inform our members, supporters and voters, about you, your inspiration to be a councillor and your policies on many issues and questions which we have obtained.

Your responses will be collated, without any editorial comment nor correction, and posted on our website at, [www.unchain.org.au](http://www.unchain.org.au) posted on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/unchaininc/>.

Our members and email list supporters will then be alerted to your responses to inform them of how to locate your responses on the many issues raised in the questionnaire.

All candidates will be given the opportunity to respond with your response or lack of response communicated to the voters in the election.

Please complete the survey and email your response to [unchaininc@gmail.com](mailto:unchaininc@gmail.com) by XXXXXXXXXXXX.