



Vancouver Liberals policy statements need clarification

This story was first published on Aug. 27, 2026 in The REVUE's Breaking News Blog

After a look at some of the statements on The Vancouver Liberals' website, The REVUE had some questions. Here they are along with some context. This article has been sent to the Vancouver Liberals. In a follow-up post, The REVUE will publish the Vancouver Liberal responses.

STATEMENT: Safer Streets Through a Smarter Approach.

On his campaign website, Vancouver Liberal Mayoralty candidate, Kareem Allam, states that,

"Crime thrives when there is money to be made, and the proliferation of Bitcoin ATMs across our city is enabling the toxic drug trade and the trail of violence that comes with it."

He goes on to say that his opponent, Ken Sim, "has promoted Bitcoin at every opportunity...meanwhile organized crime thrives here, and street-level disorder has gotten worse."

His solution is to "crack down on Bitcoin ATMs, money laundering, and other(?) root causes of crime through smart, well-considered policy" that will actually make a difference... and make our streets safer for our citizens."

CONTEXT: *If there was no demand for illicit drugs, there would be no profit for those selling them. Wouldn't a better strategy be to try to reduce the demand by providing conditions where people don't need to buy illegal street drugs, rather than go after the profits of drug dealers after they're sold?*

ASK: What is the "smart, well-considered policy"? Explain specifically, how a crackdown on Bitcoin ATMs" will "make our streets safer for our citizens"?

ASK: What is the Vancouver Liberals strategy on reducing the demand for illegal drugs?

STATEMENT: Our plan: Tony Soprano. Part of Vancouver Liberals crack down on crime "is to go after the Tony Soprano level criminals and stop the proceeds of crime at the top of the crime pyramid."

ASK: Are the police currently not targeting "the top of the crime pyramid"?

STATEMENT: Responsibly Minding Your Tax Dollars, Starting by Cancelling Ken's Second City Hall.

The Vancouver Liberals claim that under Ken Sim and the ABC council "spending is both mis-managed and out of control". The worst example, according to Allam, is "an \$800-Million "Second City Hall" built right beside our current one."

CONTEXT: *There is no "Second City Hall" built right beside our current one." Nothing is under construction. It is not a budget item. What has been approved is a long-range land-use and redevelopment framework for the "Civic District" around Vancouver City Hall - not a fully funded construction project.*

The City's project page still describes the initiative "as a plan guiding future

rezonings and redevelopment," rather than an active build.

ASK: How can this "long-range land-use and redevelopment framework" be considered spending mismanagement?

STATEMENT: Ward System for Vancouver

"Vancouver's current at-large voting system makes campaigns expensive and leaves many neighbourhoods without direct representation at City Hall." The Vancouver Liberals say they would support exploring a ward system that would divide the city into local districts, each electing their own dedicated councillor.

A ward system "could make local elections more affordable, improve accountability, and ensure every community has a stronger voice around the council table." If elected, they will convene a citizens' assembly to study the issue and bring forward recommendations for a public referendum.

CONTEXT: *In the December 1935 plebiscite, roughly two-thirds of participating voters supported abolition. Civic elections have continued to be held with an "at-large system" since that time.*

In 1973 plebiscite, voters were asked about changing from the at-large system to a ward system and 59% of those who voted rejected the idea. In another plebiscite in 1978, it was rejected by about 52% of the voters. The last time a change was considered was in a referendum in 2004, where 54% of voted against a ward system.

ASK: Considering the history, why do the Vancouver Liberals want to change a system the majority of Vancouverites have rejected three times in a row?

STATEMENT: Parking Fees At Beaches & Community Centres

If the Vancouver Liberals get a majority, within the first year, "they're going to get rid of every single parking meter in front of beaches and community centres throughout the entire city."

CONTEXT: *Vancouver has budgeted about \$17 million in total Park Board parking revenue for 2026.*

ASK: How will that loss of revenue impact park maintenance and services?

STATEMENT: Fewer Managers, More Front-Line Services

"City Hall is bloated - with too many managers who do nothing more than write reports and manage other managers."

(Really? Even after ABC's "zero means zero" budget led to about 400 layoffs of unionized and non-union staff in general administration?)

Vancouver Liberals will "shift spending back to where it belongs" and "hire 400 new front-line unionized staff members to improve garbage pickup, road maintenance, parks and rec facilities, and other critical services that Vancouverites rely on.

CONTEXT: *A reasonable planning estimate for this new hire is about \$46 million per year. Given the elimination of parking meters at parks and community centres (-\$17 million), the convening of a citizens' assembly to consider a ward system and feasibly a plebiscite(+ \$1 million) and the hiring of 400 new front-line unionized staff members (+ \$46 million).*

ASK: Will these policies mean significant increases in property taxes?

ASK: How will the Vancouver Liberals pay for their election promises?

Don Davies, MP VANCOUVER KINGSWAY

Community Office: 2951 Kingsway

604-775-6263

don.davies@parl.gc.ca

DonDavies.ca



**Celebrate and Embrace
Multicultural
Vancouver-Kingsway**

FALL HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

Sept. 12 – Rosh Hashana • Sept. 21- Yom Kippur

Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 8 – Diwali

Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day

Mable Elmore, MLA VANCOUVER-KENSINGTON

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:

6106 Fraser Street,
Vancouver, BC V5W 3A1

HOURS:

Mon. to Thurs. – 10am to 4:30pm

Friday by appointment only.

Phone: 604-775-1033

Mable.Elmore.MLA@leg.bc.ca



BEST WISHES FOR THE Fall Holidays and Celebrations 2026

Sept. 12 – Rosh Hashana

Sept. 21- Yom Kippur

Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 8 – Diwali

Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day

VOKRA

VANCOUVER ORPHAN KITTEN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

**ADOPT.
DONATE.
VOLUNTEER.**

✉ info@vokra.ca

🌐 vokra.ca

☎ 604.731.2913

📷 @vokra

📺 /vokra

📢 @vokratweets

VOKRA's mission is to end cat overpopulation and homelessness.

We rescue, heal, then place cats - first in our network of foster homes, then in carefully matched, loving, forever homes. We are a passionate, volunteer-driven charity with extensive cat care experience.

We believe that no kill is the only responsible approach to rescue, that Trap-Neuter-Return works and that cats are AWESOME!