

Saanich Council

VOTING RECORD

Compiled from public information by the

Saanich
civic league

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The Future of Saanich
VOTE
Your Choice

On November 19th
Vote for what you value

www.saanichcivicleague.ca

Council Voting Record - Now Online

74% of Saanich residents responding to a Saanich Civic League Citizen Survey in 2007 said they needed more information to vote in municipal elections. Most people do not have the time to keep up with how well or how poorly their values are represented by their elected municipal government. Saanich Council has no established process of unbiased regular accountability to residents, based on a set of measurable objectives, arrived at with public participation. We do! At a workshop entitled "What Are Our Common Values", Saanich citizens voiced 110 values, goals, and issues that make, or could make, Saanich an amazing municipality. We then distilled the list into 10 Common Values to guide our analysis of Council activity. Survey respondents asked Saanich Civic League for a snapshot voting tool, an unbiased authoritative account of how council members voted in the last term. The first Council Voting Record was presented prior to the 2008 election. This is the second CVR representing the work done since that election.

Only 19% voted in the municipal election of 2005; 21% of eligible Saanich voters voted in our last municipal election in 2008. This is the lowest turnout in the four core municipalities.

Saanich Civic League is a non-partisan, values-based volunteer citizen group formed in 2007 out of concern for low voter turnout and civic engagement. To prepare this sample Voting Record, a committee of SCL members reviewed the minutes of all Saanich Council meetings from the time council took office in December 2008 to the end of August 2011.

The issues presented here do not comprise a complete record, but a sample of council motions from Council, Committee of the Whole, and Public Hearing minutes. We've also compiled other activity reports, over the three year period, to help provide information on the work of Saanich Council. [See: Saanich Council Highlights for 2009; Values Report 2009; Key Issues – June-November 2010; Attendance Reports; Tenders & Contracts.]

Motions for the Voting Record were selected based on their relevance to Saanich Civic League Values and are, we believe, indicative of the general performance of council during this three year term. SCL is non-partisan; it does not wish to report more than the record of how council members voted. But we do so in the context of the community values developed by Saanich Civic League in consultation with citizens.

This Council Voting Record is compiled from information that is publicly available on the District of Saanich website.

Read it. Forward it. VOTE knowledgeably.

How to Read the Record - The voting record has three easy-to-understand elements:

1. A chart that shows how incumbent council members voted on 20 motions, and whether their votes align with Saanich Civic League's guiding values.

A ✓ indicates council member voted in favour of the motion. An X indicates council member voted against the motion. Where a ✓ or X is backed by shading the councillor's vote aligns with SCL Values. Boxes with no mark indicate council member was absent, or excused from voting.

Each council member's total number of votes that align with SCL values receives a percentage total. The percentage total is based on only the motions on which council members actually voted. Absent or excused votes are not counted in a councillor's total 'score'.

2. A page for each motion shows how the council members voted on that motion, and an SCL statement to provide the context.

3. A summary statement includes data showing what kind of business occupied most of our elected representatives' work in council meetings during a sample year (2010).

Only 21% of Saanich voters voted in the last municipal election

Your values, your voice, your vote matter

READ it. FORWARD it. VOTE for What You Value

Saanich Council Voting Record 2008-2011

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	Based on SCL values
	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	3,5	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9	9,5	10	
Leonard, Frank Mayor	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		X	✓	66.7%
Brice, Susan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	84.2%
Brownoff, Judy		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	84.2%
Derman, Vic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90.0%
Gerrard, Paul	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	85.0%
Hunter, Wayne	X	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	X	✓	64.7%
Murdock, Dean	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88.9%
Sanders, Vicki	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓		✓	✓	✓	79.0%
Wergeland, Leif	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	73.7%

Votes aligned with Saanich Civic League values indicated by:



absent or excused from vote

vote for the motion ✓

vote against the motion X

Titles for Values/Motions:

- A = **Accessible Government:** Rescinding antenna application
- B = **Environment & economic balance:** phasing out plastic bottles
- C = **Environment & economic balance:** regulating pesticides
- D = **Managed growth within the urban containment area:** preservation of rural land
- E = **Protecting mixed use development:** denying entertainment and liquor license
- F = **Leadership to combat climate change:** Saanich Climate Action Plan
- G = **Leadership to combat Climate change:** rezoning for 5 lot residential
- H = **Leadership to combat Climate change:** denying rezoning for 2 lot residential
- I = **Community:** Secondary suites
- J = **Community, mixed development:** Tillicum Mall town centre

- K = **Community, mixed development:** Oak Street car dealership
- L = **Community, walkable, village centred:** apartment building with commercial space
- M = **Preservation of heritage:** Beaver Lake Store
- N = **Preservation of natural areas:** Urban Forest Strategy
- O = **Preservation of natural areas:** rezoning application
- P = **Support for local agriculture:** rezoning from rural to residential.
- Q = **Support for local agriculture:** application to exclude land from Agricultural Land Reserve
- R = **Accessible transportation networks:** requirement for bike lanes and crosswalk
- S = **Accessible transportation networks:** transit systems on Douglas Street
- T = **Actively engaged citizens:** mail ballot voting.

Do their VOTES match your VALUES?

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VALUE

Accessible Government that Works for Citizens - full public process, consultations, accountability

THE MOTION

Meeting of May 25, 2009 - Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Gerrard/Murdock: "That Council rescind the March 23, 2009 motion to support the antenna application and that Industry Canada be advised that Council does not support the antenna application for 1945 San Rafael Crescent."

SCL BELIEVES

The original application was supported in March, with Leonard and Hunter moving to forward Council's support to Industry Canada who has the responsibility of approving such applications. At the time, Derman, Gerrard and Murdock voted against the motion of support because of concerns from neighbours. After significant neighbourhood reaction against the antenna and before final approval, the matter was referred back to Council and support was rescinded. In voting against this motion, Leonard and Hunter noted this is a Federal responsibility not a local one, and that Council should send them all the information on the issues.

THE VOTE

Leonard	X	Hunter	X
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	A	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓
		Value 1	
		A indicates council member absent	

VALUE

A community in social, environmental and economic balance

-resource conservation, total recycling, product stewardship

THE MOTION

Meeting of February 28, 2011 - Council

Moved by Sanders/Derman that a public education program be initiated within a year to discourage use of plastic water bottles in municipal facilities, make available sufficient alternatives to using plastic water bottles, complete the phasing out of the use of plastic water bottles at municipal facilities at the end of 3 years, and that Saanich Council endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Resolution to eliminate the use of plastic water bottles in municipal facilities within the next 3 years.

SCL BELIEVES

A community in social, environmental and economic balance includes evaluating Saanich's development with due regard to economic, social and environmental sustainability. The goal of this recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee is to promote the use of tap water and reduce the environmental impact of bottled water. Concern was expressed, however, that removing bottled water may remove the healthiest beverage choices from vending machines.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	A
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓
		Value 2	
		A indicates council member absent	

VALUE

A community in social, environmental and economic balance

-resource conservation, total recycling, product stewardship

THE MOTION

Meeting of January 25, 2010 - Council

Moved by Wergeland and seconded by Brownoff: "That Council adopt Pesticide Bylaw 2010, No. 9054."

SCL BELIEVES

The pesticide bylaw regulates the use of pesticides within Saanich. Council went on to approve the Pest Management Council Policy and endorse the Pesticide Bylaw Enforcement Administrative Policy and Education Plan.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓
		Value 2	
		A indicates council member absent	

VALUE

A diversified, strong local economy

-active and effective managed growth within the urban containment area, containing sprawl.

THE MOTION

Meeting of June 22, 2009 - Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Derman/Murdock that Council not approve the rezoning application for 3989 Holland Avenue.

SCL BELIEVES

This was an application for rezoning from A1(rural) to RS 18, , amending the Urban Containment Boundary and Sewer Service Area, and waiving the 10% perimeter road frontage requirement for a 4 lot subdivision. There was significant public opposition to the application, particularly with concerns about the precedent of changing the UCB. it was noted the proposal does not comply with the OCP, the Carey or Rural Saanich Local Area Plans.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 3

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

A diversified, strong local economy

-active and effective managed growth within the urban containment area, containing sprawl.

THE MOTION

Meeting of February 28, 2011 - Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Derman/Wergeland "that the request for the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch to amend the food-primary liquor license to include patron participation entertainment and extend opening hours to 1:00 a.m. at the Applebee's Neighbourhood Grill and Bar, 1654 McKenzie Avenue not be supported."

SCL BELIEVES

This Value supports a mixture of commercial, residential, affordable housing, parks, nature, heritage, arts, local commercial hubs as well as vibrant local markets for local businesses. Staff recommended Council not support this due to concerns regarding the long-term compatibility of participation entertainment with the residential component of Tuscany Village. This shows the difficulty in balancing competing interests. As was noted in the discussion: "it is necessary for Council to protect the interests of the residents in what is one of the first significant mixed-use developments in Saanich."

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	A
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 3

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

A diversified, strong local economy

-mixture of commercial, residential affordable housing, parks/nature/habitat, local commercial hubs.

Community: walkable, affordable, safe; village centred neighbourhoods.

-greater human interchange and neighbourliness, smart growth.

THE MOTION

Meeting of May 26, 2009 - Special Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Gerrard/Wergeland that a development permit for a new mixed-use commercial retail and residential structure be approved and a covenant be registered requiring that donations be made to the Saanich Affordable Housing Fund, daycare centre, park improvements, car share programs, and a transportation demand management study for the entire Tillicum Mall site be completed before a building permit is issued.

SCL BELIEVES

The Tillicum Road project is intended to create a new "town centre" at this location consistent with the goals of the OCP and Regional Growth Strategy. In spite of much concern expressed by members of the public about increased traffic, suitability to the neighbourhood, height of buildings, lost views, and the impact on the Colquitz River, positive features noted were improved bike, bus and pedestrian services. Sustainability measures include car co-op members, building to a LEED silver standard, energy and stormwater management as well as repairing the Colquitz River Parklands and Garry Oak restoration. The community association supports the project. Councillors supported because it is consistent with Saanich's planning goals with substantial amenities, an affordable housing component and is appropriate to locate density in such urban centres.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓		
		Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 3, 5

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Leadership to combat climate change

-initiatives that address our ecological footprint, better than carbon neutral, proactive energy strategy

THE MOTION

Meeting of April 19, 2010 - Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Sanders and seconded by Murdock: "That Council approve the Saanich Climate Action Plan and a Public Hearing be called to consider including the greenhouse gas reduction goals in the Official Community Plan."

SCL BELIEVES

The Climate Action Plan is an ambitious document to combat climate change at a municipal level. The greenhouse gas reduction goals were sent to a public hearing on May 10th, 2010 and were approved with overwhelming public support. These goals are for a 33% reduction in community greenhouse gases by 2020 based on 2007 emissions and a 50% reduction in municipal operations greenhouse gases by 2020 based on 2007 emissions.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	A
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 4

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Leadership to combat climate change

-initiatives that address our ecological footprint, better than carbon neutral, proactive energy strategy

THE MOTION

Meeting of March 24, 2009 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Wergeland/Brice that the rezoning application and development variance permit for a proposed 5 lot residential subdivision on Thunderbird Place with a development variance permit be approved.

SCL BELIEVES

Councillors raised an number of concerns: issues re: urban forest, sustainability, stormwater, greenhouse gases, and lack of Built Green Standards. Statements were made that Built Green construction standards should no longer be considered a hardship by developers, that Council should bring forward a Community Energy Plan to include standards for energy efficiency in home and office construction, that it is important for Saanich to be consistent in the application of green building standards and this is a car oriented development. However, when the vote came, it would appear that other considerations were deemed more important than this Value to combat Climate Change.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich	X
Value 4	X

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Leadership to combat climate change

-initiatives that address our ecological footprint, better than carbon neutral, proactive energy strategy

THE MOTION

Meeting of January 10, 2011 - Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Derman/Sanders: "That the rezoning application for 4588 Balmacarra Road not be approved."

SCL BELIEVES

Staff recommended that Council not approve this rezoning application for a 2 lot residential subdivision. Concerns are the precedent of reducing lot size for that area and the remote location of the property which makes it inappropriate for subdivision, increasing density and additional residents. Further, the application is not in keeping with Saanich's goals in the Climate Action Plan or the Urban Forest Strategy.

THE VOTE

<u>Leonard</u>	✓	<u>Hunter</u>	X
<u>Brice</u>	✓	<u>Murdock</u>	✓
<u>Brownoff</u>	✓	<u>Sanders</u>	✓
<u>Derman</u>	✓	<u>Wergeland</u>	X
<u>Gerrard</u>	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 4

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Community: walkable, affordable, safe; village centred neighbourhoods.

-clean, safe, people choosing to walk to daily needs, greater human interchange

THE MOTION

Meeting of June 22, 2010 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Derman/Gerrard that the legalization of secondary suites in the study area south of McKenzie Avenue be approved.

SCL BELIEVES

According to estimates, there are currently 9,000 illegal secondary suites in Saanich. The zoning bylaw to legalize secondary suites south of McKenzie Avenue included several conditions: only one secondary suite per single family dwelling; the owner must reside on-site, one additional off-street parking space must be provided, the secondary suite must pass a building inspection. At the Public Hearing, 11 members of the public and representatives from three organizations spoke on this issue. Many opposed the requirement that the dwelling be owner occupied, although several pointed out problems with absentee landlords. The requirement for off-street parking also raised discussion with some feeling this was unnecessary, expensive, and encouraged cars. Some felt that enforcement of the bylaw could be a problem and that some property owners would not seek to legalize their suites due to the costs. Some suggested that the bylaw be applied to the whole municipality. Council members felt that this bylaw was a good beginning, consistent with the goals of the Saanich Official Community Plan, and addressed a small part of the Saanich Affordable Housing Strategy.

This action should help to provide a mix of residential affordable housing opportunities and perhaps a mix of demographics in neighbourhoods. Although there is no timeline for reporting back to Council on the impact of this bylaw in the restricted area of its application, it does provide a good opportunity for study and possible improvements in any subsequent bylaws and possible expansion to the whole municipality, providing action and follow-up are undertaken and monitored.

THE VOTE

Leonard	A	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓
		Value 5	
		A indicates council member absent	

VALUE

Community: walkable, affordable, safe; village centred neighbourhoods.

-clean, safe, people choosing to walk to daily needs, greater human interchange.

THE MOTION

Meeting of November 2, 2009 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Hunter/Brownoff to approve a development permit to construct a retail office building for a car dealership on Oak and Short Street.

SCL BELIEVES

Applications for developing this property and another nearby were presented over several years by Architect Alan Lowe. The property had been rezoned in 2005 and a development permit received in 2008. In May and June, 2009 because a building would not be constructed due to the economy, permission was requested to landscape the area, build a curb and sidewalk and store new vehicles on the site. The Mt. View Colquitz Community Association said that the community should have the opportunity for input into planning. Lowe said his client would participate. A development permit was approved with Derman opposed, stating that the area was meant to be a walkable, livable, complete environment and had been identified as a major centre in the Regional Growth Strategy and a prime location for a complete community. In October, the applicant asked that the development permit be replaced to allow the construction of a retail/office building to house the car dealership. Four members of the public spoke about the impact of the proposal on the neighbourhood, particularly the narrowness of the streets and the unsightly building. Councillors opposing the motion raised concerns that the application is not helping to create a walkable community with a vibrant pedestrian streetscape and that, as the location is an important major centre, a higher calibre of development is required.

In this case, a walkable community did not take precedence over a development request. This application may be another example of the problems of approving applications without long-term planning and a wider vision, before the completion of the Uptown Saanich Action Plan, which may set forth different requirements. That said, a normal practice seems to be to request a variance to be exempt from requirements of a Plan.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	A	Murdock	X
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	X	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	X		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich	X

Value 5

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Community: walkable, affordable, safe; village centred neighbourhoods.

-clean, safe, people choosing to walk to daily needs, greater human interchange.

THE MOTION

Meeting of August 17, 2010 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Brice/Gerrard to approve rezoning on Cloverdale at Inverness to permit a 42 unit apartment building with underground parking and commercial space, and covenants for the Saanich Affordable Housing Fund, a fund which unit owners may access for transportation means, and a contribution for equipment for Rutledge Park.

SCL BELIEVES

Property at Cloverdale and Inverness has been derelict for more than seven years waiting for some sort of rehabilitation and development. At the July 12 Committee of the Whole meeting, a rezoning application was brought forward. There have been on-going traffic issues in this area and this development was seen to be adding to the problems of parking, congestion and pedestrian crossings. Nonetheless, neighbours don't want the development held up because of these. It was pointed out that this is a good area for multi-family units, bus service is good to down town and there is support for the coffee shop on the ground floor. On the other hand, the 11 members of the public speaking at the meeting and councillors were critical of many aspects of the proposal. Changes and improvements were made and the public hearing was held. At this time, the applicant committed to two new sustainable features, raised their contributions to the Saanich Affordable Housing Fund and the alternative transit program, and committed to a definite timetable to deconstruct the existing houses on the property. Although members of the public criticized the developer's unwillingness to work with the community and consult on the design, councillors generally felt that the delays of the application process had resulted in improvements.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓
		Value 5	
		A indicates council member absent	

VALUE

Community: walkable, affordable, safe; village centred neighbourhoods.

-clean, safe, people choosing to walk to daily needs, greater human interchange.

Accessible, clean-energy transportation networks.

*-encouragement of effective and networked regional transportation system.
-proactive role in integrated regional and transportation planning.*

THE MOTION

Meeting of December 8, 2008 - Council Meeting.

Moved by Derman/Murdock – That further consideration of the Development Permit Amendment application for 3555 Douglas Street (Town and Country) [Uptown] be tabled.

SCL BELIEVES

The Town and Country / Uptown complex, as envisaged in the Regional Growth Strategy, is one of a small number of major town centres surrounding and linked to downtown Victoria by efficient transit systems. It appears that a future transit system's requirements at Town and Country / Uptown were not seriously considered which will likely result in costly remedies later on and delays in acquiring an appropriate and affordable transit system that works to decrease greenhouse gasses.

This current Town and Country / Uptown project is heavily reliant on ongoing automobile usage that is inconsistent with Saanich's Official Community Plan (OCP) to combat climate change. More parking was allowed without adequate compensation to address other transit needs; there is no transportation demand management plan, with some council members suggesting it would "evolve." In discussion, councillors raised the transit problem; the need for alternatives to driving; need for financial contribution for parking variance to pay for infrastructure improvements. Others focused on mixed use and increased density; adding more bike stalls/showers and LEED features. The motion to table for further improvement was defeated.

THE VOTE

Leonard	X	Hunter	X
Brice	X	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	X
Gerrard	X	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓
		Value 5,9	
		A indicates council member absent	

VALUE

A strong commitment to heritage, cultural and the arts.

-preservation of significant buildings and properties, honouring our past.

THE MOTION

Meeting of January 11, 2011 - Special Council.

Moved by Derman/Gerrard that a covenant be registered to secure the use of the salvaged building materials from the original front façade of the Beaver Lake Store as part of the east/front façade of the new building and the Beaver Lake Store façade be retained on the Community Heritage Register with a notation that the design has been maintained.

SCL BELIEVES

In August 2009, an application to remove the Beaver Lake Store from the Heritage Registry and permit a new commercial building was postponed for the applicant to work with the Saanich Heritage Foundation. Council then approved a rezoning application in March 2010, but rescinded that approval in December to consider new information and reconvened a public meeting. The Beaver Lake store was to be replaced by a 2 storey mixed use commercial and accessory residential building. As it was agreed that the building had deteriorated and could not be maintained, the resulting discussion and decision focused on maintaining, as much as possible, the heritage nature of the building. Members of the public and the Saanich Heritage Foundation approved the plans for the new building and maintaining the original façade design.

An issue raised by this and other similar situations is the loss of heritage properties when they are allowed to deteriorate. There is a need to address the neglect of old buildings that may be on the Registry when the state of neglect makes it difficult to preserve them.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	A
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 6

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Beauty; preservation of natural areas; quality development

-protecting green space, preserving and enhancing beauty in both built and natural environments.

Meeting of November 1, 2010 - Council.

Moved by Derman/Hunter: "That Council adopt the Urban Forest Strategy."

THE MOTION

SCL BELIEVES

The process to develop the UFS began in April 2009 with an extensive consultation process. The goal for the UFS is to protect and enhance the urban forest and outlines seven main strategies. UFS performance indicators have been identified that will be further developed during implementation and may be incorporated in the Strategic Plan. The annual reporting process has not yet been determined. Saanich's urban forest is the sum total of all trees and their associated ecosystems within the municipality. At the Committee of the Whole meeting, five members of the public spoke, as well as members of three organizations. Concerns were raised that not enough attention was paid to the preservation of ecosystems or food and food security. Various speakers suggested a fund for assessing dangerous trees, an increase in the fine for illegally removing trees, and an incentive for property owners to plant trees. Council members pointed to the need for education of residents in developments on the value of trees and integrating the UFS with policies by other municipalities to make it a regional initiative.

It will be interesting to see the impact of this strategy on Council's assessment and requirements for preserving and planting trees when applications for development permits and variances of local area plans come before Council. In many of these cases, discussion around tree preservation seems to be taking a more prominent position.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	✗
		Aligns with Saanich Value 7	✓

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Beauty; preservation of natural areas; quality development

-protecting green space, preserving and enhancing beauty in both built and natural environments.

Meeting of July 21, 2009 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Gerrard/Brownoff that the application to rezone from RS 16 to RS14 for a 2 lot residential subdivision on 4577 Leyns Road and request to waive the 10% perimeter road frontage be denied.

THE MOTION

SCL BELIEVES

The major concern raised by the public attending the meeting was the impact on the Ferndale Forest. Councillors noted neighbourhood opposition, but commented on the need to consider whether to preserve the large, forested lots for the future or allow subdivision, as Council has not yet considered a forest strategy or an overall plan for Leyns Road.

THE VOTE

Leonard	X	Hunter	A
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	X
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓	Support motion	✓
		Against motion	X
		Aligns with Saanich Value 7	✓

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Support for local agriculture, local markets, increased local food security.

-sustainable local agriculture, greater food security, local growers and markets.

THE MOTION

Meeting of November 16, 2010 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Hunter/Gerrard that the application to rezone from A-1 (rural) to RT-1 (attached housing) to construct 7 attached housing units be approved, with a covenant to preserve the treed area at the rear of the parcel, to build to a Built Green Silver or equivalent, and construct a 2 metre concrete sidewalk on Wilkinson Road.

SCL BELIEVES

An application to amend the Royal Oak Local Area Plan to designate property at 4487 Wilkinson Road for potential multi-family housing was originally heard at a public hearing in July 2009, but was adjourned for further information. The applicant consulted with neighbours with respect to privacy and tree protection. Two members of the public spoke in support at the Public Hearing. Although Councillors noted that this may not be a perfect location for density, they considered that the application does offer protection of a large area of greenspace, a sidewalk and the Built Green Silver level of construction.

In this case, the A-1 rural zoning has been lost. If it is a consolation, certain trade-offs were required to preserve portions of the natural habitat and a certain level of environmentally sound construction was required. No opposition to the development was heard from neighbours.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich Value 8	X

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Support for local agriculture, local markets, increased local food security.

-sustainable local agriculture, greater food security, local growers and markets.

THE MOTION

Meeting of March 14, 2011 - Committee of the whole.

Moved by Murdock/Gerard "That the application to exclude from the Agricultural Land Reserve and the rezoning application for Lot 1, Section 54, Victoria District, Plan 5369 (1516 Mt. Douglas Cross Road) be rejected, and the exclusion application not be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission."

SCL BELIEVES

The Director of Planning had recommended that the application be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation for approval and rezoning approval for a 16 lot residential subdivision, as the soil testing had indicated a rating of poor. The community association and numerous members of the public spoke against approving the application, pointing out that the land needs to be protected especially because land is only being removed from the ALR, not added, and that it is useful not only for local food production but for pollinators. Following the rejection of the application by Council, a motion was passed for staff to provide a report on process and policies in terms of the OCP regarding parcels of land that are both in the Urban Containment Boundary and the Agricultural Land Reserve.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	A
Derman	✓	Wergeland	A
Gerrard	✓		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 8

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Accessible, clean-energy transportation networks.

*-encouragement of effective and networked regional transportation system.
-proactive role in integrated regional and transportation planning.*

THE MOTION

Meeting of October 20, 2009 - Public Hearing.

Moved by Derman/Wergeland: that the application to rezone be subject to construction of bicycle lanes and a raised crosswalk on Borden Street between McKenzie and Cedar Hill Cross Road, construction of a concrete sidewalk and implement of a Transportation Demand Management strategy.

SCL BELIEVES

Traffic concerns are raised a number of times by members of the public speaking in opposition to various applications. The application for a 51 unit apartment complex on Borden Street and Cedar Hill Cross Road resulted in a motion to construct bicycle lanes and a raised crosswalk on Borden Street, concrete sidewalks and implementation of a Transportation Demand Management strategy, including a transit pass program.

THE VOTE

Leonard	A	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 9

A indicates council member absent

VALUE

Actively engaged citizens, community oriented leadership.

-readiness of Council to be responsive to community values, shared sense of community.

THE MOTION

Meeting of July 11, 2011 - Committee of the Whole.

Moved by Wergeland/Sanders That Council authorize the use of mail ballot voting in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act for general voting, byelections and other voting.

SCL BELIEVES

This is a significant step that opens opportunities and encourages more people to vote.

THE VOTE

Leonard	✓	Hunter	✓
Brice	✓	Murdock	✓
Brownoff	✓	Sanders	✓
Derman	✓	Wergeland	✓
Gerrard	✓		

Support motion	✓
Against motion	X
Aligns with Saanich	✓

Value 10

A indicates council member absent

In Summary

The motions and votes presented in this Council Voting Record do not comprise a complete record. We urge you to do your own search on the issues that matter most to you. Go to District of Saanich website (www.saanich.ca) and follow the links – Living in Saanich > Mayor & Council > Council Minutes – to make your own judgments. Council discussions are often complex, however, in the end, a council member's vote is their public record. We encourage you to direct your questions to specific councillors if how they voted concerns you.

SCL believes local government is the most important, and most directly accessible, level of government.

SCL's Council Voting Record is not the only indicator of council members' work. They put in long hours of public service, and all citizens should be grateful for their work on our behalf. We do, however, believe that the votes of councillors are an important indicator of their impact on the community's development, especially since so many votes have to do with rezoning, density, land-use, and other matters that have lasting repercussions for our day-to-day lives. The people we elect to Council have the power to make good or bad decisions at the Council table, and as our representatives regionally on the CRD board. Our quality of life today is the result of decades of decisions by past mayors and councils. Those we elect to Saanich Council on November 19 will influence our future quality of life, and the impact Saanich will have regionally and globally.

As an example of the work and record during the past three years of this Saanich Council, we provide a brief synopsis of 2010, as a sample year.

During 2010, 85 meetings were held on 52 dates. Of these, most were Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. In addition, there were 18 Public Hearings and 6 meetings devoted to the Financial Plan.

At these meetings, 498 motions were passed. About half of these would be considered procedural or housekeeping, updating bylaws, receiving or approving reports. Of particular significance in 2010 was the passing of the Saanich Climate Action Plan and the Urban Forest Strategy, as well as a bylaw to allow secondary suites in a prescribed area.

Of these 498 motions, 457 were passed without opposition. Only 41 motions (8.2%) had a split vote with one or more members opposing the motion. Only one motion is recorded as having been defeated during this year – that was an amendment to a motion to add a Queenswood Drive property into the Sewer Service Area. The defeated amendment would have required that all trees removed on the property be replaced in a 2 for 1 ratio.

Approximately 13% of the motions dealt with applications to rezone properties for development. These motions would have dealt with the various stages of seeing an application through to completion: first reading, sending to Public Hearing, dealing with it in the Committee of the Whole, relevant amendments if any, and finally approval at the Council meeting. There were three applications to rezone properties from A-1 rural to allow denser residential building, and one application to subdivide a property in the Agricultural Land Reserve which Council voted to send to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation for approval.

Approximately 10% of the motions voted on by Council dealt with Development Variance Permits, where exceptions to the rules were requested, such as changing the prescribed width of lots, changing the setback distances, requesting an exemption from the 10% frontage requirement, varying the height of buildings or parking space requirements, the closeness of buildings. During this time, most applications were approved, with only two being rejected and then one of these being reinstated. Ordinary development permits accounted for only about 5% of the motions.

Amendments to the Official Community Plan dealt with the Streamside Development Permit Area Atlas ("to increase accuracy and consistency with the Riparian Areas Regulations"), adding Saanich Climate Action goals and greenhouse gas emission goals. One application for development required an amendment to the OCP. Applications to build multi-family dwellings on two properties required amendments to the Royal Oak Local Area Plan.

Perhaps no level of government is more important than our municipal government in determining how well, and how urgently, we will adapt to the crucial issues of our day. These include, for example, engaging citizens to move away from a dependence on fossil fuels as part of municipal action to counteract global warming. It also includes dealing with shifting demographics, food security, affordable housing, maintaining infrastructure, municipal tax reform, wider transportation issues, land-use, and more.

It is encouraging to see that members of the public do come to meetings; members of community associations often attend meetings to follow the work of Council and make their views known. However, when it comes to voting, only 21% of Saanich voters voted in the 2008 municipal election. Although this was up 2% from the 2005 election, it is still significantly lower than turnout in the other four core municipalities.

Saanich Civic League believes Saanich, and our region, face a real need for forward-thinking leadership, backed by increased citizen engagement. We hope that our work will encourage you to consider what sorts of councillors have the vision and energy to address the critical issues before us and, that you will vote accordingly.

On November 19th Vote for What You Value

www.saanichcivicleague.ca
