

Personal details

- 1. Name :**
Robbie Nyaguy
- 2. How long have you lived in the City of Port Phillip?**
4 years
- 3. What is your current occupation and employment background?**
I currently work in the State Government as a ministerial adviser and previously worked in the non-profit and private sectors in communications and community engagement.
- 4. What community services, community groups or local issues have you been involved in here in the City of Port Phillip?**
I have been an active committee member of the Community Alliance of Port Phillip for a number of years. Through my involvement in CAPP I have campaigned for council investment in community housing and stood up for council-run childcare. I have been a member of the Port Phillip Bicycle User Group, St Kilda Historical Society and am a supporter of the Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network. I was a member of the St Kilda Marina Community Panel and advocated strongly for more public open space at the marina.
- 5. Are you currently a member of a political party?**
Yes
- 6. If yes, which one? And for how long?**
Australian Labour Party – since 2008
- 7. Have you previously been a member of a political party?**
No
- 8. If yes, which one? And for how long?**
N/A
- 9. Please list your major campaign donors:**
I am mostly self-funding my campaign. I will not accept donations from property developers or businesses with poker machines.

10. Do you have a policy and practice of not taking donations from property developers?

Yes

Key Priorities

11. What are your top three priorities for your ward in the next term of Council?

We need a council that stands for what matters most – investment in our essential community services, support for our parks, gardens and tree-lined streets and real local climate action.

Community engagement in decision-making

12. How will you strive to enact the requirements in the new Local Government Act 2020 for increasing community engagement in the work of local government?

I will push for a citizen assembly to be a core component of the process in developing the new 4 year Council Plan and Budget and ensure a city-leading community engagement strategy is developed to ensure the deepest possible involvement of the community in decision-making.

13. Will you support Citizen Assemblies for significant decision-making tasks, such as in the development of the Council Plan and Budget and other appropriate forms of public participation in the development and implementation of Council Strategies, Policies and Plans?

Yes

14. Will you commit to quarterly ward meetings to keep abreast of what your community wants from you as a councillor and to inform them of Council activities?

Yes

15. Any further comments on community engagement in decision-making?

Community engagement is the foundation with which the best decision-making takes place. Community engagement must be tailored to the decision being made and must involve clarity around what decision is being made and how much say community members will have through the process. I want to see more in-house council staff dedicated to community engagement as this will allow a continuous and deep connection to form between council and the community. In my professional career, I have undertaken study for the IAP2 Australasia Certificate in Engagement (which is the qualification for community engagement professionals in Australia). Community engagement in Port Phillip can and should be sector-leading and transformational. It must never be a tick-box exercise.

Culture, music & the arts

16. What is your attitude to Council investment in the local arts sector?

Increase Council funding

17. Will you commit to supporting Council's current and ongoing investment in Gasworks Arts Park and Linden Gallery?

Yes

18. Will you support an analysis of Covid-normal restrictions and distancing for the future of local artists, venues and live music in Port Phillip?

Yes

19. Do you support repurposing the 2020/21 budget allocation (\$1.7M) for the now cancelled St Kilda Festival so as to nurture local artists and live music in the municipality in COVID-safe ways?

Yes

20. Will you reverse the 2020/21 Budget cut to the library book vote?

Yes

21. Are you committed to the major upgrades to Port Phillip library buildings and the collections over the next four years?

Yes

22. Any further comments on culture, music and the arts?

I want to see our community recover from COVID stronger. If elected, I'll develop a rescue package which will include support for our arts, culture and music communities and venues. I will oppose attempts to close Middle Park Library and will work to see major investment in libraries across the City of Port Phillip. Our libraries are the heart of our city - they must have books and they must be equipped for the needs of the 21st century.

The environment, open space & local climate action

23. List your top three priorities for Council action to address climate change locally:

We must act locally. I will vote for tangible projects that reduce emissions, harvest stormwater and plant more trees.

24. Do you support the role of the Port Phillip EcoCentre in environment education and fostering sustainability in Port Phillip and Council's investment in the EcoCentre's operations?

Yes

- 25. Do you support the current Council decision to commit funds to the re-development of the Port Phillip EcoCentre subject to Council receiving partnership funding of \$2.75 million for 50 per cent of the project costs?**
Yes
- 26. Do you support the Council's investment of \$1m for the Elster Creek Catchment Partnership?**
Yes
- 27. Do you support the development and implementation of a Green-Blue City Plan for Port Phillip, along the lines of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's 'Planning a Green-Blue City: a how to guide for planning urban greening and enhanced stormwater management in Victoria'?**
Yes
- 28. Will you work for stronger Council advocacy to the State Government to get the Grand Prix removed from Albert Park?**
No
- 29. Do you support reducing the number of days when the foreshore is closed to the public for commercial events?**
Yes
- 30. Do you support the development of more open space across Port Phillip, especially in under-resourced areas?**
Yes
- 31. Do you support a stronger Tree Policy which will increase canopy cover in Port Phillip and reduce the heat sink effect, especially in areas where this is most pronounced?**
Yes
- 32. Do you support continued provision of council land for community gardens?**
Yes
- 33. Do you support expanding and connecting the municipality's bike lane and bike path networks, even if these projects are solely funded by council?**
Yes
- 34. Any further comments on the environment, open spaces and local climate action?**
Council has enormous power over the public realm across the city. We must build a public realm fit for the 21st century. It must be climate-ready – reducing the urban heat island effect, supporting local wildlife and taking action ahead of sea level rise. It must be people centred – with excellent pedestrian and bike paths (with a strong

preference for protected bike lanes). We must maximise the use of open space - for public recreation and enjoyment.

I will work to have the current Trees Policy replaced with an ambitious urban forest strategy (along the lines of the City of Melbourne's policy) with targets to increase canopy cover in streets, parks and private land.

Commercialisation of public spaces including the foreshore and Albert Park Lake must be carefully balanced. I will work to reduce overcommercialisation of the foreshore and other public spaces. I support council's position to oppose the Grand Prix at Albert Park however believe council should focus advocacy on ensuring residents and traders (not just council) get a say on the renewal of the Grand Prix contract beyond 2023 and until then work with the State Government and race organisers to reduce the negative impacts of the Grand Prix on residents, traders and other Albert Park users.

Waste management and recycling

35. Do you support the rollout of FOGO bins as widely as possible throughout Port Phillip in 2020/21?

Yes

36. Do you support the introduction of a separate waste charge given rising waste and recycling costs to the City of Port Phillip?

Maybe

37. Any further comments on waste management and recycling?

Consideration of a separate waste charge must be looked at within the context of the broader budget and only after extensive public consultation (ideally through a citizen's assembly).

Working smarter: council financial strategy and efficiency

38. Will you support the conduct of an independent review of Council efficiency and management, prior to the development of the new Council's first Plan and Budget?

Yes

39. Do you support Council developing a plan for prudent borrowing to support social and economic recovery in response to the COVID-19 crisis?

Not sure

40. Any further comments on council financial strategy and efficiency?

Council must review operations to ensure it is delivering for the community as efficiently and effectively as possible. I want to see less consultants and middle

managers. ****Ticked "Not sure" as no maybe option**** Further to my previous answer regarding a separate waste charge, consideration of borrowing to support social and economic recovery in response to COVID must be looked at within the context of the broader budget and only after extensive public consultation (ideally through a citizen's assembly). I'll develop a rescue package to revive shopping strips including Acland and Fitzroy Streets, invest in foot and bike paths and support our arts communities and venues.

Rates/rate relief

41. Would you support targeted rate relief in 2020/21 for businesses currently eligible for JobKeeper and residents on JobSeeker?

Not sure

42. Do you support a rates' freeze in 2021/22?

Not sure

43. Do you support freezing or reducing rates in 2022/23 and 2023/24?

Not sure

44. If yes, what Council activities would you seek to reduce as a result of reduced revenue?

I will oppose cuts to Council services.

45. Any further comments on rates & rate relief?

Again further to my previous answers regarding a separate waste charge and borrowing, consideration of rate relief and rates freezes (I oppose rate cuts) must be looked at within the context of the broader budget and only after extensive public consultation (ideally through a citizen's assembly). Given the fast-moving nature of the current pandemic it would be irresponsible to make commitments regarding rate levels in three years without having been fully briefed on the state of the Council Budget. I will actively oppose any moves to reduce or cut Council services. Assisting ratepayers impacted by COVID is critical but must not come at the expense of others in our community.

Planning & heritage

46. What do you see as the most important task for Council in relation to Fisherman's Bend during its next term?

Delivery of key public infrastructure - including climate and people-ready streetscapes and provision of new open space and essential community services.

47. What do you see as the most important task for Council in relation to the Triangle during its next term?

Positive action. Council has failed to deliver for the community on the site. The Triangle is a prime location for the delivery of new open space. Any plans for the Triangle must be led by the community through a comprehensive community engagement process along the lines of the St Kilda Marina Community Panel process.

48. Do you support enhancing protection of Port Phillip's urban heritage by investing in updating the neighbourhood heritage plans?

Yes

49. Any further comments on local planning & heritage?

Major council assets

50. Will you ensure that community groups continue to have access to space in the South Melbourne Town Hall following its planned re-development?

Yes

51. Will you commit to bringing forward the much needed upgrades planned for Council's early childhood education and care facilities?

Yes

52. Will you support Council maintaining ownership and management of the South Melbourne Market?

Yes

53. Any further comments regarding major Council assets?

Residents deeply value Council's early education and childcare services, age care services, libraries, community centres and the South Melbourne Market. I want to see them invested in and expanded, where possible, so they continue to support the heart of our community.

Building our community: social housing, early childhood services and more

54. Do you support increasing Council's current level of investment in secure, low cost local social housing over the next four years?

Yes

55. Do you support advocacy to State and Federal Governments to increase the provision of secure and high quality public housing for low income people and those experiencing, or at risk of homelessness in our community?

Yes

56. Do you support Council making an annual contribution to the Council-established Phillip Housing Trust for the Trustee to leverage new social housing developments in Port Phillip?

Yes

57. Do you commit to upholding Council's 5 August 2020 public interest decision to continue to run its childcare centres as a direct service provider?

Yes

58. Do you support Council actively partnering with the State Government in the planned roll-out of free three year-old kinder to the families of Port Phillip?

Yes

59. Any further comments on social housing, early childhood services etc.?

I have been a strong advocate of Council investment in social housing and will work to have 'In Our Backyard' reviewed if elected.

Supporting and reviving the local economy, including local shopping strips

60. Do you support Council developing a rescue package in partnership with local business to revive our local shopping strips in response to the COVID-19 crisis?

Yes

61. Will you support freeing up local laws to allow more outdoor dining to enable local cafes and restaurants to adapt their businesses in COVID-safe ways?

Yes

62. Any further comments on supporting and reviving the local economy?

One of my first priorities if elected will be to ensure we have a smooth rollout of outdoor dining (ideally coupled with opportunities for our arts and music communities) after the next step on October 28. Council must take the lead in this area.

One last question and final remarks

63. Do you think of local government primarily as an economic unit that should be run as a business?

No

64. Any final comments you'd like to share with voters in the City of Port Phillip?