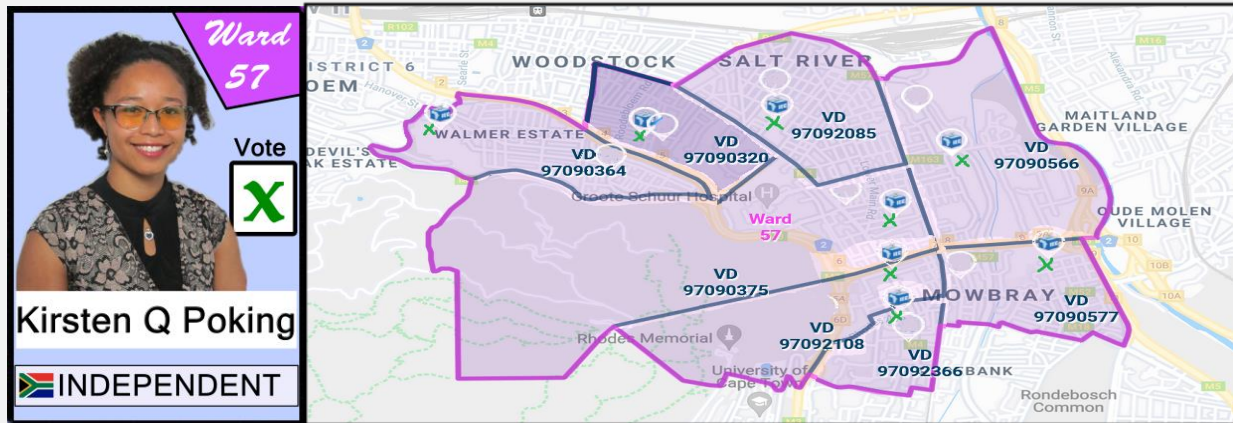


Manifesto of Kirsten Q. Poking

Independent Contesting Ward 57



Ward 57 is a unique and diverse ward, with multiple special communities. Despite the diversity, the ward shares common challenges, many of which intersect and are solvable if we are able to strengthen the connections between each other, the city and the organisations working within our ward.

A community could do this without help from your councillor. Now imagine what we could do with a councillor willing to fight alongside you - on what concerns you, rather than the needs of a particular party. **As an independent, this is what I will do!**

My manifesto is structured around the issues that both motivate me and also that reflect the concerns and interests of the ward. These points are key to my ethics, and to my commitment to you. This may be a short list, however it does not mean that these are the only concerns that concern Ward 57 or myself.

Accountability and Transparency

Being an Independent my accountability is to Ward 57. There is no party mandate, manifesto or party president that I am accountable to before my ward. I am accountable and will be more transparent by making access to information clear and simple by removing the gatekeepers, red tape and bureaucratic jargon.

Inclusivity of the differently abled

The differently abled in many communities go unnoticed when they need access like everyone else. I will work with the community and organisations to increase awareness and education on the differently abled. We'll create a community plan that highlights ways to include the differently abled into the framework of the city.

Heritage

As a person with mixed heritage and having lived and been active in Bo-Kaap, I appreciate and value the preservation of our Heritage and Culture - both physical and intangible. I have been involved in supporting the efforts of the Salt River Heritage Society and the Liesbeek Action Campaign, and will work with the community of Ward 57 to bring your concerns over heritage preservation to the fore, without party lines preventing a conversation. For too long our heritage and cultures have been silenced, actively oppressed or denied the existence of, I will make sure that the voice on heritage is heard and protected.

Safety and security

Opportunistic and organised crime are quite prevalent throughout the ward and each district has their own way of tackling this issue. Crime inhibits growth in our community but is a symptom of a larger systemic issue. Lack of access to sport and recreation, unemployment, education access and affordable housing are all a part of the misconduct and lawlessness. The aftermath of 27 years and a pandemic, people are still actively being oppressed. No more Band-Aid solutions or solutions that make the community's situation worse - like developments that increase rates and taxes of homeowners that they simply cannot afford.

Affordable Transport solutions

The community needs better more sustainable public transport options, options that cater for the differently abled and are affordable. This solution will mean cooperation from the city and our neighbours so the ward needs a person that can network and get other leaders to work

together to action these solutions. That is one of my strengths, bringing together different people and leaders and finding ways to work together.

Environment

I will work with the community to find better, more sustainable measures to address the environmental concerns of Ward 57. Creating Community Gardens, a user friendly recycling system and also engaging with local businesses both big and small to start adopting greener business practices and having policies in place that incentivises these greener practices. I will also bring my own environmental activism experience, networks and lessons learnt through volunteering in the environmental sector - both local and international, and the holistic views I learnt through Biomimicry, to my role as Ward 57 councillor. All of this will lend a fresh, innovative and energetic eye to the environmental challenges of Ward 57.

This is just the start, there is so much more that I could say and want to hear from you.

Feel free to reach out to me on the following platforms:

Facebook, Twitter - @KirstenQPoking

Instagram - @pokingkirsten

WhatsApp - 061-309-1319.