



Waverley West booming, but recreation a bust

Council candidates say city
services haven't kept up with
fastest-growing ward

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Thank you, Winnipeg Free Press, for covering this important article – EXCERPT from the article:

A new city councillor will be elected this fall to lead Winnipeg's fastest-growing ward that remains short on city services despite it being the most populated.

Five candidates have registered to run in the race to lead Waverley West, where incumbent Janice Lukes is not seeking re-election. While the south Winnipeg ward has had no trouble attracting residents, the candidates say key services are still needed to support them.

"We have one of the biggest wards, approximately 72,000 people. Out of that ... more than 40 per cent are youth 30 years of age and under. We have a very high youth population, so the recreation opportunities are very important," said candidate Nafiya Naso.

Naso, who owns a cleaning business and is a former consultant to Lukes, said she would seek community input on how best to use a \$128-million South Winnipeg Recreation Campus that is being built in the area.

“(We need to) bring the community voice to the table to ensure that amenities in the community centre are, in fact, what the community needs. We have one of the biggest, largest communities and also (a very) diverse community, so having the community voice at the table is very important,” she said.

The lack of recreation opportunities has been a sticking point with residents, as has the years-long delay for a permanent fire paramedic station, which should finally be completed in 2027.

“We have a very high youth population, so the recreation opportunities are very important.”

Naso said safety is also a top concern for the rapidly growing community. She plans to advocate for “strong provincial leadership” on programs to address mental health and addictions and seek ways to bring residents, police and community groups together to focus on crime prevention.



SUPPLIED

Nafiya Naso, who owns a cleaning business and is a former consultant to Coun. Janice Lukes, is also running in Waverley West.