

**Combined Residents of Whitehorse
Action Group (CROWAG) Incorporated.**

ABN 40385662637 Inc. No A0104002C

Email - crowag.inc@gmail.com

Web - www.crowag.org



Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: [Minwen Wu](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Sparks](#)

The *Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group Inc. (CROWAG)* represents a number of community groups and individual members across the municipality. In the current COVID-19 environment we are seeking to assist candidates to reach our members, helping them to make informed decisions when they vote.

CROWAG advocates for appropriate and sustainable development concerning built-form, public amenity, and the natural landscape within Whitehorse to all tiers of government. It seeks to promote the quality of life for residents and the natural landscape of Whitehorse. It lobbies Whitehorse Council to improve its relationship with its constituents in the areas of public accountability, public transparency, good governance, community engagement, fairness and equity.

Your responses to this questionnaire will be made available:

- a. to all CROWAG individual and group members and their networks within Whitehorse
- b. on the CROWAG website at www.crowag.com

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Please answer all questions and keep written responses to each question to less than 150 words.

1. How long have you been a resident of Whitehorse?

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 20+ years

2. Do you live in the council ward for which you are a candidate?

Yes or No

3. List the community, political and/or professional organisations with which you have been involved during the last 10 years.

1. I served on three public school councils and two Dandenong City Council committees.
2. I was an active ALP member from 5/2015-01/2019, before resigning to be a non-partisan person, free and independent politically. 3. I was a key founding member of CAMA-Chinese Australian Multicultural Association in Box Hill from late 2018 throughout 2019. Co-founder of Bilingual English Chinese Corner at Box Hill Gardens 02/2019-12/2019. 4. Volunteered coordinator for various Covid-19 groups, including CALAC- Chinese Australian League Against Covid-19, Anna Charity Foundation, AUS-CHN Covid-19 Fundraising etc.

4. What positive achievements resulted from your membership of these groups?

Successfully campaigned for traffic signage change for David St-a main street in central Dandenong, to streamline traffic flow especially in peak hours. Volunteered and donated for Labor movement. Contributed to bringing Chinese Australians closer within ourselves and with mainstream community, including the fact that the first 5 non-Chinese members signed up with CAMA largely because of my introduction and influence. The growth and popularity of the English corner was phenomenal. Significantly increased communication, coordination and cooperation in the frantic rush of many Chinese Australian groups and individuals in helping Victoria fighting the coronavirus in the earlier months, including helping channeling \$15k or so donation from Chinese individuals into Box Hill Hospital to buy ECMO.

5. Please state what you want to achieve as an elected Councillor

Please be referred to my candidate statement on minwenwu.com. I love real, concrete stuff instead of empty political slogans or paperwork/lip services, to really make the community better, as I know deep down in my heart that's the only thing that really works and lasts. I deem myself as an authentic Australian at heart, who was born in China but attracted by Australia in searching for a better life as so many Box Hill residents were, who has a huge capacity to contribute to this emerging 2nd city of Melbourne.

6. What are the top five issues you believe could improve the functioning of the *Whitehorse City Council* in representing its ratepayers and community?

- 1) Weekly listening posts with ward residents, which I will hold on every Sunday afternoon 2pm-5pm at parks if elected.
- 2) Walk the talk. Walk the streets and neighborhood often and talk to residents often, as I've been doing as much as possible in the past lockdown months, and will do more if elected and with the virus gone.
- 3) Be humble, be down to earth, be fair dinkum, be open minded, be courageous, be a leader, be Australian.

- 4) A regular public stand-up forum in Box Hill Gardens/ Surrey Park /Box Hill Mall, like the speaker's corner in Hyde Park London, which I will set up if elected. It has embedded in my mind since 30+ years ago when I first came across it when learning English at University of Science & Technology of China, although I have never been to any other place on Earth yet other than Australia and China.
- 5)
- 6) Get onto and invite residents onto the online neighborhood Nextdoor.com as I've been doing.
7. There are many important roles of Local Government. As a Councillor you will need to make difficult decisions with many issues of importance competing for your vote, council action and finances. Whitehorse Council's responsibilities are listed below.

In the boxes below, please **rank the roles that are most important to you** from 7 (Most important) to 1 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

5	Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation
4	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety
1	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
7	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
3	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space
2	Roads and Safety including management of roads and footpaths, streetscapes (including street trees), street lighting, car and bike parks, pedestrian and cycling safety and security, disabled accessibility
6	Community including library services, theatre and the arts, community centres, volunteering, community grants

8. The following Issues of specific interest to CROWAG.

In the boxes below, please **rank the priority of the issues** in order of importance **to you** from 10 (Most important) to 1 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

10	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
2	Transparency and governance in council matters
1	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency
8	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
3	Council rates and capital expenditure policies
9	Administration of Council's planning and building provisions in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme (WPS) e.g. overall level of development in the city, building site compliance requirements, general administration including inspections, Planning Permit Conditions compliance, administration of tree and vegetation controls, tree retention and protection on building sites, ensuring compliance with landscape and planting plans, community consultation, fines and prosecution for transgressors
6	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
5	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
7	Management and utilization of the city's parks, open spaces, and linkages (e.g. shared use paths, waterways, and residential streets)
4	Traffic issues in Whitehorse

9. If you have any further comments please note them below:

As stage 4 restrictions is being lifted up soon, Look forward to meeting more Sparks residents at parks and streets, with masks still on though possibly. Ring me at 0488 884 365 anytime 8am-8pm. In between, please check out: minwenwu.com; facebook.com/vote1WUminwen; au.nextdoor.com. Who cares? WU cares! Vote for who? Mr WU! Thank you & have great day!

Thank you for completing the CROWAG questionnaire.

For further queries contact CROWAG secretary David Berry on 0413 457 184

Please save your completed questionnaire and send it as an attachment by email to 'Whitehorse Councillor Candidate Responses' at: crowag.inc@gmail.com