

Meet East Electoral Area Director Kevin Kraft

Kevin Kraft has spent his life serving the Okanagan, and he is asking residents of the East Electoral Area for the opportunity to continue that work.

Kevin grew up in Rutland and graduated from Rutland Secondary. Today, he and his wife are raising their young family in the Ellison area. His career has taken him through teaching, eight years as a regional firefighter, years at UBC Okanagan, agriculture, business, and public service. These experiences have given him a practical understanding of the people, institutions, and communities that make the Central Okanagan work.

His work continues to keep him connected with farmers, producers, businesses, families, and the realities of living and operating in the Okanagan.

For the past term, Kevin has served as the RDCO Electoral Area Director for the East Electoral Area. He has learned the files, built relationships around the board table and with other levels of government, and, most importantly, worked to remain accessible to the residents he represents.

Kevin believes rural and semi-rural residents deserve a strong voice at the Regional District. The East Electoral Area is diverse, encompassing farmers and producers, rural neighbourhoods, water systems, businesses, and resort communities. Each faces different challenges, but all deserve representation that listens, understands the local context, and follows through.

Priorities for Kevin include responsible taxation, transparency, and strong representation for the electoral area. He understands that the Regional District operates on a tax base ultimately supported by residents and businesses. Decisions must be practical, financially responsible, and focused on delivering value for the services residents receive. Growth should be planned carefully, infrastructure maintained, and regional priorities addressed without losing sight of affordability.

The RDCO will also be undertaking an update to the Electoral Area Official Community Plans. Kevin believes this will be an important opportunity for residents to help shape the future of their communities and that strong, local representation will be essential to getting it right.

During his first term, Kevin has worked to bring greater attention to agriculture, food security, land use, water management, the regional soils bylaw, and the long-term protection of the region's natural assets. He believes protecting productive agricultural land and managing growth requires more than good intentions—it requires thoughtful planning, practical policy, and action.

Kevin believes elected officials should listen to different perspectives, acknowledge when they are wrong, and make decisions based on facts, common sense, and what is best for the community. He also believes accountability matters. Greater transparency, thoughtful committee participation, and ensuring residents understand how and why decisions are made are important parts of good regional governance.

For Kevin, this election isn't about starting something new. It is about continuing the work already underway—and continuing to show up.

He is asking the residents of the East Electoral Area for another term and the opportunity to continue being their voice at the RDCO and beyond.