

16 August 2024

**Ku-ring-gai Council Election 2024 – Candidate Questions**

Please return your answers to **info@foke.org.au** by **5.00pm on FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024**.

**Candidates Full Name:** ... Yukun (Henry) SONG .....  
**Ward Standing for:** ... Gordon Ward .....

**Authorised Campaign Address:**... L3, S2, 828 Pacific Hwy Gordon NSW 2072 .....

**Email:**...hysong.kuringgai@outlook.com.....**Mobile:**...0424 151 568.....

**Website:**<https://songyukun.com/> **Facebook:** Page: Henry SONG - Candidate at KRG Gordon

**Qualifications:** MSc, BSc, DipFinM.....**Day job:** Business Development.....

Are you a member of a political party? **YES**

If **YES**, specify ...Liberal Party of NSW.....

Community/ lobby/ sporting group membership? **YES**

If **YES**, specify ...Gordon FC, Lions Club St Ives, Chinese Australian Forum .....

Have you endorsed Save Greater Sydney Coalition’s election planning principles? **NO**

Have you signed the YIMBY election pledge? **NO**

Do you believe dwelling supply alone will solve the housing shortage and affordability? **NO**

Do you support Ku-ring-gai Council's legal action against the NSW Government's Transport Orientated Development (TOD) SEPP? **No, because TOD is already effective and legal action will only cost rate payers’ money.**

Do you support making a new place based LEP to mitigate the adverse impacts of the TOD and Low to Mid-Rise Housing SEPP on Ku-ring-gai? **Haven’t decided**

Do you support maintaining public Council land for community use? **YES**

Do you support listing Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion as a UNESCO GeoRegion? **YES**

Do you support the protection of Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas? **YES**

Do you support the establishment of a Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Advisory Group? **Need more information**

Do you support natural turf on Ku-ring-gai's sports and playing fields; or the installation of artificial turf? **BOTH. Some grounds are suitable for artificial turf, some aren't, if impacting natural reserves.**

**Expanded Questions:**

*Please keep each answer less than 200 words (longer answers may be cut).*

1. What motivated you to run for office at the Ku-ring-gai local government elections?

I am motivated to run for office at the Ku-ring-gai local government elections by my commitment to the community and a desire to address the challenges facing the area. As a resident of Killara, raising a family on Sydney's north shore has given me firsthand experience with the issues that matter most to local residents. These include the pressures of increasing housing density, the need for sustainable development, and ensuring that public amenities and infrastructure keep pace with growth.

With my professional background in various industries, combined with leadership experience in both corporate and community settings, I believe that my skills can contribute to more efficient governance, ensuring that Council decisions benefit the community. Additionally, I am passionate about supporting the diverse needs of Ku-ring-gai's residents, including families, seniors, and individuals from various cultural backgrounds. This dedication to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community is the key drive of my decision to run for Council.

2. What is your vision for Ku-ring-gai?

My vision for Ku-ring-gai is to create a thriving, sustainable, and inclusive community that balances growth with preserving the area's unique character. I envision a Ku-ring-gai where smart planning and sustainable development address the challenges of increasing housing density while protecting the natural environment and enhancing public amenities.

Central to my vision is a community that supports its diverse population. I aim to promote initiatives that enrich the community's cultural fabric, provide essential resources for seniors, and create opportunities for economic growth. I also seek to enhance recreational spaces and ensure that Ku-ring-gai remains a welcoming and vibrant place for all its residents.

3. What life experiences and professional experiences do you bring that will serve in your role as a councillor?

As a resident of Killara, I have experienced the challenges and aspirations of raising a family on Sydney's north shore. I have been engaged with local sports and community support activities. These have given me a deep understanding of the needs and concerns of local residents, particularly those of new immigrants, families, children, and seniors.

I have a diverse professional background in the technology, finance, and clean energy industries. My experience as an entrepreneur and a leader in these sectors have equipped me with strong analytical and strategic planning skills, which are crucial for addressing complex issues such as sustainable development, housing density, and infrastructure management.

My academic qualifications, including master's and bachelor's degrees in science, a Diploma in Financial Markets, and professional certificates in Sustainable Finance and Net-Zero Principles, further strengthen my ability to contribute meaningfully to the council.

4. What do you see as the key issues facing Ku-ring-gai?

Ku-ring-gai is experiencing continuous population growth and increased housing density. This raises concerns about maintaining the area's unique character and balancing development with preserving green spaces and the natural environment. There has been increasing demand for improved transport and traffic solutions and infrastructure upgrades.

The growing population also places additional demand on recreational facilities, sports grounds, and public amenities. Ensuring these facilities are well-maintained and accessible to all residents is important for community well-being.

With an increasingly diverse population, there is a growing need for initiatives that support cultural inclusivity, arts, and community engagement.

5. How do you propose to address those issues if elected?

I will advocate for a balanced approach to development that accommodates growth while preserving Ku-ring-gai's unique character and green spaces. This includes promoting developments that are environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, and in harmony with the surrounding landscape. We must ensure that new housing projects include green spaces, integrate with existing communities, and respect the natural environment. Promoting the use of sustainable building practices and renewable energy sources in new developments will also be a priority.

I will prioritize the upgrading of essential infrastructure to keep pace with the growing population. This includes not only roads and transport, waste management, public amenities, but also improvement of recreational facilities, sports grounds, and parks to ensure they can meet the needs of a growing population.

I will work to develop programs that cater to the needs of all residents, particularly those from diverse cultural backgrounds. This includes expanding language support services, creating multicultural community centre. This also enables them to understand Ku-ring-gai's history and help grow its unique characters.

6. How will you ensure community engagement, and participation?

I will establish clear channels of communication, such as email newsletters, social media platforms, and regular community meetings, to keep residents informed about council decisions, ongoing projects, and upcoming initiatives. This will ensure that everyone is aware of what is happening in their local area and how it might affect them.

I will work closely with local community groups, schools, and cultural organizations to facilitate broader participation and to tap into the wealth of knowledge and experience within our community.

I will ensure that residents have a mechanism to provide feedback on council services and initiatives continuously. The feedback will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the council is responsive to the community's evolving needs.

Recognizing the cultural diversity within Ku-ring-gai, I will organise culturally sensitive community events, and ensure that communication materials are available in multiple languages.

7. What do you consider are key issues in your Ward?

Gordon ward is facing all the key issues that Ku-ring-gai has, such as increasing density causing pressure and concerns about infrastructure, open spaces, recreational facilities, environmental

reservations. Specifically, the residents are concerned about converting Gordon Bowling Club to multi-functional recreational park, preserving Gordon Golf Club, rebuilding Marian St Theatre, traffic issue on Lady Game Dr, enhancement of Allan Small Oval and Koola Park, road maintenance, and footpath upgrades.

8. Are there any additional comments you wish to add?

**Candidate's Name:** Yukun (Henry) SONG.....**Signature:** *Yukun song*.....

**Date:**...23/08/2024.....

Thank you for your time in answering the questions. Candidate answers will be published on FOKE's website, E-news and sent to members and supporters/resident's lists.

Please attach your election **photo**.

Authorised by Kathy Cowley, President, Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (FOKE) M: 0431 158 880