

IELECT Candidate Questionnaire

IELECT Hamilton is asking every candidate for Council to complete this online questionnaire to provide residents with information regarding your campaign platform.

Please complete the following questionnaire. IELECT Hamilton will post your unedited responses on our website. The questionnaire is structured using the six priorities identified in our research of municipalities across Canada.

Email *

cameron@cameronforward2.ca

Name: *

Cameron Kroetsch

Running for: *

Mayor

Councillor

If councillor, which ward are you running in:

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
- Ward 6
- Ward 7
- Ward 8
- Ward 9
- Ward 10
- Ward 11
- Ward 12
- Ward 13
- Ward 14
- Ward 15

Which ward do you currently reside in: *

Ward 1

Ward 2

Ward 3

Ward 4

Ward 5

Ward 6

Ward 7

Ward 8

Ward 9

Ward 10

Ward 11

Ward 12

Ward 13

Ward 14

Ward 15

Other:

Campaign website:

www.cameronforward2.ca.....

Campaign Email: *

info@cameronforward2.ca

I - Infrastructure

A Leader who inclusively improves Hamilton's neighbourhoods, parks, playgrounds, roads, bridges, community centres, and waste water treatment facilities.

1. What three things are you most concerned about and would like to see changed as they relate to Hamilton's current infrastructure needs? *

1. Addressing our infrastructure deficit - The City needs to both keep up with its growing infrastructure deficit while continuing to look to the future for cost effective innovations that will increase infrastructure lifecycles. The City cannot continue to shave and pave its way to a climate resilient future.

2. Safer streets - Almost every resident I've spoken with in Ward 2 has identified the issue of road safety. The City must prioritize road redesign as a method of drastically reducing road violence.

3. Better wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and monitoring - Simply put, Hamilton cannot afford any more ecological disasters like the leak of 24 billion litres of mixed raw sewage into Cootes Paradise. The City must invest not only in monitoring Hamilton's wastewater facilities but it must ensure that stormwater infrastructure can keep up with the pace of change.

2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's infrastructure? *

1. Invest in better and smarter infrastructure - this will ensure that all public construction bids are competitive and choose those that offer a balance of cost-effectiveness and climate resiliency. Hamilton can innovate and lead as much as, and even more than, other Canadian cities.

2. Collaborate with neighbourhoods to redesign unsafe streets - this will slow down streets, make neighbourhoods more liveable, and make it safer for everyone to get around in their city

3. Introduce a new fee structure for development or building improvements that increase the burden on our stormwater system - this will ensure transparent, equitable, and sustainable funding of additional stormwater infrastructure and will incentivize innovation to reduce future impacts to areas like Cootes Paradise.

E - Economy

A leader who strengthens the overall financial health and prosperity of Hamilton and all its diverse residents, through better and more secure jobs, a living wage, housing availability and affordability, and access to public services.

1. What three things are you most concerned about and would like to see changed as they relate to Hamilton's current economy? *

1. Affordable housing - Hamilton is falling behind when it comes to affordable housing, across the spectrum. Deeply affordable housing beds are being sold off faster than they're being built, while the waiting lists continue to grow. This is not sustainable and we all see the growing need in our communities.

2. A living wage for all City employees - If the City doesn't take the lead to ensure that all of its employees are paid a living wage then there will be no incentive for other businesses in Hamilton to follow suit.

3. Better public services - Good enough is no longer good enough. Hamiltonians have a right to expect that the services they pay for are not only excellent but that its municipal government gets the basics right. It's the least the City of Hamilton can do.

2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's economy? *

1. Leverage the City's land assets and increase intensification - this will create partnerships between not-for-profit housing organizations and both upper levels of government by leveraging some of the approximately 1,000 acres of the City's underutilized or vacant land.

2. Put forward a motion to provide a living wage to all municipal employees - this will not only help to make the City a leader in Hamilton, but it will position Hamilton to be certified as a living wage employer. As a living wage employer, the City could lead the way to defining Hamilton as a living wage city.

3. Break down barriers for local businesses to get started in Hamilton - this will allow the Hamilton Business Centre (HBC) to provide realtime support to businesses without forcing them to speak to multiple City departments to get service; HBC will manage, coordinate, and respond efficiently to help businesses get going quickly.

L - Leadership

A leader who treats all residents with respect and dignity, pushes for transparency and good governance, inspires others through a bold vision, and takes innovative, equitable and evidence-based decisions to better serve all Hamiltonians.

1. What three things are you most concerned about and would like to see changed as they relate to Hamilton's current leadership at Council? *

1. Transparency - There have been too many secrets, scandals, and coverups. Hamiltonians deserve elected municipal representatives who will put resident priorities, including the health and safety of all Hamiltonians, ahead of lobbyists and insiders.

2. Accountability - When the City makes a mistake, it needs to own up to it, apologize, and make amends with those who have been impacted, immediately. No one expects the City to be perfect, but the next Council has to earn back the trust that previous Councils have completely eroded.

3. Public Leadership - Just making a point at a Council meeting isn't an effective way to communicate or lead. The next Council cannot hide away in silence when there's a tough issue to confront or a difficult meeting to attend. Better leadership is crucial for Hamiltonians to regain trust in their elected officials.

2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve the city's leadership? *

1. Speak out, in public, and in an accessible manner, about important issues - this will let residents know that I support them, see them, value them, and am listening to their concerns.

2. Encourage any organization receiving City funding to share feedback, positive or constructive, about issues involving the City - this will ensure that key City partners are providing it with the necessary feedback required to improve the services it delivers.

3. Hire an arms-length auditor to administer municipal Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and access records using the City's IT infrastructure - this will eliminate the possibility for members of Council to determine which records they disclose and will introduce more impartiality to the process.

E - Environment

A leader who champions actions to address climate change to ensure a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment for all current and future Hamiltonians.

1. What three things are you most concerned about and would like to see changed as they relate to improving Hamilton's current environment? *

1. Hamilton's declared "climate emergency" - The City declared a "climate emergency" in early 2019, but has not taken this pledge seriously enough. The City must implement an aggressive plan for tackling climate change.

2. More greenspaces, parks, and trees - Hamiltonians cannot get outside to enjoy their city if there's nowhere for them to go to escape the extreme heat and cold. The downtown core is home to far too many heat islands and lacks adequate greenspace.

3. Stop sprawl by continuing to promote and enforce building within the existing urban boundary - this will keep the costs of suburbanization at a minimum, lessen the municipality's infrastructure burden, protect vital farmland, and conserve natural landscapes like wetlands and creeks.

2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's environment? *

1. Hire additional City staff to prioritize Hamilton's declared climate emergency - this will remove the responsibility from a small team, integrate expertise across the organization, and ensure that there are actionable timelines and robust plans for the Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) and Climate Change Impact Adaptation Planning (CCIAP).

2. Accelerate the expansion of parks and greenspaces and commit to a minimum of 45% of urban forest canopy cover in the downtown core - this will help to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands and aid in the development of the urban forest canopy; it will help neighbourhoods adapt to rapid change and provide more equitable access to outdoor spaces.

3. Implement mandatory Green Development Standards (GDS) and stormwater fees - this will begin to curb the impacts of increased development and help us to better manage the pace of change. The City must not only implement these tools but must ensure they're enforced.

C - Community

A leader who fights for the needs of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive population and who improves community engagement so the voices of all Hamiltonians are heard.

1. What three things are you most concerned about and would like to see changed as they relate to supporting the needs of all communities in Hamilton? *

1. Managing the pace of change - Hamilton is growing and changing quickly. If the City does not come up with a plan to ensure that residents have the necessary services, facilities, and amenities then people will be left behind.

2. Making Hamilton inclusive for all - Our city has been recently given the moniker of the "Hate Capital of Canada". I have spoken with far too many neighbours and friends who have been impacted by the City's passive approach to equitable inclusion. We must become a city known for inclusivity.

3. Accessible and equitable budgeting - Right now, most residents have no idea how the City spends their tax dollars and there's currently not a uniform system used to measure all municipal budgets. The City must make it easier for every resident, regardless of their training or education, to engage in the budget process.

2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to support Hamilton's communities? *

1. Put up signs to explain significant physical changes in neighbourhoods and hold regular town halls to hear from residents directly - this will make it easier for residents to understand what's happening with service disruptions, new developments, emergency repairs, and other major infrastructure planning.

2. Create safe City-supported spaces for members of communities that have been targeted by discrimination and violence - this will help to address the needs of communities who have been asking for these supports, for many years, and who are not currently supported by a resourced City department.

3. Reform the budget process and ensure that it's written using clear language - this will bring residents into the budget process. The City not only has to ensure that every resident can equitably engage in the budget process but that residents have as many opportunities as possible to give feedback while Council deliberates on it (not just on "budget delegation days").

T - Transportation

A leader who supports safe, effective movement throughout the city for all Hamiltonians by ensuring access to equitable and affordable public transit, safe roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails.

1. What three things are you most concerned about and would like to see changed as they relate to Hamilton's current transportation needs? *

1. Public transit - Many Hamiltonians live in areas that are not well-serviced by transit. It's the City's responsibility to ensure equitable access to public transit and to do everything it can to eliminate transit fares.

2. Pedestrian safety - Everyone in Hamilton deserves to get around safely. Residents can't do that if their sidewalks, streets, school areas, and bike lanes are danger zones. Hamiltonians deserve to be able to get outside when and how they want to.

3. Mobility justice - The City must treat all road users equitably. That means ensuring that the most vulnerable road users are provided with the safest possible transportation infrastructure so that they can get to their destinations in one piece.

2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's transportation systems? *

1. Modernize local Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) routes and work with the Province and Federal government to phase out transit fares - this will not only remove barriers by gradually eliminating transit fares but provide a more efficient local bus network to support Light Rail Transit (LRT).

2. Clear snow from all sidewalks, side streets, bus stops, and hydrants - this will provide residents, including those who are isolated, with the confidence to enjoy their city year round; it will also make it easier for City staff to access critical infrastructure in the winter.

3. Connect existing cycling infrastructure and expand the Hamilton Bike Share fleet - this will create much needed citywide cycling connectivity so that people can more readily choose active transportation and will prioritize protected cycling infrastructure.

This form was created inside of ielect Hamilton.

Google Forms