

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 *

runcraigrun1@gmail.com

Name: *

Craig Cassar

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.craigforward12.ca.....

Campaign Email: *

info@craigforward12.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. The inherited deficit and crumbling infrastructure are massive challenges for the next council, requiring zoning changes, increased revenues, and creative, collaborative thinking across all 15 wards.
2. Roadways are designed for motorized vehicles at the expense of pedestrian and cyclist safety.
3. Our rain and wastewater management systems cannot handle the volume of water produced during storm events, polluting regional waterways.

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

1. Responsible and sustainable growth in Ward 12 and throughout the City. The expansion of infrastructure associated with boundary expansion would increase the city's infrastructure deficit. Maintaining a firm urban boundary gives Hamilton the opportunity to end the downward debt spiral. Investing in the repairs and maintenance of existing infrastructure will significantly curb the city's \$3 billion+ infrastructure deficit. The city will be able to invest in housing, parks, playgrounds and safe streets within the boundary adding to our tax base and enriching our city.
2. Safer streets. I will collaborate with residents and expert staff to implement design changes on our streets to prioritize accessibility and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, and the comfort of drivers, while improving traffic flow. I will support the staff-recommended Complete Liveable Better Streets plan and ensure that its principles are implemented effectively and with urgency.
3. Better storm-water management. I will identify innovative ways to collect and use rainwater to divert it from our overburdened water management system.

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. The infrastructure deficit prevents investment in the assets, programs, and sectors such as arts and culture that attract businesses and people, and enrich our community. A fiscally responsible plan will allow the city to repair aging infrastructure and repay the massive debt accrued under the incumbency of long-standing councillors.

2. Hamilton's exclusionary zoning policies and the lack of density in parts of the city are limiting mixed-use development and preventing economic growth in many neighbourhoods.

3. The city lacks sufficient affordable and deeply affordable housing.

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

1. I propose to expand the vacant homes tax to include commercial properties in order to encourage development and discourage property speculation. Increased tax revenues will help address the inherited infrastructure deficit.

2. I propose the implementation of inclusionary zoning, permitting mixed-use developments, and gentle density throughout the city, and adding missing middle housing options for residents. Mixed-use developments and increased density attract small businesses, and working with Ancaster BIA we could build vibrant, walkable neighbourhoods, increase the city's tax base, and enable further investments in our communities.

3. I propose meaningful investments in affordable and deeply affordable housing and greater requirements of developers to provide such housing.

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. Lack of transparency: Sewergate is an example of a persistent lack of transparency.
2. Lack of fiscal responsibility: The current level of the infrastructure deficit is an example.
3. Lack of collaboration, problem-solving, innovation, mutual respect, and curiosity: Council's reluctance to explore new ideas and to support progressive, evidence-based solutions for the challenges that Hamilton faces prevents the city from realizing its potential and serving its citizens in the way they deserve.

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

1. Council has repeatedly withheld information from Hamiltonians. I propose to end closed meetings except when necessary for legal reasons. I will advocate for the Council to adhere to Ontario's Open Meeting Requirements.
2. I will draw on my career in corporate leadership at a \$4 billion, leading sustainable company where I lead large teams of people and successfully implemented \$100-million+ projects. I will ensure that the city exercises fiscal accountability through evidence-based and forward-looking decision-making in our annual municipal budgets.
3. I will ensure dedicated and open lines of communication through multiple, accessible channels to improve communication among fellow Councillors and Ward 12 constituents.

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. Addressing the 2019 city-declared climate emergency: Wetlands, agricultural lands, and green spaces are under increased threat of development. The city is not moving quickly enough to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Zoning and building practices and influence from developers: In rural areas, farmland is in peril. Green spaces throughout and around Hamilton are under pressure. Zoning, housing, and building standards across the city do not address these concerns.

3. Land use and vacant and undeveloped properties: The city is forgoing potential for housing, services, community spaces, and economic opportunity.

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

1. Create a new, fully-supported, senior leadership position at The City of Hamilton to lead and coordinate systemic initiatives across the municipality in response to the declared climate emergency. This includes implementing the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and Climate Change Impact Adaptation Planning (CCIAP). This position would be required to consult with the Indigenous communities to incorporate their expertise in caring for our shared lands.

2. Implement city-wide mandatory Green Development Standards for new development and retrofitting existing buildings. I will work to implement inclusionary zoning and an expanded vacant homes tax to help support improved use of land and existing infrastructure.

3. Leverage the depth and breadth of my long-time volunteer work, environmental advocacy and corporate leadership. I commit to creating a "Made in Hamilton" plan to expand the Greenbelt, to implement a target of 40% urban forest canopy coverage in Hamilton, and to preserve and restore our waterways. The plan will focus on regional biodiversity and residents' health through access to green space, farm-grown products, and clean water. It will also include measures to reduce flooding, infrastructure damage, and costly cleanups such as the sewage spill in Chedoke Creek.

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. Colonial systems have not listened to perspectives from marginalized and disadvantaged communities resulting in an inequitable city.

2. The fifteen ward councillors often fail to act in the interests of Hamilton as a whole. While individual ward issues are important, lack of support for initiatives to better the lives of other residents has held back our collective economic and social progress.

3. Hamilton's lack of varied housing options for all income levels and family sizes and inadequate stock of affordable and deeply affordable housing do not address the needs of the community.

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

1. I will foster engagement and consultation with Indigenous and marginalized communities within Ward 12 and across the city

2. I propose to fund the support and housing of the unhoused in Hamilton. Hamilton needs to work with all levels of government towards evidence-based funding solutions that address the root causes of houselessness in a humane and equitable way.

3. I propose an immediate audit and assessment of all city land assets in order to determine which lands can be allocated and leveraged to build long-term affordable and deeply affordable housing and to create a comprehensive municipal non-market housing program.

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. Safer streets. Residents' lives are at risk on our streets. Current street design prioritizes motorized vehicles at the expense of the safety of our citizens when they are pedestrians and cyclists. There is a lack of contiguous, protected bike lanes within and between neighbourhoods and many parts of Hamilton are designed exclusively for automotive traffic.

2. Disruption in neighbourhoods caused by speeding cars and trucks.

3. Inadequate public and active transportation options, particularly in Ward 12.

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

1. In support of Vision Zero and to enhance neighbourhood enjoyment and liveability, I will fully support the staff-recommended Complete Livable Better Streets plan in Ward 12 and throughout the city, and ensure that modifications are implemented with urgency and efficiency. Modifications to our street design will enable residents at all stages of life and mobility to move effortlessly and safely and to thrive in flourishing, safe, and inclusive neighbourhoods.

2. I will collaborate with neighbourhoods to understand their concerns about traffic and speeding and find solutions together.

3. I will find creative ways to grow the demand for and supply of public transportation in Ward 12 at hubs like Redeemer University, the village core, and the Meadowlands.

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Google Forms