

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 *

kojoforward14@gmail.com

Name: *

Kojo Dampsey

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.kojoforward14.ca

Campaign Email: *

info@kojoforward14.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. According to City staff, Hamilton is suffering from an infrastructure deficit of \$3.2 billion. For roads, bridges and traffic, the City is short \$1.6 billion. This is a huge concern for residents and future generations.
2. Neighbourhood road, cyclists, and pedestrian safety.
3. Lack of free public and community facilities per Ward. There are a number of recreation centres that need improvements and renovations.

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

1. Increasing the overall contributions to the tax supported capital budget. Advocating for immediate infrastructure funding from senior levels of government to address disaster mitigation and adaptation, improvements to roads, bridges, and recreation centres.
2. Make neighbourhood streets safer and reduce cut-through traffic by implementing complete streets review in all Wards. So far only Wards 3, 8, and 14 have undergone a review. If all Wards go through a street review we can begin tackling safe streets systemically across the City. Conduct a sidewalk audit in every neighbourhood and across the City to ensure all sidewalks complies with AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) standards.
3. Our recreation centres need to be seen as community hubs for families, youth, seniors, and residents. They need to transform into spaces where City services are available to residents. Public Health services, Community gardens, youth programs run by City and not-for-profit organizations, and senior programs to reduce social isolation.

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. Lack of affordable and dignified housing for different incomes
2. Living wages for all
3. Lack of community spaces and opportunities for safe public events

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

1. Increase funding for affordable and dignified housing on a mixed-income model. Create by-laws that allow for intensification and mixed-use buildings. Working within the urban boundary to build more adaptable buildings that allow for businesses, apartments, and multi-use spaces for community events.
2. Providing grants for eco-build outs, composting for restaurants, and other greening initiatives to support local businesses. For Ward 14, working with businesses in various neighbourhoods to create business associations.
3. Working with residents, community organizations, and businesses on the West Mountain to create more opportunities for festivals, local sporting events, and community activities.

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. Responsible, Effective Leadership: Our current members of City Council have reached a tipping point where no solutions are brought forward, our current elected representatives have made poor decisions that have cost us money and in some cases death (Red Hill scandal, Cootes scandal, lack of housing, poverty, and more).

2. New Ideas: Two lessons I took from the COVID-19 pandemic is how we haven't invested in Public Health and how our cities aren't built to be resilient during uncertainty. A majority of Councillors have been at the table for so long they are not open to new ideas and creating a City for future generations.

3. Open Communication & Transparency: During the pandemic, when people needed information and certainty, we saw a number of Councillors that didn't communicate with residents to provide calm and certainty. The scandals during the 2018 - 2022 term are long to list, transparency seems to be an afterthought for the current Council and this needs immediate change.

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

1. Civic & Resident Participation: Implementing a Ward Youth Council consisting of high school students in Ward 14 to bring forward policy about Ward specific and city-wide ideas. I will introduce neighbourhood councils in all neighbourhoods in Ward 14 as a way to build civic capacity and engagement. I will share my work calendar with the public so every resident in Ward 14 & Hamilton know who I meet with and why.

2. New Ideas: To build a City that is resilient in 2050, the foundation needs to be built in 2022. The building blocks include inclusive city building, fostering concrete relationships with Indigenous Nations, Communities, & People, and redefining how the City takes care of everyone.

3. Respect & Ethical Leadership: Respect and collaboration is a two-way street. For a city to function properly you need Councillors and a Mayor that can have respectful, insightful, and encourage informative discussions. Without that, residents witness a dysfunctional Council that doesn't represent anyone. I pledge to uphold respectful, insightful and informative discussions with other Councillors irrespective of if I agree with their positions or not.

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. The municipality has been slow to achieve a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. We need to expand the current work the City is doing on climate mitigation and adaptation.

2. Lack of public spaces for extreme weather conditions. Our City needs a formal process and policy about how we deal with extreme weather effects during the summer and winter. These processes should involve residents, businesses, and community organizations (particularly environmental organizations).

3. We need to reduce Hamilton's carbon footprint needs. We can start by directing staff to find and hire the expertise necessary to ensure a climate lens is applied to all municipal decisions.

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

1. Establish a city-wide response and protocol for extreme weather events all year round and establishing cooling centres during heat waves and warming centres during extreme cold days/nights. Working with community organizations, libraries and recreation centres to establish cooling and heating centres.

2. Electrification of the public transit bus system

3. Formalizing climate mitigation and adaptation into the City's budgeting process

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. Racism and hate symbols and crimes, violence towards Black, Indigenous, racialized people

2. Lack of support and basic human rights for people who are unhoused, older adults and seniors who are isolated, and people who use substances

3. Access to free internet in public spaces

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

1. Fund the City of Hamilton's Community Safety & Well-Being Plan to address hate incidents/crimes, violence, people experiencing houselessness, substance use, mental health stigma and affordability

2. Develop community hubs to support under represented people and under served communities (older adults, students, newcomers) experiencing isolation

3. Expand free WIFI access in public spaces, at city parks, and on public transit

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. Road and street safety/sharing

2. Lack of affordable and reliable options for public transit for people with different needs and in different areas across the City

3. Lack of protected walking and cycling lanes around school zones

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

1. Advocate for and ensure continued investment to create affordable, reliable and dependable public transit options and multi-modal transportation across the City. Expansion of DARTS and other options for mobility across the City.

2. Invest in neighbourhoods with protected mobility tracks for bikes and people traveling by active means (cycling, walking, other forms of multi-modal transportation) while also expanding SOBI to Mountain neighbourhoods.

3. Develop safe zones around all elementary and high schools, integrating protected walking and cycling lanes to ensure families and children can walk and bike to school safely.

This form was created inside of ielect Hamilton.

Google Forms