

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 *

ward1wilson@gmail.com

Name: *

Maureen Wilson

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:

ward1wilson.ca

Campaign Email: *

ward1wilson@gmail.com

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. Crumbling infrastructure & Impact of rising inflation -

The cumulative impact of 20 years of underfunding our city's assets has come home to roost. Hamilton's core infrastructure funding gap sits at \$190 million. Recent City reports reveal that the Lower City has been impacted more severely by the lack of strategic asset management planning and decisions to under-fund road maintenance. The result is now higher rehabilitation costs. Renewal activity must be prioritized accordingly along with a right sizing of our road system. Complicating these matters is that of rising inflation. The nominal 0.5% (\$4.3M) allocated annually (and irregularly since in 2014 and 2021 the majority of council opted to earmark no levy dollars for maintenance) for capital reinvestment will be principally absorbed by inflation. We missed the window of nominal/no inflation and low interest rates.

2. Non-climate resilient infrastructure - Hamilton's critical infrastructure is not resilient to climate-induced changes. Rising temperatures present risks to public health, particularly to vulnerable populations. Extreme rain events will continue to contaminate our streams, Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour. More of the same jeopardizes our children's future and Hamilton's financial stability.

3. Unsafe streets that prioritize motorized vehicles and speed over safety, economic prosperity and neighbourhood well-being.

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

1. Commit to a Data-driven Asset Management Plan and needs-based budget with more public involvement in capital budget deliberations.
2. Commit to the city’s climate action plan, including the adoption of a Climate Emergency Screening Tool to evaluate how transportation projects align with climate deliverables. Prioritize older multi-residential buildings for climate retrofitting incentives. Advance Blue-Green infrastructure to improve the water absorption capacity of property and divert contaminated stormwater. This approach copies nature to reduce the volume of rainwater entering our piping system.
- 3 Commit to the city's new Complete Streets Design Manual and Vision Zero safe systems approach to streets.

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. Transportation affordability and availability
2. Housing affordability and availability
3. Labour shortages

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

End area rating for our HSR and invest in transit and multi-modal transportation because successful cities have more, not less public transit and transportation choices. Failure to offer transportation choices can limit access to employment while saddling workers and families with significant costs associated with forced motorized vehicle ownership and less disposable income to invest back into our local economy.

Provide a zoning and planning regime that will enable a range of quality, affordable housing types across the entire city in recognition that affordable housing and neighbourhoods are a critical component of a city's economic development plan.

Understand the real sources of a city's competitive advantage to attract and retain workers, and prioritize accordingly. Over the next few decades, Canada will be experiencing a significant worker shortfall due to changing demographics. Any economic development plan must consider how Hamilton can attract and retain graduates, immigrants and labour. Better transit, mixed use neighbourhoods with comfortable pedestrian access, a range of affordable housing, valuing diversity with zero room for hate, being a clean, green and safe city with easy and more affordable ways to be an entrepreneur and start a business, support for a living wage across all sectors and a robust and valued arts and culture sector are all sources of competitive advantage.

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. The erosion of trust and confidence due to a lack of transparency, the lack of Council decorum and the open hostility toward engaged residents and volunteers. In combination these practices have dissuaded active resident participation, eroded trust in city government and it can impair the city's ability to attract and retain experienced, skilled staff.

2. The inability to stick to strategic priorities in favour of transactional, short-term politics. This kind of leadership has undermined Hamilton's potential, is not financially sustainable and it undermines our city's strategic assets.

3. The unwillingness to accept and acknowledge inconvenient truths. For example, rather than expend time and staff resources trying to discredit Hamilton's ranking for hate crimes, leadership demands that you face hard truths and engage with the community in the whys, the whats and the need for action.

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

1. Lead by example. Nobody is infallible. Certainly not me. I will continue to admit my mistakes and attempt to repair the damage done. Do not engage uncivil or bullying behaviour at Council. Also keep accounting for all decisions through regular communications without spin.

2. Make it easier to track councillor votes and motions with an online vote compass tool that should be housed with the city administration and continue to advocate for public access by design to bring as much transparency to city government as possible.

3. Convene regular opportunities for council with community to learn from experts and best practices from around the world on various city building matters including housing, climate readiness, economic investments, safe streets as just a few examples.

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 impact of rising and sustained heat on Hamilton's most vulnerable residents.
 2. The impact of more frequent extreme precipitation events on our natural environment and existing assets.
 3. Food insecurity.
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2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's environment? *

1. Put rising interior heat temperatures on the agenda. With actions to include: prioritizing older urban multi-residential buildings for climate retrofitting incentives; investments in shade and water features in public spaces; Consulting with vulnerable populations on the City's cooling centre locations; and, support the Ontario Human Rights Commission's call for the Provincial Government to designate air conditioning as a vital service, like the provision of heat in the fall and winter, for tenants in Ontario.
 2. Implement a fair storm water fee to incentivize permeable surfaces, address a below municipal threshold investment history and provide an earmarked source of revenue for storm water infrastructure investment.
 2. Maintain support for a firm urban boundary. In the words of former Ontario Environment Commissioner, "suburban sprawl is Ontario's tar sands".
Any extension of Hamilton's urban boundary would see the paving over of prime agricultural lands.
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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. Widening health disparities in Hamilton.
2. Inaccessible and undervalued public spaces and green spaces
3. Discriminatory housing/ land use policies

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

1. Change Board of Health Governance: Support a local public health governance body that reflects the communities it serves through local representation, including municipal and citizen representatives that are fully informed of the social determinants of health. Appointments should be made with full consideration of skill sets, reflection of the area's socio-demographic characteristics and understanding of the purpose of public health and the importance of health equity.
2. Identify low voter turnout as counter to the public interest and request a comprehensive report on available ways and means to achieve higher voter turn-out particularly in multi-residential buildings. If successful, I believe this would provide for more equitable and inclusive policy outcomes
3. Promote and enable mixed-income development to allow residents of all means to live, play and engage in all neighbourhoods and schools.

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. Deaths and injuries on and beside our streets as a result of vehicular speed and street design.
2. Disconnected and unsafe cycling and pedestrian travel paths
3. Unreliable and inconvenient public transit

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

End area rating for public transit and invest any savings into transit services. Until we come to a funding system that treats all urban areas equally, Hamilton will never have a comprehensive transit system.

Expand and connect active transportation networks.

Apply the city's new Complete Streets Design Manual and Vision Zero safe system approach to all road assessments, redesigns and new construction.

This form was created inside of ielect Hamilton.

Google Forms