

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 *

spolnik@gmail.com

Name: *

Stefan Spolnik

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:

stefanforward6.ca

Campaign Email: *

spolnik@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? *

I have concerns regarding the amenities in parks - like water fountains and splash pads, the roads in our city need to be better maintained. I do not understand our the technology has not improved or why we have not implemented better practices to build and maintain them. I believe sidewalk snow removal would benefit everyone especially our aging population who I do not feel should have to shovel the sidewalks in front of their homes.

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

The actions I would propose to improve Hamilton's infrastructure would be better built roads. The technology exists we should be utilizing it. Park amenities should be consistent across all wards. Drinking fountain upgrades. Better litter and recycling containers and more public use spaces so everyone can enjoy our parks.

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? *

The three things I am most concerned about and would like to see changed in relation to Hamilton's economy are more affordable housing, increased access to public services and better job prospects. It is no secret that Hamilton's housing market has reached all time highs making home ownership unattainable for most residents, and the cost of renting is becoming a significant burden on single income and minimum wage earners. There are a few good public resources in the city to support economic hardship, but the accessibility for those beyond the downtown core is nearly nil. During the pandemic, the lack of benefits for full-time or nearly full time employees in entry level positions was magnified. Ensuring Hamiltonians have the ability to take a day off when needed and not worry about the financial implications is paramount.

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

The three actions I would propose to improve the economy in hamilton would be to look into reallocation of funding for pre existing programs, pushing for increase of budget to support Hamilton's future and advocacy for additional support from provincial and federal governments.

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? *

The three things I am most concerned about and would like to see change on in the current council are lack of transparency regarding big environmental issues, very little community involvement, and the need for consultation with our Indigenous partners and input from other marginalized communities. Too often are decisions made that impact everyone in the City with little input from those who it impacts most.

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

Three actions I would propose to improve the City's leadership would include set terms for council, consultation with our indigenous partners and other marginalized communities, and accountability for our actions regardless of financial repercussions.

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? *

Three things I am most concerns about in relation to Hamilton's current environment include preservation of adult trees, increased pollinator gardens in green spaces and water restoration. I would love to see better protection for our native tree population especially what could be referred to as heritage trees, not only are they beautiful they are great carbon sinks and provide all of us with fresh clean oxygen. The city has done better in recent years in regards to planting new trees but there is always room for improvement, including more species diversity as we seem to be lacking more coniferous trees in the City. Increase in pollinator gardens as well as community food crop gardens is something I am also passionate about, again they have a dual purpose in providing the community with a beautiful landscape as well as food for residents and insects. Lastly restoration of our waters. Wouldn't it be wonderful to swim in the bay safely? Daylighting one of our creeks may help to restore the natural biodiversity as well as remove more of the toxicons that have caused so much damage.

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

Samuel Ryckman wrote in the 1700s when surveying the city that you could not see the bay from the escarpment due to the height and density of the pine forest that once grew there. I would love to experience that again in some capacity. I have the only registered heritage tree that I know of in the city a 230 year old bur oak. I named her Phoebe in honour of Phoebe Land one of the first European settlers in the city. I believe a heritage tree designation program would help preserve more of these ancient beauties not only for the residents now but those who come after us. We have an abundance of unused green and brown space. These should be put to good use with native flowers and community gardens. Our waterways need better protection. Floodplains should be restored where possible and better water monitoring and restoration efforts should be made in order for everyone to enjoy the unique and natural beauty of the city. I would love to see the bay swimmable in my lifetime or at the very least for those who come after us.

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? *

Three things I am most concerned about in regards to Hamilton's communities are the lack of engagement from councillors until election year, the lack of community input/and output on decision making, and increase in services for each ward. Ward councillors are meant to be a municipal voice for the community they represent but I have heard time and time again from residents, (and experienced it myself) that people feel unheard and often times get no response from their elected officials until tis time to campaign again, this needs to change. When it comes to big issues like the Red Hill Valley, our built heritage and when mistakes are made such as the Chedoke Creek spill - the community should be the first to know and have the ability to provide input to the city regarding large changes that are planned to be made. There are plenty of services in the downtown core but much fewer who service the mountain and Hamiltons surrounding communities.

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

Multi language QR codes on municipal signage to better ensure all residents are able to read and understand. Monthly town hall meetings so that residents can voice their concerns. Making myself available to the public and continuing to support community projects.

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? *

Three concerns i have in regards to transportation include becoming more pedestrian friendly, supporting green transportation alternatives, and wider catchment areas for public transportation. We should be working towards a more pedestrian friendly city. I have used our public transportation system countless times and I believe we should be moving towards electric buses as well as a better connected system that allows residents to travel all around the city in a timely manner.

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

Further bus routes to ensure all residents are able to access public transport. Free ridership on HSR for students and reduced rates for seniors. Connected bike lanes/paths throughout the city. Better deals for individuals who wish to use bikeshare programs. Increase the LINC to 3 lanes in both east and westbound lanes.

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Google Forms