

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 *

McMeekin4Ward15@gmail.com

Name: *

Ted McMeekin

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:

I live in Dundas but have lived 37 of the last 41 years in Ward 15 either in Waterdown or Carlisle.
Waterdown or Carlisle. I consider Ward 15 my base community.

Campaign website:

Not yet available

Campaign Email: *

McMeekin4Ward15@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. a strategy to handle the \$3.4 Billion cumulative Infrastructure shortfall;
2. working more effectively with the province and federal governments to build a stronger and more resilient water and sewage runoff strategy. The infrastructure replacement costs MOU between the city and the two senior level of government is case in point. We're not going to solve of infrastructure challenges by clipping coupons from local newspapers. There are three possible solutions: a massive property hike; a dramatic improvement in our industrial/commercial to residential tax ratio OR working to secure a better financial partnership with senior levels of government. The quickest and ideally most sustainable would be partnering with our two senior levels of government.
3. the roads are a mess -- we need to do better;

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

1. Build better financial partnerships with the two senior levels of government. With a 14% to 86% industrial/commercial to residential tax ratio, Hamilton is stymied in any cogent way from dealing with infrastructure woes (even without urban sprawl);
2. make infrastructure (and all decisions) based on evidence, supported by principle and designed to achieve the greatest good;
3. focus on the obvious: completing the so-called Bypass in Waterdown + a focus on extending better police and fire infrastructure to Waterdown (thankfully it's in the works.)

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. We need to do everything possible to thoughtfully transition to a focus on building a keener and greener economy. the fastest growing technical employment area is in solar and wind technology -- lets recognize this and strive to intentionally attract green industry;
2. Provide additional resources to Hamilton's hard-working BIA groups and
3. Implement most of the Mayor's Task Force on the Economy with an aggressive post-pandemic recovery as our priority.

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

1. how and what we decide to build will be important. I will continue to push for a major Housing Summit of ALL significant stakeholders to get a handle on building a more sustainable Hamilton economy while growing our labour base;
2. work intentionally to create housing and business retrofits -- this should be done in consultation with the Labour Council and Building trades with a stronger partnership with Mohawk College;
3. work more smartly and supportively with small business especially through the matrix of local BIA groups.

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? *

Leadership is about vision and about getting things done as a 'team'. If you want to go fast -- go alone, but if you want to go far - go together!

Leadership is about listening to learn and then creatively using that learning as a springboard to action -- how many great ideas get lost because no one ever hears them. Building trust will be important. Once trust is lost it is very difficult (in anything resembling a democracy) to lead.

A good leader understands the importance of 'Case to Cause' Advocacy. Solve a problem and then develop policy that enables the benefits of having solved the problem to accrue to others.

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

see above

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? *

We can't keep dumping untreated human waste into fresh water streams, over waterfalls, into our nature sanctuaries and our harbour. Turns out that every time a prediction of 3 consecutive days of rain is about to befall us we're in trouble. Only 5% of the entire world supply of water is fresh water. It is a resource that is precious (almost sacred) and needs to be protected. We need a more resilient water and waste water protocol.

I was instrumental as an MPP of pulling together a partnership that resulted in (some work still ongoing) a \$497 million retrofit of the Woodward Ave. Treatment Plan and \$millions to cap Randle Reef, the second biggest toxic spot on the great lakes.

2. engage more citizens in the Climate Emergency. Hamilton was slow to get off-the-mark, even after declaring a climate emergency in 2019. There is much local expertise which when engaged can dramatically assist the city do better. Engage for Change.

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

Engage our community and especially our young people in a massive tree planting effort (Note: there is a Federal government program to support this effort. This would build a more active and caring community; improve air quality, ensure more attractive neighbourhoods, provide mental health benefits, increase property values (money actually does grow on trees), create needed wildlife habitat and be an effective urban noise buffer while providing much needed natural carbon storage.

2. defend and enlarge the Greenbelt. I worked with the Minister closely in the development of this, the largest legislatively protected green space in the world;

3. create a National Cootes to Escarpment Urban Biosphere Park. Take the most diverse environmental area in Canada and nurture and protect it. We're makin progress on this front but there's lots more work to do. (Special Note: I've prepared a working paper entitled "Being Keen and Green" -- it's too extensive to share here but is available in response to any serios enquiry).

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? *

No one is as smart as all of us. We need to foster a culture of constant community consultation with each other and the constituents Councillors are privileged to represent.

Aristotle once mused 'if you want to know if the shoe fits, ask the person who wears it, NOT the person who made it.'

This city belongs to all of us and we all have a responsibility to make our city better.

We need to make decisions based on evidence, supported in principle and designed to achieve the greatest good.

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

A Community Council that will engage long-time residents and newcomers in East Flamborough to come together, work together and dream together as to how to be a stronger, more caring, sustainable and playful community;

Two specific Advisory Committees will be put in place: one on the Environment and Climate Change and the other on Agri-food and Rural Life,

It would be helpful if all Councillors had access to at least 2 and a half support staff. when all is said and done it's about service -- something as complex as research/policy development and community consultation and as simple as having the ability to respond quickly (eg. returning phone calls).

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? *

When it comes to moving from place to place, we are clearly a multi-modal community. Those living in rural portions of our community are understandably more car dependent than others. Unless and until public transit becomes decidedly more convenient, accessible, affordable and reliable, the car/transit divide will persist.

I've been an unabashed advocate of the LRT. It is the single most important greenhouse gas reduction initiative; will cost 40% less to operate than the B-line buses; provide 7000 post-pandemic years of work; save us money with the replacement of aging infrastructure (funded by the two senior levels of government); stimulate downtown economic development and, if the Community-Benefit working group has its way, provide a major enhancement of affordable housing.

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

Develop a comprehensive bicycle network of protected lanes (please, too many ghost bikes); more enforcement of truck route violations and a greater emphasis on the provision of pedestrian gathering area couple with rigorous traffic calming..

Pedestrian safety needs more attention. Examining long overdue changes to our One-Way street network is important work that I support.

Google Forms