

# 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 \*

cperaward15@gmail.com

Name: \*

Chris Pera

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:

chrisperaward15.com .....

Campaign Email: \*

cperaward15@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) Funding. How can we as a city ensure that we have the revenue streams to cover not only current pressing infrastructure needs, but also those of an ever growing and expanding city?

2) I think that all new roads built and all infrastructure upgrades should be made with Multi-Modal Active Transportation in mind. The more people that we can get moving without clogging up our roads, the better we'll be. Road Safety is also a big issue. It's good to see that we have things like the Vision-Zero initiative and the Complete Streets program happening in Hamilton, but we have to make sure that we don't lose focus and stop pursuing these goals. Speaking of the Complete Streets program, I would push to see that a Complete Streets review of Ward 15, and all Wards that have not yet been reviewed, is completed.

3) I'm concerned that Waterdown doesn't have a Rec Centre/Community Centre that fits our growing population. We need a place that we can grow together as a community through shared experiences, that guarantees access to public services, and that has things like free WiFi and after school programs.

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

1) Finish the Waterdown Bypass. As an integral part of the infrastructure improvements recommended in the Waterdown Transportation Master Plan, we must work to fast-track completion of the Waterdown Bypass Road. This will help to limit traffic within our neighbourhoods, reduce noise and air pollution, decrease commute times, and keep our streets safe and accessible for all community members.

2) All work done on new and existing infrastructure should prioritize increasing resiliency. The impacts of climate change are being felt more strongly every year. We have to ensure that we're building to handle not only our current reality, but the reality that climate experts are projecting for our near and far future.

3) This ties into the community section, but build a first-class Rec Centre/Community Centre in Waterdown for all community members of Ward 15 to enjoy. People need shared public spaces to help bind the community together, places where they can utilize public services and get to know one another.

## 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) I want to ensure that all Hamiltonians are able to make a living wage. Hard work should be rewarded properly, with dignity and appropriate compensation. I think our recent experience with "essential" and "non-essential" workers shows how important some of our lower paid workers are to keeping our city functioning. Not only will higher wages allow residents to have a higher quality of life, but it will also take some of the pressure off of city social services.

2) Following the trends observed over the last three decades, we're bound to lose more jobs to outsourcing and automation. We must be cognizant of which industries are taking their place, and what is the fallout? Will the new jobs pay at a similar level to the jobs that have disappeared? Will the new jobs be unionized? What impact will this have on our tax base? What government support is there for workers to transition into this new economy?

3) I want to ensure that we stay on track with the plans laid out in the new Economic Development Action Plan (2021-2025).

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

1) Continue to support the development of Hamilton as a premier destination for the film and entertainment sector. This type of industry projects a type of soft power for our city, showing its diversity and beauty, and driving further interest and investment into the area.

2) Listen to local business groups and other stakeholders in the community to see how the city can best partner with them, ensuring that they receive the type and amount of investment that they need to thrive.

3) I would continue promoting Hamilton, and work to continue building it into the kind of city that attracts the type of skilled, adaptable, and educated workforce that we need as our economy transitions further toward the green and tech sectors. This includes bringing new people into the city as well as providing educational and re-training opportunities for those already living here.

### 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) From what I've heard and seen through the media, things on council have been...acrimonious at times. I would like to establish a calmer, more productive working environment, with respect not only between councillors, but between councillors, city staff, and the public.

2) I'm worried about the fact that Council thinks that it's okay to hide things from the public. City Councillor is essentially a customer service job, and the customer is the public. The public is the most important part of this equation, not council

3) I would like to see Councillors be present at council meetings and in their community.

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

1) Ensure radical transparency. The public should be able to know what is happening on council, and why decisions have been made. The days of cover ups are over. "In-camera" meetings are an easy out for councillors to not address issues in the city. I would ensure that meetings remain open to the public, are available to stream, and are stored for the public record.

2) Listen to the public and be empathetic. If elected in Ward 15 I would put a direct vote to the community reaching out for ideas about what they would like to see happen in the Ward. I'll champion whichever idea/plan wins and get it done, so that community members can see that if they work together, they can achieve something for their community. Community building always starts at the grassroots, and oftentimes to lead you have to listen.

3) Remind Council that we're all here to be Servant-Leaders. We're here to address the needs of residents, and the only way to ensure this is to listen to the needs of the community and act in accordance, rather than bring our own agendas to council.

## 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 quality of the environment in and around the city. Whether air, water, or soil, the levels of pollution and contamination are causing adverse health effects in Hamiltonians of all ages, and from all walks of life.

2) A lack of urgency in addressing the effects of Climate Change. Things are going to get worse before they get better, and while we do have programs such as the Hamilton Climate Action Plan in place, I'm worried that the timelines within it are not prepared to deal with the rate of change that is coming.

3) Lack of public spaces to deal with/mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events. Not everyone in the city has air conditioning, and not everyone can afford to have theirs fixed right away if it breaks. If the power goes out in the winter and people aren't able to heat their homes, what do they do? We have to have plans and facilities prepared for people to go to if/when events like this happen. B.C. saw hundreds of people die last year during the heat dome, in part due to a lack of infrastructure and planning to deal with such an event, and I would hate to see something like that happen here too.

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

1) I would continue to support the Hamilton Urban Forest Strategy to plant trees and improve the canopy coverage across the city. This helps to make neighbourhoods more livable, improves public health by reducing air pollution, increases biodiversity, and even helps to mitigate things like flooding, soil erosion, and heat island effects.

2) I want to ensure that we protect our farmland and wild spaces from unnecessary or irresponsible development. It's important that as we expand, we do it with the following priorities in mind: maintain green spaces, properly value farmland, build equitably, and build within the constraints of available or realistically achievable infrastructure.

3) Seeing as how Hamilton declared a climate crisis in 2019, I would ensure that Hamilton's Climate Action Plan is properly funded so that we can meet, build upon, and accelerate completion of the goals set out in it.

### 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) Reduce the stigma surrounding addiction and homelessness. No one chooses to be an addict, or to be homeless. If we can reduce the stigma, hopefully we can start to have better conversations about how to solve these problems.

2) We need to address the root causes behind the multitude of hate crimes that happen every year in this city. The amount of hate crimes committed in Hamilton has been trending upwards year-on-year with over 108 hate incidents taking place in 2021 alone. This is absolutely unacceptable, and all Hamiltonians should feel embarrassed. Our minority communities deserve to feel safe, protected, and supported.

3) I would support steps to ensure equal access to public services across all wards in the city.

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

1) I would continue to support the efforts being made under Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Hamilton's priorities under this plan include dealing with hate incidents, substance use, violence, housing and homelessness, mental health and stigma, and access to income.

2) I want to see a Rec Centre/Community Centre built in Waterdown, to bring us in line with some of the other Wards, with amenities such as; pools so that members of the community of all ages have access to swimming lessons, indoor activity spaces so that our children have somewhere to be active during our cold winters and increasingly hot summers, a community gym, and a host of classes and activities for our more senior citizens to help keep them healthy and connected. Part of being a community means having shared experiences, and when we have a shared space to be active and connect, our community will be stronger for it.

3) Expand access to free WiFi in public spaces so that all members of the community can be connected. In an era where you have to apply for jobs online, access government services online, basically do everything online, a reliable internet connection is an absolute necessity.

## 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) More reliable and equitable transit between Waterdown and Hamilton. We need hours of operation that more closely match up with those of the HSR. We need options to get into Hamilton, with an initial focus on connecting to the McMaster LRT stop and convenient and timely transport to and from the Aldershot GO station.

2) I would love to see more movement towards supporting active multi-modal transportation. The more people that we can get out of cars, the healthier and less congested the city will be. Not only that, but increased foot traffic means more people going into and supporting local businesses and becoming more familiar and connected with their communities.

3) I'm concerned about the safety of citizens of our city when they do choose to use modes of transportation other than car. We need to make our roads, sidewalks, and pathways safer for all Hamiltonians.

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

1) Continued support for the ongoing implementation of the LRT. Projects of this magnitude are bound to run into challenges and delays are inevitable. Although there will most likely be some short-term headaches, Hamilton, which is the 10th largest city in Canada, needs to continue making investments in its transit systems for now and the future.

2) Commit to building new roads and infrastructure following the plans and guidelines set out in the Complete Streets initiative. This initiative is aimed at improving road safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers throughout neighbourhoods, as well as increasing neighbourhood livability. I think it's important to see plans through rather than trying to reinvent the wheel every new session of council.

3) Complete the Waterdown Bypass.

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