

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 *

slyeforhamiltoncouncil@gmail.com

Name: *

Chris Slye

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:

slyeforhamilton.ca.....

Campaign Email: *

slyeforhamiltoncouncil@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. No real plan to add density to the mountain to make more walkable and livable neighborhoods and to keep taxes reasonable
2. Roads are in disarray with no serious capital resources committed to addressing the massive backlog of repairs
3. Many of our parks are old and out of date, and as the summers get hotter, we need splash pad access in every small community so kids can stay cool

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

1. Allocate more resources to fix our roads, and commit to setting aside more capital resources each year for maintaining our infrastructure. Continue to work towards keeping the urban boundary static, while supporting sustainable densification projects that help ease the tax burden of our infrastructure needs going forward.
2. Commit to using local Hamilton based, unionized workers for infrastructure projects to ensure that both quality work is done and the City supports good paying jobs for Hamiltonians
3. Commit to working splash pads and tree planting into park renovations for each neighborhood so that families have close access to cool areas in the summer

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. One Bedroom Rentals reaching \$1700 per month, growing at a much faster rate than inflation. Landlord greed is squeezing our renting population and forcing people into houslessness, massive debt, and hurting our local consumer economy.
2. Commercial rent is out of control and a massive obstacle for local Hamiltonians to start their own businesses and for existing businesses to stay solvent. As a small business owner myself, I fully understand the difficulties these people have had to endure, and still endure heading towards a post-pandemic era.
3. Small local businesses (existing or new) are having to compete for rental space with massive corporations. This is bad for our local residents that may want to become small business owners and stay local, and also for the culture and diversity of our business community that makes a city special.

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

1. I will work for a much higher amount of non-market, geared-to-income housing to be built in Hamilton and in the Ward to create a better social safety net for our residents
2. Better rent controls both for residents and small businesses (residential and commercial). We need rent controls on new builds and on commercial rent, as well as more tools for renters to stay protected from their Landlords (Landlord registration, easy to use tenant reporting tools, public inspectors)
3. I will work to make sure new developments that add to density also contain new retail spaces, but a portion of that commercial space is given priority to local Hamilton residents wanting to open a business

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 clearly toxic and unproductive bitterness of the current Council. We need to have civil, respectful debate and decorum returned to City Hall.
2. People in Hamilton are clearly upset about the lack of transparency and secrets at City Hall. I would like to see a much greater attempt at direct, consistent communication with city councillors and their constituents. You need to make yourself available to be held accountable.
3. There is not enough direct, localized democracy in our great city. I would like to see more smaller and local attempts at people coming together to discuss issues and offer solutions to making our city better for everyone.

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

1. For me this is a pretty simple fix, and it starts inwards. I have always believed that it is of the utmost importance to treat people with respect, kindness and empathy. If elected, I would bring those values to City Hall and although I would disagree with others about policy, strategy, etc I would maintain a calm, collective attitude towards my fellow councillors.
2. I would commit to setting up (at least) weekly update videos communicating what I have been working on at City Hall, sharing all of the information that I would be able to share, and disseminating it in an easy to understand format. It is important for these videos also to be easy to find.
3. As discussed in more detail under my answers for the 'Community' section of this survey, I would work to set up localized neighborhood based committees that could meet to discuss, raise concerns, and offer solutions for local issues. I would make myself available to as many of these as possible (considering other obligations at City Hall), so that local residents would also have the chance to hold me accountable for the job I was doing. This collaboration would lead to better outcomes, build trust, and hopefully increase democratic participation.

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. Not enough shade in local parks and public spaces as the climate heats up and the summers become harder for people to endure
2. While the current Council has just recently made a huge commitment to the Environment and tackling climate change, it took too long and does not go far enough
3. This problem will not be felt equally by all – middle and low income Hamiltonians as well as marginalized communities will suffer the brunt of symptoms as they will be less able to 'spend their way out' of the problem (think property damage, access to A/C etc, increased insurance premiums).

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

1. Tree planting will play an important part of mitigating the effects of climate change, creating a cooler city and absorb more water run off as we face more extreme temperatures and weather. We need to support existing groups and add to their capacity to plant many more trees in all public spaces, and encourage private residents to plant trees on their properties with tax credits
2. Commit to electrify all new additions to the HSR fleet
3. I will bring forward an initiative to plant thousands of native plant perennials across the Ward (and City), in order support natural wildlife. Native plants don't need much maintenance, are better pollinator plants, and will add more beauty to the City.

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. I am concerned with the divisiveness and isolation that exists in our modern City. There is not enough of a sense of community and people don't get to know their neighbors and neighborhood in a way that could make all of our lives more fulfilling and add a greater sense of belonging.
2. Local democracy, and democratic participation rates in general, is in decline. People are becoming more apathetic because they don't feel like their government (all levels) care about them or what they have to say. We need to win back trust in people and it starts with meeting them where they are, and showing up. We need to create more localized, fun and engaging democracy so people feel like they have a stake in their communities.
3. Hate crimes are on the rise, and Hamilton has been particularly bad. We need to believe marginalized voices when they say there is a problem, and listen to them when they have ideas for how to overcome these issues.

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

1. Let's bring people together by creating neighborhood committees throughout the Ward. These neighborhood committees can look out for local residents, and more effectively report issues that are specific to their neighborhood. As Councillor, I would work with these local committees on issues, and also to have events within their neighborhood community to bring residents together, and for people to form better relationships with their neighborhood and neighbors.
2. I'll develop and create an easy to use, easy to find reporting tool for Ward 6 so that community members can easily report their issues and suggestions. We need to trust the people living in their own communities what is best in terms of safety and needs
3. Let's make our communities safer by listening and amplifying marginalized voices and being inclusive of all of our wonderful residents in Ward 6. I would also work with marginalized groups on education tools we can utilize to add empathy and understanding to our community (through art and marketing initiatives).

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. Concerned about Area Rating, and the general way we fund our vital services across Hamilton in a divisive and unproductive way.
2. There is no commitment on paper to have new HSR buses be fully electric. The City of Hamilton needs to show leadership in ushering in Green Technologies and push outwards for a Zero Carbon future.
3. I am concerned at the growing number of public-private partnerships and outsourced contracts that are all too common these days, that lead to lower wages and poorer service outcomes, and make room for profit in our vital services where it has no place. Low bid competition bidding for city services is unnecessary, short sighted and does not take a holistic approach to how a local economy works.

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

1. Area Rating has to go – there can be no great improvements to our public transit systems while we underfund the HSR, and we need more people using public transit
2. Commit to all new additions to the HSR be fully electric
3. Commit and work for the LRT to be fully public owned by the City of Hamilton, and operated and maintained by the HSR - to ensure good paying, local jobs in Hamilton and not to line the pockets of investors, and that all decisions going forward with the LRT are driven by making improvements to service and profit seeking.

This form was created inside of ielect Hamilton.

Google Forms