

# 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 \*

vote4donna.puddu@gmail.com

Name: \*

Donna Puddu

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:

www.vote4donna.ca

Campaign Email: \*

Vote4donna.puddu@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? \*

Separate our storm water lines from the sanitary lines.

Fix our roads properly the first time.

Ensure our community centres are accessible and meet the needs of everyone.

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

We became aware of a 24-Billion litre sewage spill into chedoke creek, but many may not realise every time we have a storm that our water treatment plant can't handle they open the gates and pour more sewage into our water. Climate change has seen an increase in these heavy storms, and will only get worse, this needs to be fixed now. I want the storm water lines separated from the sanitary lines, so when there is a storm that requires the gates to be opened, only the storm water run off will enter our waterways.

Currently we have a \$14 million a year funding gap in maintaining the city's ageing stormwater infrastructure, other municipalities have implemented storm water rates, we need to seriously look at the possibility of implementing it in Hamilton.

We need our roads fixed properly, we have been receiving band aid temporary repairs, that end up costing more money then doing it right the first time, our current council has put off fixing our roads properly for so long, we are facing a huge deficit, we need a new council that is able to work with other levels of government to increase funding and get it done right.

Our parks and community centres need to be accessible for everyone, no one should ever be left out, not our Children, not our Seniors, and not those with disabilities, I will talk to everyone in ward 6, to hear what they need, and make that happen.

## 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? \*

Affordable housing, and housing for all

Support for businesses and entrepreneurship

Everyone should receive a living wage

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

We need to develop affordable mixed income models, but also mixed use. Look at the possibility of bringing back rent registrations that will protect tenants.

We need to cut some of the red tape for business, and support our entrepreneurs. 70% of the population is employed by small to medium size businesses, with mixed use buildings there will be opportunity and job growth. We also need to streamline the process for development and let companies know Hamilton is the place to grow. Adding more commercial development will increase the tax base, and take some of the burden off our overtaxed property owners.

Everyone deserves a living wage, I am outraged that people who wake up go to work, do their job, and have to make a choice between rent and food, for many they don't even have enough for rent. Many conversations need to be had with companies and upper levels of government to ensure a clear understanding of the complete disconnect and mandate changes that support everyone.

## 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? \*

Top three, but there is so much more that needs to change

Accountability

Transparency

Community involvement

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

Our elected officials work for the constituents, and are accountable to the constituents, this has been missing at City Hall for a long time. I will fight for term limits, Term limits will attract the right people who wish to run for office to make a difference. Cover ups and hiding facts from hamiltonians has been the norm at City Hall, no one is perfect, sometimes there is a miss step,we need our council to let us know, own up to it, make the changes that are needed, that is leadership.

Ward councillors represent the constituents in their ward, you can't do that without communication. I believe in an open door policy, I want to hear from everyone in my ward every step of the way, and will work hard to make that happen, I will be working for them.

#### 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? \*

Support Green initiatives

Improve public Transit

Protect and improve our green spaces

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

We need to support business, and development that implement green initiatives, bring in incentives for these businesses and homeowners to adopt green programs.

We need to improve our public transit, so it is available for everyone, we talk about getting the cars off the road, with our current system it just doesn't work.

Protecting the green space that we have is important for the future, we also need to improve those spaces, and stick to the commitment of curbing urban sprawl. We need to honour the agreements with our Indigenous communities, seek their counsel in preserving and improving our green space properly.

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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? \***

Trust

Communication

Safe and inclusive communities

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

People don't have trust in their elected officials anymore, this is one of the reasons I am running, we need to restore that trust, communication and transparency is key to making that happen.

We have an amazing city, with amazing people, Hamilton has one of the highest rates of volunteerism in Canada, that says a lot about how we care for one another. For too long our councillors have only cared about their next election, we need to work together at the council table for all Hamiltonians, what happens in one ward affects all others, they have ignored that reality, and it is costing us.

We are seeing a rise in hate, crime, and mental illness, we have people that are suffering, isolated, and have lost hope. Our community centres should be for and have programs that are accessible to everyone. We need to engage our seniors at these centres with programs that keep them active and involved. More and more people are living on the street, the lack of affordable housing has exacerbated the problem. We need more affordable housing, but we also need to assist people, whether they are suffering from drug addiction, mental illness, or lack of affordable housing. We need to help lift these people up, have programs available that actually help and give people hope.

**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? \***

Reliable and accessible public transit

Safe bike lanes, and pedestrian walking areas

Traffic congestion

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

We need to examine where the inequities are, in order to understand what needs are not being addressed. With climate change we know it is important to use public transit instead of vehicles, but our current system makes that very difficult and time consuming.

I want to see bike lanes off the roads, by extending our sidewalks and creating a separated area for pedestrians, and bikes. The current bike lanes are just not working, they end abruptly in some areas, and are not consistent. There are poles in some areas separating vehicle traffic from bike traffic, this is creating a problem with snow removal, and increased costs.

Ensuring we have adequate public transit will assist in removing some vehicles from the road, people who live and work in Hamilton should be able to get to, and from work, and around the city in an easy, timely manner, but what about those who work outside of the city, we need proper go train service. No one wants to sit in traffic for hours trying to get back and forth to work everyday, right now they don't have a lot of options.

We have seen an increase in collisions, fatalities, and aggressive driving on our roads. I want to know why, what has changed? Council needs to stop being reactionary, turning all our one way streets to two way streets could end up causing more aggression, and ultimately more collisions, and fatalities. I want to understand what is driving this problem, and work to correct it at the root of the problem.

This form was created inside of ielect Hamilton.

Google Forms