

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 *

contact@pascalemarchand.ca

Name: *

Pascale Marchand

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.PascaleWard4.ca

Campaign Email: *

contact@pascalemarchand.ca

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. Safe, accessible, and complete streets;
2. 15-minute city;
3. Climate change adaptability.

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

1. Safe, accessible, and complete streets – As a resident who walks, bikes, and rides the bus to get around, this is an issue that is very important to me. We must make walking, using a mobility device, or cycling safe and seamless. This includes separating active transportation users from motor vehicle traffic, providing prioritized crossings, and removing physical barriers. The Pipeline Trail which cuts through nearly all of Ward 4 is a perfect example of a space that would benefit from improved infrastructure. Access to greenspaces is shown to decrease socio-economic inequities and increase neighbourhood health. I propose to install raised crosswalks along the trail to prioritize mobility device users, parents with strollers, and cyclists. I envision a space that is connected from Ottawa Street to Lake Ontario and allows local families to use active transportation to get to the beach. The Pipeline Trail is a perfect space to have community gardens, public art, and a space to gather. We must implement the Pipeline Trail Master Plan.

2. 15-minute city – This urban planning concept supports sustainable urban development and design with a priority for access to services and amenities within a 15-minute walk, roll, or bike ride away from home. These are places like schools, work, grocery stores, shops, healthcare, transportation, and parks. This type of development supports compactness, active transportation, and distributes destinations around the city. This concept is used in cities like Ottawa, Portland, Dublin, and Paris and makes for healthy neighbourhoods.

3. Climate change adaptability – The City of Hamilton declared a climate emergency in 2019. Climate change impacts us through severe weather events, food insecurity, and diseases. We must brace ourselves through climate-resilient buildings and infrastructure that can withstand the effects of increased temperatures and heavy rainfalls. This means retrofitting city owned properties and using nature-based solutions like trees for shade and bioswales to absorb water. On the home-front, this means providing incentives to property owners to disconnect their grandfathered downspouts from the City's stormwater system. I support the recommendations of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) that was tabled in June 2022, such as retrofitting municipal buildings for energy efficiency, shifting towards transit and active transportation, be resourceful in our development of renewable energy, and protect and increase tree canopy (<https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/environmental-stewardship/environmental-plans-strategies/hamiltons-climate-0>).

These are part of my #HealthyNeighbourhoods platform.

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. Good jobs;
2. Further streamlining the process to open a business;
3. Financing the infrastructure backlog.

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

1. Good jobs – Residents need good jobs to live and thrive in this city. Internally, I propose to ensure that the City provides an example of good working conditions, including a decent living wage for all employees. Externally, I propose to include working conditions and community benefits to the City's procurement policies to ensure we work with reputable employers. I want to ensure we attract businesses that are known to have good working conditions. I am a strong supporter of unionized work. Since 2018, I represented nearly 4,000 Air Canada cabin crew with CUPE Local 4092's Health and Safety Committee – and CUPE Local 4095 as well during the pandemic. I am the daughter of a retired OTF/FEO teacher and a retired USW Local 1005 steelworker. This is part of my #GoodJobs platform.

2. Further streamlining the process to open a business – The One Stop Business tool through the City of Hamilton is great. However, the bureaucracy of opening a business is very real. It is currently the entrepreneur's responsibility to verify the zoning information for their future business. Yet, the zoning information available through the City's website comes with a disclaimer that it may be inaccurate. I propose to streamline the process to ensure that accurate zoning information is available to accelerate the review process, especially for the Kenilworth Avenue North sector to boost its revitalisation.

3. Financing the infrastructure backlog – In early August 2022, the Corporate Services General Manager for the City of Hamilton, presented a sobering budget prediction for 2023-2025. In 2009, the City's Corporate Facilities was sounding the alarm for this very same backlog (<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2016-03-02/pw-soti-corporatefacilities-2009.pdf>). We need changes to policies and how the budget is allocated to prevent this from continuing. I propose to review the budget with care and to seek funding from the federal and provincial governments to offset the costs of infrastructure projects tied to climate change.

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

1. Accountability – Through the Chedoke Creek 24-billion-litre sewage spill and the Red Hill Valley Parkway slippery road surface, we as residents witnessed the City attempt to cover-up serious issues. The clean-up of the creek and the cost of the inquiry are the costs of this lack of transparency. I propose to develop a non-punitive reporting policy to foster a safe space to bring forward issues as soon as possible so we can address them just as quickly. Like other types of non-punitive reporting policies, this would come with the exception of willful and intentional acts to undermine the safety, quality, security, or law, or if someone were to purposely fail to report. Through my work, I have extensive experience fostering a safe space for employees to report issues in the workplace and mobilizing them to speak out.
 2. Inclusivity – The City has many advisory committees, such as the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee (on which I sit), the Committee Against Racism, the Indigenous Advisory Committee, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee (LGBTQ). By the time these committees present their Citizens' Report to Council, the issue is outdated. I propose to proactively seek out the voices of local equity deserving communities to meaningfully consult them through a "Nothing about us, without us" policy. It is worth noting that consulting with First Nations is mandatory, through the Duty to Consult and through the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
 3. Ingenuity – Hamilton is a city of ambitious, gritty, and creative minds. I propose that we harness that Hamiltonian spirit and apply it to our City policies and projects. I want to see a Hamilton that is a leader and an example of creative and sustainable solutions in Southern Ontario. I want us to lead other cities through evidence-based decision making, with inspired choices, that allow our city to thrive. Let's learn from the mistakes of others and from our own past as a city and leap to a better and more inclusive Hamilton.
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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. Air quality;
 2. Soil/land;
 3. Water quality.
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2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's environment? *

1. Air quality – The City of Hamilton emits about 9,000 tonnes of CO2 per year (<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-12-11/hamilton-baseline-bap-report-dec1-2020.pdf>). The industrial sector, which is predominantly in Ward 4, emits the most CO2. Industrial emissions are regulated through the provincial Ministry of Environment (MOE). However, as a City, we have the power to advocate for our residents to ensure that the MOE fulfills its duty to hold industry accountable in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act.
2. Soil/land – In 2021, the City voted to preserve the current urban boundary. I wholeheartedly support this decision and will continue to do so. We are privileged to have access to prime agricultural land within our city. Food security is vital. As such, to address the issue of food security, I propose to increase urban farming in Ward 4 through community gardens, particularly along the Pipeline Trail.
3. Water quality – There are about 20,000 homes in Hamilton that still have lead pipes, many of which are in Ward 4 (<https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/water-wastewater-stormwater/water-treatment-distribution/corrosion-control>). Exposure to lead pipes has very serious impacts on our health, including damage to the nervous system and kidneys, and learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder in children. The City has a corrosion control program using orthophosphate to coat the interior of the pipes and reduce the release of lead in the water supply. However, the most efficient way to address a hazard is by removing it. I propose to proactively replace remaining city-owned lead pipes whenever conducting street repairs. As well, I propose to evaluate the current lead service replacement program to identify barriers that have prevented residents from replacing theirs.

These are part of my #HealthyNeighbourhoods platform.

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. The increase of precarious housing and number of people experiencing homelessness;
 2. Violence and hate;
 3. Francophone community services.
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2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to support Hamilton's communities? *

1. The increase of precarious housing and number of people experiencing homelessness – There are nearly 1,500 people in Hamilton experiencing homelessness and nearly 6,000 households on the waitlist for affordable housing according to the City's homelessness dashboard (<https://housing-and-homelessness-dashboard-spatialolutions.hub.arcgis.com/>). We must increase social and affordable housing, in accordance with recommendations of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Affordability must be calculated as a percentage of the neighbourhood's median income. Social housing must be accessible and environmentally sustainable. We must also support site-specific inclusionary zoning, particularly along transit corridors. Finally, to avoid displacing residents because of gentrification, we must support tenant assistance services through community organizations with the purpose of avoiding displacement, not relocating residents. This is part of my #HousingForAll platform.

2. Violence and hate – Communities experiencing a disproportionate level of violence have made their needs clear and have provided the City with multiple reports and recommendations. Those affected know what works best for them. We must listen and act. We must continue to support organizations such as the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre, the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, and the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic. We must proactively include organizations such as these to learn of current issues. We must also continue to provide funding to organizations that address violence, particularly violence against women, such as the Sex Workers Action Program (SWAP), SACHA, the Women Abuse Working Group ((WAWG), the Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (HAHTC), and Sisters in Spirit Committee of Hamilton (SIS).

3. Francophone community – The City of Hamilton is a provincially designated area for francophone services and also a federally designated welcoming francophone community. Francophones and Indigenous peoples are the two protected language groups in accordance with the Constitution. We are home to nearly 8,000 francophones. There are three francophone elementary schools and two francophone secondary schools. Yet, there is little support from City Hall for francophone issues. In 2022, the City took down its Franco-Ontarian flag and pulled the permits for the organizers for the Franco-Ontarian Day celebrations at the City Hall forecourt. I propose that we create a francophone liaison position within City Hall to act as a point of contact for the community.

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. Active transportation infrastructure;
 2. Accessible transportation;
 3. LRT construction.
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2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's transportation systems? *

1. Active transportation infrastructure – It's important to make the healthy choice the easy choice (https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/2017-designing-healthy-living/PHAC_CPHO-2017_Report_E.pdf). This means ensuring that the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is frequent and convenient. I pledge to support the creation of a committee to review the possibility of implementing free public transit in Hamilton, as recommended by Hamilton 350.org and the Council of Canadians. The book Free Public Transit – And Why We Don't Pay to Ride Elevators, makes a convincing argument for the possibility of free transit. Free transit comes in many forms and can vary depending on the "where," "when," and "who." It is also important to ensure that transit is interconnected to a multimodal active transportation system through scheduling and location. We must work with organizations like Hamilton Bike Share, to support the possibility of riding a bicycle for the "last mile" of our trips.

2. Accessible transportation – Nearly a third of the population of Hamilton lives with a disability. They deserve the dignity to travel with independence across this city. DARTS provides a valuable service to residents with disabilities. Their drivers are committed to transport its passengers with care. However, there is an opportunity to modernize the service to provide greater flexibility to its users. Current users must book their trips well in advance, refer to themselves as a number, and have little opportunity to make last-minute scheduling changes. Advances in ride-hailing technology provides us with an opportunity to improve the service.

3. LRT construction – The upcoming construction of the Light Rail Transit line is an opportunity to embrace more energy efficient modes of transportation. It is imperative that we limit the impact of its construction on the movement of residents. It is just as imperative that we support businesses and customers throughout the process. I propose to prioritize communication throughout the process through a contact person, with a telephone and e-mail, to address issues with residents. We must provide residents with clear and continuous communication through a regularly updated website, social media platform, and a newsletter. These communications will provide construction updates, detours, and access points. We must apply the lessons learned from Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa (through Ottawa Light Rail Transit Commission), and Locke Street reconstruction. We must consult with residents and business owners to assess, adapt, and act on their recommendations to ensure the efficiency of the project.

These are part of my #HealthyNeighbourhoods platform.

This form was created inside of ielect Hamilton.

Google Forms