

# 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 \*

farr4ward2@gmail.com

Name: \*

Jason Farr

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:

JasonFarr.ca .....

Campaign Email: \*

farr4ward2@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) Parks and open spaces. As councillor, I have proudly added many new hectares of public space with 4 new parks, new trails and redevelopment and renewal most every existing parks. I will focus on further enhancements and more NEW open space (example: Summer opening of the Pier 5, 6, 7 Pedestrian Promenade - formally private Yacht Club property turned public waterfront pedestrianized precinct - part of our 140 million-dollar investment into West Harbour.
- 2) Residential road/sidewalk and Water/Wasterwater renewal. In my first and second term as councillor, there was a strong emphasis on Public Budgeting of capital dollars. Ultimately, the public determined what infrastructure spending they wanted to see on a ballot that they and their fellow residents could vote on. It was a huge success and a great example of bringing power to the people through unprecedented public engagement. In total, approximately 4.5 million-dollars worth of projects over 4 separate Public Budget events brought many wonderful public devised and voted on projects, enhancing road safety, the environment, beautification and more. Alas, fixing roads and sidewalks never made the cut - therefore, with the success of 4 Public Budgets behind us, last term I began to invest very heavily in residential renewal. Continuing this is the priority and a number of residential streets are slated for full renewal over the next few years - already budgeted.
- 3) I will continue to champion brownfield redevelopment. Never before have we seen such a volume of transformation of City brownfield (and parks) to remediated and beautified higher and better uses. Several years ago, I successfully had my councillor colleagues approve the surplus of all downtown City of Hamilton owned surface parking lots with the objective of bringing higher and better uses. For example, we transferred the surface parking lots at 257 King William Street and at Bay and Cannon to City Housing Hamilton. You can see the construction taking place today at these two locations brining affordable housing with approximately 50 family size units in a first of two phase development at Cannon and Bay and 24 units of deeply affordable units serving our homeless in our cities first modular apartment build (energy efficient). The near completed 6.5 million-dollar Central Park redevelopment is another example of massive environmental clean-up resulting in a wonderful new park with a design that is the direct result of community input. I pledge to keep this efforts as a priority. More Parks and West Harbour investments. A film and Television Precinct at Barton / Tiffany. Entertainment Precinct repurposing more surface brownfield to better and higher uses. A Beasley Park expansion and much much more.

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

1) As a member of the Public Works Committee, I will continue to press staff and consultants to finish our 300+ million-dollar Waste Water Treatment Plant - a massive Harbour Renewal project among other benefits.

2) Maintain my prevailing focus on LRT with an emphasis toward ensuring Hamilton and Ward 2 get the infrastructure upgrades required to attract the growth already zoned and anticipated along the B-Line.

3) Review and present the multi-departmental report I requested and successfully received council approval on respecting Downtown Infrastructure needs to accommodate the approve progressive, inclusive and nationally recognized Downtown Hamilton Secondary Plan. The plan grants much greater density in the appropriate places, but fails to offer a summary on the infrastructure needs to accommodate that growth. I will push to have this information brought forward soon into the new term, but more importantly develop a plan to pay for it.

## 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) Affordable Housing. While Ward 2 leads all others in building affordable housing units, there is a National Housing Crisis that needs to see quicker and more \_\_ flow from the 40 billion-dollar Liberal National Housing Strategy. I have chaired the Affordable Housing site selection sub-committee - City Owned parcels are already identified - we need the federal dollars to come through faster.

2) Economic Development Investment - Investing in the department that brings investment to the City is a no-brainer. The Ec-Dev department regularly reports the returns and they are record breaking and in the many millions of dollars. I would support a Ec-Dev division enhancement.

3) Further diversification. We are a long way from the "Steel" City with Canadas most diversified economy, but mustn't take our foot of the gas. The greater the variety of sectors, the more \_\_ our city and our residents are in weathering the cyclical economy upheavals. WE have the skilled trades that already attract firms, we are world class in medicine and higher education. We should be proud, but at the same time, keep an eye on new areas that bring opportunities for well paying careers and hundreds of new jobs (the Film and Television Precinct and Entertainment Precinct are good Ward 2 examples).

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

- 1) Continue to Attract new business (and jobs)
- 2) Continue to House our homeless bringing the supports each need to set a path to recovery
- 3) Greater support Economic development and Innovation

### 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? \*

The last council term was one of the most productive on record - particularly in Ward 2 and this despite a pandemic. So while I would not say I am "concerned" I would say I am going to remain diligent on...

- 1) Ensuring all Public / Private investments remain open and transparent
- 2) Respond to ALL Red Hill Creek Inquiry recommendations - as clearly it appears they will apply to municipalities across the Province as well. Council invested a boat-load of tax-payer dollars to understand the issue of the road condition, how consultant reports play a role and what causes may behind the crashes - There is no greater public scrutiny we could have brought forward - we need to respond to every result.
- 3) Generally it would be great to see a council focused on doing the work and less on the social media image or ideologies over all-else. It leads to good people spending more time leading via Gotcha politics and less time hammering out solutions for the taxpayers. That said, politics can be very political at times.

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

- 1) Continue to stay focused on the work
- 2) Continue to stay positive
- 3) Continue to engage residents

### 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) Finishing the Chedoke Creek clean-up - I was most concerned that the system we have in place failed us both on a technical and human resource level. And not only at the City of Hamilton Public Works Department. Cootes Paradise is a water body with more professional environmental organization oversight than anywhere in Canada. Some have employees highly skilled and educated in water quality and working exclusively on Cootes restoration and preservation. Not one of these orgs our own City of Hamilton professionals could, over four and half years, identify human waste floating in the water - with that, hats off to ward resident and I believe former postal worker for identifying this serious issue.

I would like see this changed. We need all of these organizations swimming together for future.

2) Brownfield wasted land - as above, I have been heavily focussed on transforming downtown brownfield to greater and higher uses. you can see the transformation everywhere in the core. This needs to be a city-wide effort. Surface Parking can be so much more and the developments that occur can and should be sound environmentally. Examples in Ward 2 include 500 McNabb Remediation and renovation of 146 units - North Americas on passive house apartment tower and the modular build on now at a former City parking lot on King William.

3) I believe Councils current climate action targets are sound and with the approved actions of this plan, I know we continue to demonstrate progress ahead of schedule. It helps when we enhance engagement toward efforts that improve our natural environment. I would continue to support the good works of groups and organizations like the Hamilton Naturalist Club and Green Venture. I believe we need to ensure that council formalize further enhancements and supports to these orgs.

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

1) Maintain Councils Climate Action Plan

2) Continue to Transform already identified city-owned Brownfield to Higher and Better uses building energy efficient new affordable homes

3) Continue to support groups and organizations devoted to the expansion and improvement of our natural environment

### 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) Lack of collaboration - there are a growing number of groups representing the equity seeking community that are doing yeoman's work in both advocacy and education. Some are doing the same work and while we are seeing a greater \_\_\_ of organizations over the years, further collaboration can an must be achieved.

2) Us against them. The approach some social justice organizations and groups take is adversarial. Demands outweigh requests and demonstrations may result in disruptions both law enforcement and the daily interactions and movements of the general publics. In most cases, the analogy of attracting more bees with honey works. Local governance needn't see political ideologies get in the way of progress in building a stronger more diverse, equitable and inclusive community. Especially when we want the same thing.

3) Ethnic diversity in engagement with a greater focus on translation services.

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

1) Continue to enhance and enact policy from our EDI framework at the City of Hamilton

2) Encourage further collaboration of existing and new social justice organizations and groups whose causes are aligned with other groups and in many cases, those of the City of Hamilton.

3) Improve translation services to better engage all Hamiltonians

### 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) Pandemic induced low ridership needs to rebound fast. We are making headway on the issue, but passengers clearly want to feel safe and some remain reluctant to take public transit when covid 19 still lurks. I am also concerned that the low ridership is resulting from an unprecedented work-from-home environment world-wide and here at home. The reality is that our ten-year transit strategy should stay the course as there are as many factors contributing to the needs for greater more efficient transit services for the future as there are for the current low ridership anomaly we see today.

2) Future higher level funding maintained for LRT (even with inevitable capital cost increases) and for BLAST expansion. Again, the pandemic has realigned priorities for the higher order governments whose funding is essential to further enhancing our transit goals. We need to secure proponent and start LRT while at the same time advocate for city-wide BLAST network funding.

3) Further pedestrian safety initiatives in ward 2. While we are the model ward for safe pedestrian / cycling infrastructure it is imperative we continue to build on these initiatives - many of them the direct result of citizen engagement. We know protected cycling infrastructure results in greater ridership which improves the environment and the vibrancy of communities.

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

1) Maintain our 302 million-dollar Ten Year Transit Strategy - approved by council in 2015.

2) Future higher level funding for BLAST Expansion. While many transit riders and Hamilton citizens were excited by the 500 million-dollar Hamilton Transit Investment announcement from a few years ago (148 million-dollars local), future years will require future funding. We need to have programs and projects ready for when new funding opportunities come along and at the same time advocate to the higher levels for further commitments in improving our service and attracting more ridership.

3) Safe Streets. Ward 2 will continue to lead by example. The ward has been transformed in the last decade. We have calmed streets with two way conversion, banning transport trucks off downtown streets, protected bike lanes, bump outs, speed cushions, greatly reduced speeds, wide and accessible sidewalk design and much more. The result is much greater investment to this increasingly and vibrant ward and a cleaner environment. We will maintain the momentum.

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