

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 *

ourward3@gmail.com

Name: *

Nrinder Nann

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:

OurWard3.ca

Campaign Email: *

info@ourward3.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. Address the multi-million dollar infrastructure deficit - Decades of underfunding our city's assets has led to decaying roads, not enough block funding to invest in our parks, and has left us in a patch-work pattern dealing with water main breaks, especially in the Lower City. This can only be tackled through a strategic asset management plan that prioritizes investment that goes well beyond the annual 0.5% allocation of \$4.3M. It also requires value for money, ensuring the work gets done once and gets done with excellence.

2. The need for safe and complete streets - Our current roadways are designed for speed over safety, cars over community. There are pockets of neighbourhoods across Ward 3 where children are cut off from spending more time with their friends across the road because it is unsafe for them to cross multiple lanes of fast moving vehicles. Seniors are dodging cars as they try to connect to supports and services. And rows upon rows of vacant storefronts have become the result. It's time to breathe life back into our streets.

3. The current stormwater and wastewater system requires a needs-based assessment and investment framework - We can no longer download the cost of stormwater management on residential properties and future generations. The biggest culprits of stormwater run-off must be required to redevelop their sites with higher standards to mitigate and manage stormwater. And to truly address the century old system of our combined sewers, we need to invest in decoupling it to protect our natural waterways from overflows. This will need to include a stormwater fee.

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

1. A long-term, sustainable strategic investment plan city-side to address the backlog of maintenance and reconstruction in need of attention and ensure where we build new, we do so smarter and greener. Starting in the 2023 budget process, I would push for a needs based Capital & Operating budgeting process so all of Council is clear about the magnitude of what needs investing in so we can determine how to best to fund it. One policy change I would table right away is that the Federal Gas Tax surpluses never go into creating ward pet-project slush funds ever again. These funds should be strategically allocated to address the very capital needs the City faces city-wide based on an asset management system. The surplus Gas Tax funds are supposed to be directed towards public transit, wastewater, waste management, local roads, bridges, brownfield redevelopment, culture, recreation and community capacity building.

2. Safer & Better Roads Now & Always requires a robust approach to both safe design and quality assurance. With an emphasis on safety, I will implement the 128+ safety measures identified in the Ward 3 Complete Streets report. These are the most comprehensive traffic safety measures to be identified across every neighbourhood in the ward - ever. I will use Ward 3 discretionary capital funds to implement these measures and ensure we continue community input throughout the phases. I will also work with my Council colleagues to ensure the two-way Main St conversion is successfully completed delivering the safer, more liveable neighbourhoods we all deserve. As for fixing the roads, we need a better coordinated and effective process that includes asset management, planning, condition tracking, quality assurance during construction, procurement, contract administration and financial management. It is important to do this right and based on new asset management criteria so every neighbourhood benefits from the investments made. To this end, in Ward 3, I will ensure the updated Ottawa Street Master Plan and Barton Street reconstruction results in redesigned streets that better suit these vibrant social and commercial corridors and apply the best of the new Complete Streets Design Manual.

3. Implement a new Stormwater Management Fee and Incentive Program. Simply put, it is past time for Hamilton to implement one. All private developments, commercial, industrial and institutional partners pay their fare share for the cost of storm-water run off. And to inspire innovation, we can establish an incentive program for those leading with climate friendly strategies that assess stormwater at the site.

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. Hamilton has become one of the most expensive cities to rent and buy in North America. This is unsustainable and pushes our neighbours out. Cities have no option but to be at the forefront with solutions to foster belonging instead of displacement. We also need more living wage employers throughout our City to be part of the solution.

2. Maintaining a status quo approach to services, space and infrastructure doesn't attract people to stay. Investing in complete communities with excellent public services, spaces and infrastructure create the desirable neighbourhoods people want to live in. A desirable city attracts and keeps workers for generations. This results in a direct local economic benefit across various sectors. Our economic development plan needs to integrate these aspects.

3. Human and environmental health inequity as the norm in order to keep an industrial business base. There are portions of Ward 3 neighbourhoods near the Industrial sector that have 20 year less life expectancy compared to other parts of the City. Toxic smells and pollutants float around in the air and hinder quality of life. We deserve employment lands that positively contribute to the economy, provide social uplift and deliver environmental leadership.

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

1. Affordable & Dignified Housing For All. Allocate the projected annual revenue of \$3.3M from the Vacant Homes Tax to invest in affordable housing. Set a bold 30% target of Inclusionary Zoning along the LRT corridor to ensure a mix of truly affordable housing in every private development project near the station stops. Encourage gentle infill development across the city, not only in Ward 3, by ending exclusionary zoning to enable missing middle housing options in areas that have previously been exclusively single-family homes. Develop a strategic land acquisition and disposition strategy that is leveraged for non-profit and affordable housing. Ensure we enact and enforce an anti-renoviction by-law regime.

2. Quality transit and active transportation options are also key for a thriving local economy. End the Area-Rated Transit funding formula to expand public transit access across the city and prioritize building out the remainder of the BLAST network. Ensure Ward 3 businesses and residents have clear and timely information about the LRT construction phases and maximize community benefits along the corridor. Expand connectivity of our cycling infrastructure to enable more people to get to where they need to go using a bike.

3. Transform the Industrial areas to centres of Climate Excellence - I would support the implementation of the Bayfront Industrial Area Strategy, starting with the former Stelco lands to ensure public access to the water, tree lined streets, and robust retail and amenity services that balance life on employment lands. This would make the employment lands more attractive to workers and a new base of large scale companies looking for quality employment lands with port access.

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. Poor decorum, violations of the Code of Conduct, active hostility towards engaged residents, diminishing voices as "special interest" and disrespect of staff by Council members. This has left residents feeling unheard while also damaging the reputation of the City of Hamilton. Dismissing the experiences and expertise of residents and subject matter experts prevents progress on complex issues like equity, hate, poverty and homelessness.

2. The unethical behaviour of transactional politics has undermined strategic priorities, assets and financial stability in favour of cashing in votes and election donations for far too long in Hamilton. We need a hard stop on that and raise the bar of ethical leadership that is committed to delivering excellence for our residence and which guarantees a high standard return of investment of public funds.

3. A lack of transparency has eroded public trust. Only those items that are required by the Municipal Act should be discussed in camera. It is imperative to ensure information that can be in public is separated out in reports. Council members must discuss and agree how the public interest can be best served by withholding or releasing the information.

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

1. Integrity - Representing and serving the residents of Ward 3 has been a tremendous honour for me personally. I will continue to uphold the integrity of public office by taking time to listen to residents, admitting when I am wrong or need more information. I will continue to openly share information to strengthen trust and confidence by maintaining the practice of the Annual Ward 3 Community Impact Report which I mail to each address in the ward, maintain a bi-weekly e-newsletter with updates from Council proceedings, and continue the Coffee With Your Councillor sessions once a week so residents have multiple ways to receive information. I also intend to establish a Ward 3 Community Council so every neighbourhood has a complete communication loop with my office to collaborate and address local issues.

2. Consistency & Conduct - As Chair of Public Works and Emergency & Community Services Committee and while serving as Deputy Mayor during General Issues Committee I did not shy away from upholding the Code of Conduct among Council colleagues. I would continue doing so in a second term while also continuing to approach delegations and new information from a place of inquiry around complex topics. I will never resort to bullying.

3. Public Record of Voting - I would like to see a public record of voting that is easily accessible on the City's website that is archived by terms of council and broken down by Ward and Mayor. This would improve transparency and accountability by ensuring the public can easily access how their Council representatives vote.

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. Impacts of Climate Change - The rising heat and corresponding health impacts to our population and food production is of concern. I am worried about the health of neighbours living in buildings without cooling (especially seniors), the lack of accessible drinking fountains across the city, the hot spots without trees, and increasing food insecurity among neighbours. I am also concerned about the extreme rainfalls and the impact on our existing infrastructure and our need to be responsive to flooding.

2. Climate Inequity & Targets - Inequities inherent in the climate crisis, stress that some members of our communities are more vulnerable than others. The pace of climate change is quickly outpacing our current targets.

3. Healthy Waterways - The health of our waterways is paramount. With the Randal Reef project completing, the Cootes remediation works underway, our residents deserve access to a pristine waterfront where we can all keep eyes on its health. Our harbour ought to be swimmable and enjoyable. Too much of it is inaccessible for the general public, especially in Ward 3.

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

1. Drinking Water & Trees - I invested in 7 drinking water fountains in Ward 3 parks that include features for bottle filling, drinking and a lower pet bowl. I will continue this investment in a second term to ensure each park has one. I will also put in place a procedure to protect mature trees in redevelopment projects and set an annual target for tree planting in Ward 3 to meet the 30% Urban Canopy coverage goal. Continue to invest in depave projects that enhance biodiversity in our neighbourhoods while also beautifying City-owned right-of-ways, boulevards and medians.

2. Climate Lens Budgeting - I would push for the City to allocate appropriate planning resources to mitigate impacts while also transforming the entire way we operate and budget to integrate bold climate targets. Ensure a climate lens is applied to all infrastructure projects and integrate a community benefits protocol for large capital works that secure local jobs.

3. Transforming former Industrial sites into sites of Climate Excellence - As mentioned earlier, I would work to transform the industrial areas of the ward by pushing for climate excellence, including in the re-development of the former Stelco lands to include public access to the water, increase public realm with the highest standard of complete communities while also serving as employment lands. I also will ensure the Brightside Park on the former Dominion Glass site is appropriately funded as the largest green infrastructure project of its size in the lower 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. The need to foster belonging, equity & justice - Hamilton has the title of being the "Hate Capital of Canada" and we have far too many incidents that cause harm and division in our communities. As a Council, each member must be accountable for ensuring the recommendations in the Urban Indigenous Strategy (UIS) are well resourced and outcomes measured. The UIS integrates the TRC and MMIWG frameworks and ensures that the work continues to centre Indigenous community experiences and priorities.

2. Health inequity - Having healthy communities across Ward 3 means ending the inequity of experiences our residents face, like having air quality that matches other parts of the city and having access to necessary healthcare services to protect basic and complex needs. It also means we need to be prepared to address real climate and health crises with compassion, equity and action.

3. It can't be all online - the digital divide is real and can be addressed through a robust community engagement process.

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

1. Continue to Speak Up & Take Action - Too often an incident occurs and only the communities directly impacted speak up. That's why I will continue to speak up and seek input from those directly impacted for solutions to address or redress the situation. It is critical for elected leaders to speak up, acknowledge what has happened, and commit to act. I will continue to stand in solidarity with the Urban Indigenous community residing in Hamilton. This means continuing to listen to the Indigenous people and Indigenous-led organizations as we address all aspects of city life and governance. It also means delivering on transferring the lands of the former King George School to the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre for a Friendship Hub and additional services.

2. Restructure Hamilton Board of Health so it includes a mix of Councillors and resident subject matter experts to ensure a health equity lens is used in all decision making regarding Hamilton Public Health.

3. Robust Community Engagement - we have learned a lot from the pandemic as a City. In many ways, pivoting to online enabled us to keep going with city services and planning, but it also left many behind. I will support the implementation of the City's new Community Engagement Strategy and ensure equity and access for all of the diverse needs of 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. Underinvestment and disconnected public transit system.
 2. Inefficient and inequitable DARTS program
 3. The roadways are not safe for everyone to move freely.
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2. As a councillor, what three actions would you propose to improve Hamilton's transportation systems? *

1. End the Area-Rated Transit funding formula to expand public transit access across the city and prioritize building out the remainder of the BLAST network. I am open to it being phased out over a period of years to ensure a balanced restructuring. I will also ensure Ward 3 businesses and residents have clear and timely information about the LRT construction phases and maximize community benefits along the corridor for a successful B-line.
 2. Overhaul DARTS operationally to be more user centred include re-routing and ensuring user time is valued and the service is defined by excellence.
 3. Complete Streets - Expand connectivity of our cycling infrastructure in Ward 3 to enable more people to get to where they need to go using a bike. And continue to support a Complete Streets approach to all roadway reconstruction to ensure there is deliberate design to accommodate all road users - pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
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