



**“WILL YOU STAND FOR A POVERTY FREE
HAMILTON?”**

**2014 Hamilton Municipal Elections
Platform, Questionnaire and Responses**



VOTE FOR A POVERTY FREE HAMILTON

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ♦ SAFE & AFFORDABLE TRANSIT
FOOD SECURITY ♦ HAMILTON'S LIVING WAGE

On September 24, 2014, each candidate for Hamilton's City Council in the 2014 Municipal Elections was sent a six question electronic survey. The purpose of this survey was to get concrete answers about each candidate's commitment to creating a poverty free Hamilton. The 46 responses showed a strong commitment among all candidates to pursuing and implementing the necessary changes to eliminate poverty in Hamilton; thirty-one candidates fully supported the presented platform. The candidates' detailed responses are presented at the end of this report.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

100% of candidates committed to aggressively pursuing "Everyone Has a Home", the City of Hamilton's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan. In addition, 97.6% of respondents said that they would explore and implement an inclusionary zoning bylaw, requiring a certain component of new housing developments to be affordable.

SAFE & AFFORDABLE TRANSIT

An affordable transit pass for which all individuals experiencing poverty would be eligible was supported by 93% of the candidates. Affordable transit is necessary to ensure equitable access to the community for all Hamiltonians. Ninety-three percent of candidates also committed to supporting a 'Complete Streets' policy in Hamilton.

FOOD SECURITY

100% of candidates stated that they would pursue and implement Hamilton's Food Strategy to ensure that every Hamiltonian has access to nutritious quality food.

HAMILTON'S LIVING WAGE

Making the City of Hamilton a living wage employer for all full- and part-time staff was supported by 88% of candidates. The living wage for Hamilton is calculated at \$14.95/hour, calculated as the cost of participating in this community.

CANDIDATES IN COMPLETE SUPPORT OF PLATFORM

Mike Clancy (Mayor)
Michael A. Pattison (Mayor)
Michael Baldasaro (Mayor)
Brian McHattie (Mayor)
Fred Eisenberger (Mayor)
Aidan Johnson (Ward 1)
Ira Rosen (Ward 1)
Tony Greco (Ward 1)
Brian Lewis (Ward 1)
Sandy Shaw (Ward 1)
Jason Farr (Ward 2)
Terri Wallis (Ward 2)
Ralph Agostino (Ward 3)
Sean Gibson (Ward 3)
Tim Simmons (Ward 3)
Drina Omazic (Ward 3)
Lorna Moreau (Ward 4)

Sam Merulla (Ward 4)
Dan Rodrigues (Ward 6)
Keith Beck (Ward 7)
Greg Burghall (Ward 7)
Joshua Czerniga (Ward 8)
Lee Austin (Ward 9)
Geraldine McMullen (Ward 9)
Teresa DiFalco (Ward 10)
Vince Rigitano (Ward 11)
John Iachelli (Ward 12)
Marc Risdale (Ward 13)
Dayna Schime (Ward 13)
Arlene VanderBeek (Ward 13)
Judi Partridge (Ward 15)
Neil Bos (Ward 15)

CANDIDATES SUPPORTING MAJORITY OF PLATFORM (AT LEAST 75%)

Warrand Francis (Mayor)
Jason Allen (Ward 1)
Nancy Florentino (Ward 9)
Grace Bryson (Ward 12)
Toby Yull (Ward 13)
Scott Stewart (Ward 14)

MAKE AN INFORMED VOTING DECISION

Read the candidates' responses below.

Visit vote2014.hamilton.on.ca to find your polling station.

Cast your vote on October 27th between 10 am and 8 pm at your local polling station.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

PRIORITY AREA 1: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In October, 2013, the City of Hamilton approved “Everyone Has a Home” – a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action plan – to ensure that everyone in Hamilton has a home. Currently, 20.6% of renter households and 6.7% of owner households pay more than 50% of their income on shelter. Over 5,000 households are on the social housing waiting list, with a wait time of 5-7 years, and 5,663 men, women and children sleep in an emergency shelter each year. Commitment by candidates to implementing “Everyone Has a Home” is an absolute necessity to ensure every Hamiltonian has an affordable, safe place to live. Pursuing an inclusionary zoning bylaw for affordable housing is crucial in ensuring an adequate supply of safe, affordable housing in Hamilton.

Question 1a. Will you aggressively pursue the implementation of the City’s 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, “Everyone Has a Home”?

Question 1b. Will you explore and implement an inclusionary zoning bylaw requiring a certain component of housing developments to be affordable?

PRIORITY AREA 2: SAFE AND AFFORDABLE TRANSIT

Affordable transit enables all Hamiltonians to access jobs and services, and participate fully in their communities. The current Affordable Transit Pass program offered by the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) does not extend to all persons living in poverty and lacks a permanent funding source. The adoption of a ‘Complete Streets’ policy would create a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Commitment by candidates to safe and affordable transit is important to ensure all Hamiltonians have equal access to this vibrant city.

Question 2a. Will you support the expansion of the Hamilton Affordable Transit Pass to all people living in poverty?

Question 2b. Will you support a ‘Complete Streets’ policy making our roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists?

PRIORITY AREA 3: FOOD SECURITY

The City of Hamilton has committed to developing a Food Strategy to ensure the vital human right of food security for all Hamiltonians. Over 35, 000 Hamiltonians are unable to access sufficient nutritious food for a healthy life, with at least 40% of them accessing food banks each month. Commitment from all candidates to pursuing a Food Strategy is necessary to ensuring food security for all Hamiltonians.

Question 3. Will you actively pursue consultation and implementation of Hamilton’s Food Strategy in order to ensure every citizen has access to nutritious quality food?

PRIORITY AREA 4: HAMILTON’S LIVING WAGE

Earning a living wage provides employees with the ability to afford basic everyday expenses such as housing, food, clothing, utilities and childcare. Many people in Hamilton are underemployed, working in jobs that do not provide a livable wage. Earning minimum wage is not enough to afford a 1-bedroom apartment in Hamilton. Commitment from all candidates is necessary to ensure that the City of Hamilton sets the standard for employment in Hamilton by paying all employees, full or part-time, a living wage of \$14.95/hour.

Question 4. Will you work to ensure that all City of Hamilton employees, full and part-time, are paid a living wage?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Candidate		Candidate response
Michael Baldasaro		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	I will create an LRT LOOP from Go Bus to Go Rail to attract commuters to our condos. Our LRT will be free for all to use. Our BRT will have a reduced ticket price for those in need. The LRT will go as far as the Harbor. It will be routed along Bay, John and James Streets, to the Bayfront and will connect to the BRT Station on MacNab. Perhaps it will hook up with the General Hospital on Barton? To those living on the Bayfront. LRT will not be as polluting as traffic currently coming to our Harbor Front Parks, especially during events. LRT will quietly, cleanly and efficiently transport North Endears, to the downtown, our farmers market and beyond. And, best of all, it's free of charge.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	If you haven't noticed, the City of Hamilton has no money. This is, in my opinion, due to the fact that Managers are paid far too much and that most Councillors, as well as most Candidates in this election, do not have the necessary expertise to run our Corporation. Therefore, our infrastructure is in a mess, the legal department has no direction and our city finances, well, as you can see by no funding for DARTS, is bleeding red ink all over our 20 million dollar infrastructure deficit. Do not believe this can be cured by the creatures who created our deficit. The Mayor even gave his Administrative Assistant a \$30,000 raise. Like an Assistant needs more than \$100,000.00 a year, da! Did I mention their pensions, sick days and other benefits. Sickening! I will not promise you anything but this, "I will make you informed and working together we will put an end to the waste of resources and misdirection of all Departments at City Hall.". Then and only then will there be any money to put towards poverty. Perhaps it's time we had a meals program at City Hall?
Mike Clancy		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes, but I think 10 years is too long to wait. Flexibility is needed too. For example, co-ops would be a desirable approach for some low income people - housing with like-minded people. Why can't rent from ODSP or OW be seen as an income that is shared. Not everyone has cash or real estate. Those rents can be pooled to create a supportive home. I have met with some women who

		would prefer a home in which they share, with rules that prohibit others (men or children) from being brought in to change the character of the house. Why can't a group of people on social assistance approach the city to purchase or rent a house or block of apartments to share as a caring community?
Q 1b.	Supportive	It is absolutely necessary for social cohesion for people of all classes to share the same community. We are the same species. I have met some people who would buy property downtown if the city would only get rid of 'those people,' to promote development in the core. I pointed out that, 'those people' are totally indistinguishable from the nice middle class people if given an opportunity, health care and other supports that middle class people take for granted.
Q 2a.	Supportive	It is insulting to insist that affordable transit be restricted to low income people with a job or doing a job search. This reeks of the Harris government labeling some people as 'the deserving poor' and others as 'abusers.' I am sick of hearing the resentment of middle class people saying, "How can he afford to ride the bus?" "How can she afford to buy a coffee?" etc. People who can get around are more likely to get exercise, get to doctors appointments, stay socially active, be less depressed and cost less for the health care system.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Hamilton has made a lot of progress in creating bike infrastructure and lanes. I appreciate the people who advocate for such. However, 14,000 people come into the city each day to work and many of them seem to think it is ok to Bryant cyclists and pedestrians. It's like a very aggressive game of chicken, but they have a ton of steel wrapped around them. These drivers try to intimidate people to not cross even with the lights at the cross walks. I have seen them try to prevent women with baby carriages from crossing the street. Unfortunately, I think that some of us are less human and less deserving of ordinary respect.
Q 3.	Supportive	I am grateful for the strong ethical community and volunteers that support the food banks and soup kitchens in Hamilton. Hamilton is the most caring city I have lived in. But most of the food is processed. There are seldom vegetables or fruit. That must change. Unfortunately our middle class population is sadistic in giving people less money than they need to maintain a healthy mind and body. They were delighted to vote in the 1990's for the Harris government to punish the poor. In the last 20 years no government has raised the welfare rate to a subsistence level. Political parties are astute judges of public opinion. They knew that the public would punish them for providing the bare necessities, let alone some dignity. In 5 years , when those nice middle class baby boomers demand that the city provide communal food centres and daycares for seniors, will they be segregated away from seeing those who currently use our soup kitchens and food banks?
Q 4.	Supportive	We need to build a strong stable economy with a liveable wage of

		\$15 an hour. Good wages promote equality and prevent victimization. Let's have an ethical dialogue with Walmart and other employers. Let's stop shipping the wealth that we create out of Hamilton. Let's keep it here to build OUR economy. We can live without Walmart and have a much healthier, more robust local economy.
Fred Eisenberger		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Warrand Francis		
Q 1a.	Supportive	I will not allow people to be on the streets or living in tents at any costs. I will cut costs at city hall drastically, as I know who, how and where the culprits are already. Cultural and Recreation, Economic Development and Wentworth Operations. I will transfer these savings directly into low income affordable housing. That is a promise.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	With proof of low income, and no illegal activity
Q 2b.	No Answer Given	My elevated dual monorail will get people above street level away from traffic danger
Q 3.	Supportive	I absolutely solemnly swear this will be my number 1 priority as the world is becoming more unpredictably dangerous, and we need to ensure adequate supplies of good food for all. More allotments will be provided by me if elected.
Q 4.	Supportive	The average minimum wage of a city employee is \$15 dollars an hour according to Brian McHattie. It is my personal experience that many are experiencing poverty at \$11 dollars an hour by these greedy middle man temp agencies destroying peoples ability to make wealth, ensuring a social catastrophe later on.
Brian McHattie		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Michael A. Pattison		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes. This plan includes many ideas and incentives I have considered individually, congratulations on putting them into a well thought out plan!
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	I understand this has been achieved. I fully support this.

Q 2b.	Supportive	Anything that supports safe, healthy living in our city is a priority.
Q 3.	Supportive	I also have new ideas to bring forward. I agree and think we can do more.
Q 4.	Supportive	I agree everyone should have a living wage. There are steps and incentives needed to get us there.

Non-responsive - Ejaz Butt, Brad Clark, Crystal Lavigne, Phil Ryerson, Ricky Tavares

WARD 1 CANDIDATES

Candidate		Candidate response
Jason Allen		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Would pursue it with the province
Q 2a.	Maybe	Decision depends on what it would mean to the system as a whole
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Tony Greco		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Having a home is a basic component of human dignity, especially for children. I believe that everyone in the city should have access to affordable housing. At the present time, there are very long lists for affordable housing in Hamilton, be it for homes or just for a room. This is not acceptable and I will pursue the implementation of the ten year 'Everyone Has a Home' plan.
Q 1b.	Supportive	I will work hard to implement the exclusionary bylaw so that new housing developments must include truly affordable housing in the mix.
Q 2a.	Supportive	I will definitely support the expansion of the affordable transit pass to people living in poverty. I would like to see some of the eligibility conditions eg. you must be working, removed. Furthermore, there are some unlicensed retailers selling bus tickets and passes over face value. As a councillor, I would try to do something to stop this.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes, I will support a 'Complete Streets' policy and have included this as part of my election platform. The separation of cars from bikes and pedestrians is important and I will see to it that the design of our roads, with traffic calming features, and favourable road infrastructure, will make this happen.
Q 3.	Supportive	Our food system needs to be improved and I will actively pursue Hamilton's Food Strategy. It is a big undertaking and one that must be well co-ordinated by all involved, in order to ensure that it is successfully implemented. Priority and long term goals must be established. There must be no excuse for anyone in our city, especially children, not to have access to healthy, nutritious food at all times.
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes, I strongly believe that the city of Hamilton should be a living

		wage employer. I have always implemented this in running my own business, for over thirty years, and will always continue to do so. When it comes to paying a living wage, City Hall must lead as an employer role model and see to it that all municipal employees are paid a wage that will afford them the necessities of life- housing, food etc. A living wage will enable families to pay their expenses and still have money left to provide healthy meals for their children. Living wages are a necessary step on the road to the elimination of poverty in Hamilton.
Aidan Johnson		
Q 1a.	Supportive	This is a great example of various sectors working together to look at the best evidence based approaches to reducing homelessness.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Diversity of neighbourhoods offering mixed housing is a good example of how to build an inclusive, vibrant and diverse community.
Q 2a.	Supportive	We need a transit system that is progressive in policy- one that is welcoming, easy to use and makes provisions to service those people who may be challenged by: economic circumstances; disability; and to include families with young children; and seniors.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Having safe, walkable and cycle friendly neighbourhoods enhances the connectedness of citizens to each other and enhances the well-being of our community.
Q 3.	Supportive	I wholly support efforts of citizens promoting food security through community gardens and those efforts to come up with an overall approach to ensuring access to nutritious, affordable food for all.
Q 4.	Supportive	I commend the efforts of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction in pushing for changes at the Provincial Level to increase the minimum wage. Institutions in our City need to seriously look at developing policies to ensure a living wage.
Brian Lewis		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	YES, though I would need to learn more of this specific topic in order to be able to apply my skill set directly, and to represent the community as a whole more wisely.
Q 2a.	Supportive	I would like also to utilize my experience in building public/private relationships to help offset potential costs to taxpayers to assist with the subsidization; I believe we can explore methods to ensure we meet the need, but also offer opportunities for local businesses to play a role in a positive fashion, thereby creating a sense of unity and commitment, long term.
Q 2b.	Supportive	We require a comprehensive communications plan to better implement the strategies, and also to better inform residents of the costs/benefits of the changes so that we all are more engaged; my experience in Marketing and Communications is a key asset to ensuring this communication requirement is improved.
Q 3.	Supportive	I will continue to play a role of volunteerism over and above the work directly associated with being a City Councillor, as it is what I

		have done my entire career.
Q 4.	Supportive	I will attest that in principle I support this, but that I would require more input from local businesses – large and small – to learn more about the direct cost/benefit from corporate perspective as well; simply put, I need to learn more before submitting a definitive answer.
Ira Rosen		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Everyone deserves to have a place to live, here in Ward 1 we are having many issues around illegal rental conversions where in some cases people, the vulnerable, students are forced to live in substandard housing, and that has to stop. I feel my proposed plan for a Rental License will assist and I believe there is an opportunity to work with the City and private developers to see to it that good housing is made available to low income families in the Ainslie Wood community but first we need to get more student purpose built developments which should include housing for all demographics including low income and Seniors.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	There is no question that a large percentage of public transit riders are using the system due to their financial situation and I feel the HSR needs to have a large investment not only financial but also operational to make the service better more affordable and easier to use.
Q 2b.	Supportive	
Q 3.	Supportive	The fact that we have an amazing organization like Food4Kids located in the Ainslie Wood community in my opinion tells us that we need to do better. It's really hard to imagine that we have managed to make so many positive steps forward and yet people are still having issues accessing nutritious food. I believe I am the only candidate in Ward 1 who has talked about the rise in transpiration costs and again I made an effort to mention this at the All Candidates meeting this past Monday. We need to find a way to be better at promoting local farms and I will continue to strongly advocate for community gardens.
Q 4.	Supportive	We need to work with the Province in seeing that the minimum wage is increased to a level that meets the cost of living, we need to get social assistance increased although I understand that there will be a small increase within the next month and we need to get an increase to ODSB it's not enough and as a city and society I believe we can do better. I have talked to many people in the area and we need to do a much better job with small business opportunities to make things easier and I would like to see a big box retail located within Ward 1 to help with some job creation. I see rezoning along the Emerson St Corridor an opportunity for small business and economic growth.
Sandy Shaw		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Everything starts with a home. Stable, safe, affordable and

		adequate housing is the foundation for building lives, families, and communities. I know this to be true from my many years advocating for fair and just communities. I had the privilege of working with families in Hamilton’s Riverdale community. who were often living in unsuitable, inadequate housing. I also sat on the Affordable Housing Flagship for the City of Hamilton and believe collaborative efforts such as this are critical in our efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing for Hamiltonians.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Everything starts with a home. Stable, safe, affordable and adequate housing is the foundation for building lives, families, and communities. I know this to be true from my many years advocating for fair and just communities. I had the privilege of working with families in Hamilton’s Riverdale community. who were often living in unsuitable, inadequate housing. I also sat on the Affordable Housing Flagship for the City of Hamilton and believe collaborative efforts such as this are critical in our efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing for Hamiltonians.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Affordable transit is essential to people living in poverty. What I have learned from my many years working in the community is that the cost of transit is a significant a barrier for many of our community members. Affordable transit lets community members get to work and school, go to the doctor, get groceries, and go to the local recreation centre. Affordable transit also is key to building an inclusive community because it enables people living in poverty to attend community meetings, vote in elections, volunteer and generally participate in all forms of community building.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Active transportation options such as cycling and walking are vital to building great neighbourhoods. This is especially important for low income residents as this a very accessible choice for getting around our community.
Q 3.	Supportive	Access to healthy and adequate food is a universal human right. At one time I managed the Partners in Nutrition program. I know first-hand that too many of our children are going to school hungry. No one in our community should have to make the choice between paying the rent our buying groceries. Food security is fundamental to building a fair and just community.
Q 4.	Supportive	I would work diligently to ensure that the City of Hamilton pledges their commitment to being a Living Wage employer. In my role as Director, Corporate Social Responsibility for FirstOntario, I was an advocate and for the Living Wage Campaign. Participating as a member of a delegation, I worked to influence the Hamilton Spectator Editorial board to speak in favour and support Living Wage. I know that there are people in our community who work full time, full year and are still below the poverty line. This disturbing trend in precarious work, part-time employment, and youth unemployment needs our attention.

WARD 2 CANDIDATES

Candidate		Candidate Responses
Jason Farr		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Terri Wallis		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Absolutely, as someone on ODSP I agree with this completely.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Definitely. Don't forget about those of us who use mobility devices.
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes.
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes.

Non-responsive: Ed Dallas, Kristina Heaton, Ryan Henry, John Vail

WARD 3 CANDIDATES

Candidate		Candidate Responses
Ralph Agostino		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Sean Gibson		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Drina Omazic		
Q 1a.	Supportive	In 2012, Council adopted the Housing and Homelessness Strategy, as councillor I will pursue the implementation of the plan.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Inclusionary housing models have met with some success in a variety of places, Hamilton should explore inclusionary zoning as part of a larger strategy to meet the housing needs of all citizens. However, zoning regulations are not a substitute for a much needed national housing strategy.
Q 2a.	Supportive	An affordable transit pass program for low income residents is

		currently in place however, it requires a source of permanent funding. With 8 cents of every tax dollar going to municipalities -- cost sharing partnerships with the provincial and federal governments for affordable transit passes needs to be formalized in a broader poverty reduction strategy.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Hamilton needs safe streets for everyone. As councillor I will support complete streets that make our roads safer for pedestrians, transit users, cyclists and drivers.
Q 3.	Supportive	Local food initiatives and the health and well-being of residents are an important part of the City's strategic plan. As councillor, I will pursue programs that improve access to healthy food for residents in greatest need.
Q 4.	Supportive	The City needs to be a model employer. I will work to ensure that the City of Hamilton is a living wage employer including requiring all firms that are contracted directly or subcontracted by the City, pay their employees a living wage.
Tim Simmons		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Ward 3 is in a unique position due to the older homes and the large number of rental units to utilize the resources provided by the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan to improve housing standards.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Neighbourhoods that are represented by a mix of social and economic perspectives are the healthiest, so long as everyone has dignified housing and access to transit. As the former Chair of the School Board I travelled to other communities with the Hamilton Community Foundation and looked a housing policies, schools and mixed neighbourhoods. I saw positive ways of implementing inclusionary zoning bylaws where up to 20 percent of new homes builds were affordable and/or geared to income.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Transit and affordable housing must work together. If you live in affordable housing you likely don't own a car, therefore you Need to live on transit lines to get to wherever you need to go. Complete streets for cars, trucks, motorcycles, public transit, bikes and pedestrians is essential to a viable, modern city. However, this fails if you put cars and trucks into a gridlock situation. This causes cars and trucks to detour into residential areas and away from commercial areas. The city needs to show Hamiltonians a complete strategy for transit from one end of the amalgamated city to the other. Only then will people begin to understand how the complete streets concept with affect their neighbourhood and in turn, give city officials valuable feedback. We need to keep citizens part of the process, so that we can all own it and use it.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	My experience on the school board has taught me how important it is to get nutritional food into the tummies of kids. Seniors are also a vulnerable group. I already have the contacts to ensure Ward 3 is

		an active partner in Hamilton's Food Strategy.
Q 4.	Supportive	When I was Chair of the Public School Board, we became the first public organization in Ontario to be a certified Living Wage Employer. As a Councillor, I would definitely pursue this for all employees of the City of Hamilton.

Non-responsive: Mark DiMillo, Matthew Green, Jol Hess, Eva John, Victor Mejia, Bryan Wayne Millette

WARD 4 CANDIDATES

Candidate		Candidate Responses
Sam Merulla		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Lorna Moreau		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Grants are given to developers for geared to income, affordable housing 15% is not enough.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	I believe transportation is too expensive for most. I would like to see smaller buses spread across the city. connecting more residents to transit who cannot get to the main streets where the bus routes are. eg. ward 4 near Parkdale Ave
Q 2b.	Supportive	I support Complete Streets. City needs to listen to residents not expensive consultants to implement these plans.
Q 3.	Supportive	I believe in good nutrition having worked with the good food box o.w. receiving vouchers did not use them. Education is required. I would love to utilize our church and school space, grandmothers in teaching good affordable cooking-budget.
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes

Non-responsive: Tina Whalen

WARD 5 CANDIDATES

Candidate		Candidate Responses
David Brown		
Q 1a.	Maybe	I agree that housing is one of the most significant barriers to helping people escape poverty. I will work aggressively to implement a housing strategy in the City of Hamilton that will result in the creation of affordable housing to meet the needs of our City.
Q 1b.	Not Supportive	I will not support the implementation of a Zoning By-law that requires 'affordable housing' in new developments. Affordable housing is not a term that can be defined in the context of a

		Zoning By-law and therefore cannot be legislated. It is my position that City Council must work with the home building industry, the Federation of Rental Housing Providers of Ontario and the Greater Toronto Apartment Authority to identify how we, as a City Council, can facilitate the construction of new housing that is affordable. It must be a partnership to be successful.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Through the Social Services programs provided by the City of Hamilton there is an opportunity to provide assistance in respect to accessing the public transit systems of our City.
Q 2b.	Dependent	The roads in the City of Hamilton are safe for pedestrians and cyclists. The City of Hamilton is planning for the future with strategic plans that address, amongst other matters, infrastructure replacement of roads, sidewalks and services infrastructure and boulevards. Where the demand is warranted, bicycle lanes and enhanced pedestrian walkways should be incorporated. Typically within a subdivision, such enhancements are likely not appropriate.
Q 3.	Supportive	I will support the implementation of a Food Strategy. I also believe that creating more access to affordable housing will enable citizens to better afford access to nutritious food choices. The implementation of such a food strategy would be within the mandate of the Board of Health of the City of Hamilton.
Q 4.	Maybe	The City of Hamilton has a responsibility to its citizens to ensure that they wisely and responsibly manage their tax dollars to provide good value for their money. Managing an appropriate workforce to meet the needs of the people of the City; comply with Federal and Provincial Labour laws; and providing appropriate compensation based on the various collective agreements, requires a City Council to balance the wages offered with these other issues. As such, I will work to make the City of Hamilton an employer of choice with a salary and benefit package that will almost certainly result in better than a living wage.
Chad Collins		
Q 1a.	No Answer	
Q 1b.	No Answer	
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes, we currently have a pass program in place, however it's not permanently funded as yet.
Q 2b.	Unclear	Possibly. I helped council resolve the 'two way streets' issue several months ago. I also supported the Ward 2 & 3 Councillors with the Cannon Street Bike lanes. Residents in my area however have opposed bike lanes on Nash Road, and Mount Albion Road. I will continue to support projects that improve public safety and make financial/fiscal sense.
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes, I'm currently working with residents to open a new East Hamilton Food bank, and have supported the group with area rating resources. I'm also a strong supporter of providing Hamilton Food Share an annual contribution, outside of the City's grants program (approximately 300k to 500k).

Q 4.	Supportive	Yes, we are already a living wage employer for all full time staff.
Larry Storm		
Q 1a.	Supportive	I support affordable housing. Keep in mind the greatest thing that anyone can do, as they pull themselves up is to attain home ownership. I support the concept of alternative housing (tiny houses) provided they are well kept and on consenting private property.
Q 1b.	No Answer	
Q 2a.	Unclear	I support making the HSR the best bus based transit system in the world. Utilizing new technology as well as developing a marketable app to allow everyone to access transit throughout the city.
Q 2b.	No Answer	
Q 3.	No Answer	
Q 4.	Not Supportive	I am in favour of working with local organizations, employers and schools to allow people the access, regardless of situation to learn a marketable skill to earn a livable wage. I also believe that as the labour movement grows in Asia that the trend of imports will return to domestic production meaning that Hamilton, as an industrial port city will once again be able to take advantage of all its assets and have a healthy, educated, knowledgeable city.

Non-responsive: George Rusich

WARD 6 CANDIDATES

Dan Rodrigues		
Q 1a.	Supportive	The City's 10-year "Everyone Has a Home" action plan was passed in 2007, and initiated in 1998. The strategy includes 36-objectives aimed at addressing our homeless, and those at risk of remaining in an affordable home. As with any plan which places timelines for completion, the City needs to review the status and prioritize items yet to be completed. Our shelters continue to be a maximum capacity, which has led to those at risk to choose between obtaining shelter in another community, or finding an inappropriate location to seek shelter. Individuals who have found themselves in need of affordable housing continue to wait inappropriate lengths of time. When elected, I intend on speaking with Jo-Ann Priel, to ensure that this particular piece remains a priority, and new objectives are put into place to ensure that no one person is left behind.
Q 1b.	No answer	
Q 2a.		There is absolutely no rationale as to why Hamilton cannot create and provide an Affordable Transit Pass. Given the nature of our current PRESTO pass use and ease of access, this program can and should be implemented immediately.
Q 2b.		Complete streets means more than just safer roads for pedestrians and cyclists. It should ensure that we are classifying our roadways to minimize exposure to those most vulnerable. This includes ensuring

		that we plan our Truck Routes have minimal interaction with our cyclists; it ensures that cycling lanes are connected, and provide the safest route to reach destinations; and above all, it ensures that our pedestrians always have access to a safe and manageable walkway on all of our streets, especially those which neighbour schools and community centres and are on bus routes.
Q 3.		Providing good, wholesome food to those who are in need is something we can address through creative solutions. Hamilton is home to a few food manufacturers (such as Canada Bread, The Meat Factory, and Nicolas), and we should be partnering with these locations to propose a partnership wherein a portion of their products can be delivered directly to our food share locations, versus through a third-party. The Ontario Food Terminal in Mississauga is the main distribution point for all fresh and imported fruits and vegetables delivered throughout Ontario. Many of our local retailers purchase directly from the Terminal, and I would like to suggest that a program be enacted to see our food share locations have the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables directly in order to maximize any funding dollars. I would go further to explore the possibility of creating a door-to-door grocery program to support those who are unable to visit a food share program on their own.
Q 4.	Not supportive	I will state first and foremost that I'm not supportive of simply raising minimum wage as a solution to combat poverty. My concern is that when wages increase, so too do deduction thresholds. And, not to be ignored, the prices of goods and services will ultimately rise – remember 'penny candy' anyone? Any bump in wages or deductions ultimately impacts employment opportunities. (As an example, the newly implemented Ontario Pension Plan resulted in an employee being laid-off where my sister works, due to the high cost to the employer). That said, I am not opposed to ensuring that workers are paid a fair wage for their position. However, if we are indeed serious about curbing poverty, then we need to seek out other alternative solutions. I would advocate for \$0 deductions on employees who make less than the poverty line (approximately \$19,000), and then only apply deductions once they earn greater than that amount. On the surface, the concept may appear simplistic, however if a worker were to earn the current minimum wage of \$11/hr and had \$0 deductions, they would have more net income to spend on essential items (and perhaps save some money as well). The employer would still contribute to the employee's CPP and EI as required, to ensure that said employee will not lose access to these benefits when and if they are needed. Like the 'living wage', it's not THE solution, but it does move us towards A solution.
Tom Jackson		
Q 1a.	Supportive	I have consistently supported the existing plan.

Q 1b.	Maybe	There are many implications to implementing a bylaw designating affordable housing. We need additional study with all of the stakeholders before we create bylaws regarding housing.
Q 2a.	Maybe	I have been a strong proponent of the existing transit pass. I will keep an open mind in a discussion around affordable transit passes for people living in poverty.
Q 2b.	Maybe	We have seen complications from the areas where we have implemented this type of multi- use roads. The expansion of this project needs more study to determine the impact on traffic patterns and safety concerns.
Q 3.	Maybe	I have been supportive of this strategy and will be supportive of implementation providing that there is a collaborative effort from all agencies.
Q 4.	Maybe	I have always been supportive of providing a living wage for all of our fulltime employees. To expand that to part-time employees needs to be looked at in the context of the implication to the city's budget. We need to be mindful of the impact to taxpayers.

WARD 7 CANDIDATES

Keith Beck		
Q 1a.	Maybe	I certainly support the objective of "Everyone has a home" but confess I don't know the details of the strategy, never having much faith in our local administration to deal with the issue. As a result, I cannot say today whether I will aggressively support its implementation. My own work on the question made me believe the most underutilized tool available to the city was the ability of CityHousing Hamilton to operate in the market-housing category. for instance, with interest rates where they currently are the city could build market rental units the cost of which can be carried by the shelter subsidy amount available to ODSP recipients. Effectively using provincial money to create new low-cost housing to our low-income neighbours
Q 1b.	Supportive	I certainly do support the city exploring and implementing zoning by-law that requires a certain proportion of new development be affordable. Before moving to Hamilton in my twenties, I grew up in Burlington where such a by-law has been in place since the 1970's
Q 2a.	Supportive	I can certainly support the expansion of affordable transit passes. Ideally, I would like to see income support recipients be able to buy a monthly pass for the same price seniors are now able to.
Q 2b.	Supportive	I do support the conversion of our streets to a complete street model as they are replaced over their life-cycle.
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	I do support the city being required to pay all employees living-wage rates as well as contracting only to vendors that do the same for their own employees.

Greg Burghall		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes, this is a great plan. Unfortunately many plans and reports commissioned by government end up collecting dust - this is one that definitely should not. We need to begin implementing the Homeless Action Plan immediately. I would also like a council/citizen committee to review our progress on this issue annually.
Q 1b.	Supportive	I believe this is essential to the sustainability of affordable housing.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes, this should be explored and implemented in a way that can benefit the most people while balancing the financial integrity of the HSR. I also believe in extending student passes to most part-time students as well
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes, and I believe we need to do even more than this. Along with access to nutritious food, we need more nutritional education for young people and people who fall below the poverty line. People of my generation have been raised largely on packaged and processed food. The City should also offer classes through our Recreational Program to help our citizens and their families learn how to make healthier choices and learn how to cook healthy meals on a budget. I would like the City to partner with local grocery chains and the charitable sector to develop low cost educational programs and classes.
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes, 100%.

Non-responsive: Scott Duvall

WARD 8 CANDIDATES

Joshua Czerniga		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes

Non-responsive: Terry Whitehead

WARD 9 CANDIDATES

Nancy Fiorentino		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes

Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	No Answer	Needs more information
Lee Austin		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	I would also work on a program that would promote businesses that also pay their employees a living wage.
Geraldine McMullen		
Q 1a.	Supportive	I will aggressively pursue the implementation of the City's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action plan "Everyone has a Home". In implementing this plan I will urge the use of local labour and especially unionized labour to ensure that our housing dollars build durable and efficient homes.
Q 1b.	Supportive	I will explore and implement an inclusionary zoning bylaw requiring a certain component of housing developments to be affordable.
Q 2a.	Supportive	I will support the expansion of the Hamilton Affordable Transit Pass to all people living in poverty. How can people access the services that can give them the capacity to work out of poverty if they cannot get to the services or jobs they need?
Q 2b.	Supportive	As improved public transit opens up practical opportunities I will support a 'Complete Streets' policy making our roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
Q 3.	Supportive	I will actively pursue consultation and implementation of Hamilton's Food Strategy in order to ensure every citizen has access to nutritious quality food, I will work with our agricultural community to source as much of our food from local and Ontario producers.
Q 4.	Supportive	I will work to ensure that all City of Hamilton employees, full and part-time, are paid a living wage.

Non-responsive: Doug Conley, Cam Galindo, Tone Marrone, Marie Robbins, Christopher Rosser, Frank Rukavina

WARD 10 CANDIDATES

Maria Pearson		
Q 1a.	Supportive	I support affordable housing and affordable transit. Moreover, the ability to hold the line on taxes helps everyone, as additional costs are not passed onto hard working tenants by landlords.
Q 1b.	No answer	No answer
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	No answer	No answer
Q 3.	No answer	No answer
Q 4.	No answer	No answer

Teresa DiFalco		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes. I will support those principles espoused in the action plan. I will also insist that there are measureables reported on so that we can ensure progress against those measureables.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes- as President of a Neighbourhood Association for Safe and Healthy Neighbourhoods, I have been a champion for safer roads for all.
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes

Non-responsive: Luana Yachetti

WARD 11 CANDIDATES

Vince Rigitano		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes

Non-responsive: Brenda Johnson

WARD 12 CANDIDATES

Grace Bryson		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes this is a very important issue that needs to be addressed immediately. Everyone needs a place that they can call their own.
Q 1b.	Supportive	All developers should have a variety of homes to offer when they build.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes, people living in poverty should be able to get to a doctors or hospital without worrying how to get there. They should also be able to get to work.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes, as people need to be able to cross the street safely or to be able to cycle across the city. I would suggest using the secondary streets instead of the main streets.
Q 3.	Supportive	There are more community gardening opening up and I would encourage this. This would be beneficial to neighbourhoods, to children learning where food comes from and to people who want vegetables that are not contaminated with pesticides.
Q 4.	Not supportive	I think Hamilton pays its employees extremely well. It is jobs that are outside the government regime that require attention. Once a

		person moves outside the Police, Utilities, Health Sciences, and Municipality then the wages are drastically lower. And many of these jobs are only part time, temporary, or contract with no benefits, pensions or job security.
John Iachelli		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes

Non-responsive: Lloyd Ferguson, Anthony Nicholl

WARD 13 CANDIDATES

Marc Risdale		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes. As we all know, there is a serious deficit of affordable housing across Hamilton and all residents should have access to a safe space to call their own.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes. This is of particular importance in Dundas since nearly all of the new development projects are "luxury" condos and I believe we would benefit from greater diversity.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes. The best way to lift families out of poverty is to give people good quality jobs and we need to make it as easy as possible to get to those job opportunities where ever they may be across the City.
Q 2b.	No response	
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes. Again this is an issue of particular importance in Dundas. While we have access to a lot of great food through our vendors and farmer's market, the nearest discount food retailer is in Ancaster, which means low cost food is difficult for people living in poverty to access.
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes. Earlier this year, President Barrack Obama delivered a speech saying "Nobody who works full-time should have to live in poverty" and I could not agree more. This is the fastest and best path toward eliminating child poverty which is a main platform plank of my campaign.
Pamela Mitchell		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	No Answer Given	
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Not Supportive	You can't pay \$15 an hour because no one will pay \$10 for a cup of coffee.

Mark Coull		
Q 1a.	Maybe	Unequivocably, I am in support of virtually any initiative to reduce poverty. Your pamphlet concisely accentuated not only some of the problems but potential solutions. While lots of solutions on the surface seem "doable" the complicated matrix of decision-making, accountability and fiscal responsibility always must be considered.
Q 1b.	Maybe	
Q 2a.	Not supportive	
Q 2b.	Not supportive	
Q 3.	Maybe	
Q 4.	Maybe	
Dayna Schime		
Q 1a.	Supportive	
Q 1b.	Supportive	
Q 2a.	Supportive	I also spoke (2010) about parking pass cards that are reloadable/affordable to be implemented.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Mindful of Seniors and wheelchairs too!
Q 3.	Supportive	I began discussions with ways of getting more food from large Venues to be distributed. Because of litigation concerns, I believe I have a model that will work that ensures the food is fresh and the donors are covered under an umbrella insurance policy. There is no need for any food to be wasted! I am also a donor of my apples to food share.
Q 4.	Supportive	I am embarrassed to say that I already thought this was done...shameful that it is not!
Arlene VanderBeek		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes
Toby Yull		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Maybe	I am not well versed on the existing transit passes and their cost/budget impacts.
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	YEs

Non-responsive: Rick Court, Kevin Norton, Christeen Urquhart

WARD 14 CANDIDATES

Scott Stewart		
Q 1a.	Yes	I will need to review the City's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan in order to provide a specific response. I am supportive of using City resources to deal with the variety of issues that may lead to or from homelessness.
Q 1b.	Maybe	I believe that there must be some mechanisms within or that may be added to the zoning, planning and development processes enabling the creation of additional housing which is also affordable via rent or ownership.
Q 2a.	Maybe	Regarding an Affordable Transit Pass, I have questions as to what amount is deemed affordable and the process used to offer such a pass. I believe that offering such a pass can be part of an overall review of Hamilton's transit and transportation planning.
Q 2b.	Yes	I support safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic.
Q 3.	Maybe	I will need to review Hamilton's Food Strategy. I believe that there are many organizations within Hamilton that should discuss among themselves and with the City where various groups overlap in service or intent. Civic organizations should be able to assist Hamilton in utilizing City resources more efficiently to enable people access to nutritious food and other needed resources that may be linked to broader socioeconomic issues.
Q 4.	Maybe	I will need to review Hamilton's Food Strategy. I believe that there are many organizations within Hamilton that should discuss among themselves and with the City where various groups overlap in service or intent. Civic organizations should be able to assist Hamilton in utilizing City resources more efficiently to enable people access to nutritious food and other needed resources that may be linked to broader socioeconomic issues.

Non-responsive: Steven Knowles

WARD 15 CANDIDATES

Judi Partridge		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Affordable housing is an issue in Flamborough, specifically Waterdown that I am actively pursuing. There is a 5 year wait for Flamborough residents for housing in their community. Yes I will aggressively take action for a city wide 10 yr plan.
Q 1b.	Supportive	I strongly support the requirement that a percentage of all new housing developments be affordable or geared to income housing. There needs to be a well thought out plan that includes the Home Builders Association getting on board with this.
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Pedestrian safety measures and bike lanes are currently being included in the new road infrastructure and developments being

		built in Waterdown.
Q 3.	Yes	There is a new Waterdown Food Bank opened this past year at Grace Anglican. And the existing Flamborough Food Bank which services the rural community, both foodbanks receive donations from the farms in Flamborough. It has always been part of our country culture to ensure fresh food is available to those in need. We need more of a focus on creating urban farms throughout the city to provide fresh food through local Churches, Food Banks and Co-Ops – people should have access to nutritious food through neighbourhood organizations, not just those members of Food Share.
Q 4.	Yes	I have and will continue to champion a living wage for City of Hamilton employees. It is important to note though that most of the public service workers are already receiving \$14.00 or better. There needs to be a broader strategy that includes the Provincial government commitment on this. Small businesses make up more than 75% of the businesses throughout Hamilton and the province. There needs to be a provincial plan with a partnership between the province and small businesses to help them bridge the wage increase gap. An immediate jump to \$14.00 an hour is not achievable for most small businesses. Hamilton could be a pilot for such a program. I believe there is opportunity for Hamilton to take the lead in discussions with the province to be a test city for such a pilot. This will take strong leadership for action, not just talking about it for another 10 years.
Neil Bos		
Q 1a.	Supportive	Yes. It's in the constitution that everyone has the right to a home.
Q 1b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2a.	Supportive	Yes
Q 2b.	Supportive	Yes
Q 3.	Supportive	Yes
Q 4.	Supportive	Yes