

# ACORN MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE SURVEY – 2022

NAME: BRIAN LEWIS

WARD: WARD 14

Are you a landlord / own rental property in Hamilton? NO

Have you attended an ACORN event (online town hall, direct action, tenant meeting, press conference, chapter meeting) between 2018 - August 2022? YES

MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRIORTIES:

**Housing - Healthy Homes and tenant protection from renoviction (YES/NO ANSWER)**

Develop and implement a city wide landlord licensing program to protect tenants from substandard housing conditions and restrict renoviction. YES

**As you know there is a Pilot Project in Wards 1, 8, and parts of 14- the reason these Wards were picked was because of absentee landlords, pathetic property standards and maintenance complaints- mostly from student housing. Although these areas are targeted- it should be city-wide. This is a serious issue across the city. As soon as we take it more seriously the better and safer, we will all be. Many of these slums are just waiting for a fatality.**

Improvements to the Tenant Defense Fund (funding, expansion of issues covered, tenant outreach and support). YES

Create a robust proactive tenant education program to inform tenants of their rights when a building is sold and track reports of tenant displacement. YES

We need to better educate both tenants and landlords on their rights and responsibilities. **In doing so will increase a better understanding between the two parties and make the rental a positive experience for all involved.**

End financial incentives to developers / landlords who have a history of displacing Hamilton tenants. **YES**

**We need to encourage RESPONSIBLE developers who are willing to work with the city when dealing with the housing crises we are now facing. I have absolutely no problem with ending financial incentives to developers/landlords who are displacing tenants for the sake of increased profits.**

### **Housing – Demoviction**

Create a city wide rental replacement and tenant assistance policy to protect tenants from demoviction and prevent loss of affordable housing based on the strong policy from Burnby, BC. **YES**

Another thing we can ‘borrow’ from Burnaby is we **MUST** create a **Task Force on Community Housing** to provide innovative policies directions and specific initiatives to increase the supply, diversity and affordability of housing – this task force should include a diverse group of stakeholders, including ACORN, unions, developers and builders. The task force should have a specific time frame to do what needs to be done and report back to the council.

### **Housing - Definition of affordable housing**

We need the City of Hamilton’s affordable housing definition to prioritize housing for ODSP & OW recipients, fixed income seniors and low wage workers - target low to moderate incomes (\$30,000 individuals / \$60,000 households and under). **YES.**

The simple definition should be the one that’s used for the City of Hamilton. **ONE-THIRD** of the household income to be allocated for housing.

### **Housing - Affordable housing on public land**

Ensure rent control in all market rentals created. **YES.**

There should be reasonable rent control on all publicly owned land that is used for housing.

Keep public land in public control. **NO**

I believe that we should keep all **useable** public land in public control. If there is industrial land (for example) that the city owns that would serve no purpose to the city or our citizens, then it

should be sold. There are examples- such as **Kay Drage Park** which was once a landfill but was converted into soccer and baseball fields. Public use/control should be the first option when it comes to any city-owned land.

100% affordable housing on public land targeting low to moderate incomes (\$30,000 individuals / \$60,000 households and under). **YES**

I agree with the concept until/if we ever get through the mountain of a waiting list. Once we accomplish this task- then it could be opened up to others.

### **Housing - Affordable housing on private land**

The City of Hamilton create a bold inclusionary zoning policy that includes:

- A set aside rate of minimum 40% affordable housing in all new condo & apartment developments where IZ can be used. **Yes,**  
**This is actually part of the stated policy I published on [my website](#).**
- Affordable units built with IZ policies be kept affordable forever **YES**
- Require targets for accessible housing **YES**
- Target incomes of \$30,000 or less for affordability. We need affordable housing for Hamiltonians - ODSP/OW recipients, low wage workers and fixed income seniors **YES**
- IZ policy apply to minimum amount of units as set out in the provincial policy (10 units or more). **YES**

### **Internet For All**

Investigate a city owned and controlled municipal broadband program to ensure low income Hamiltonians have access to affordable home internet. **YES**

Expand free public WiFi to more of Hamilton's parks. **YES**

Free Wi-Fi access on HSR buses, bus terminals and the LRT. **YES**

### **Coming - Extreme Heat in Hamilton apartments**

ACORN Hamilton is currently organizing on the issue of extreme heat in apartments. We will be releasing our demands in front of City Hall - September 7th @ noon.

### **Additional platform demands**

No encampment evictions

I would call for an immediate halt of all forced removal of encampments until such time we have some place for these individuals to go. It just doesn't make sense to force them to leave, just so they move to a park a block away. These encampments are full of human beings and need to be treated as such.

Expansion of public transit throughout the city YES We have an expectation for ALL of Hamilton to pay taxes, yet for many, we don't offer simple things such as public transit. This isn't rocket science- if there is a route to Binbrook, for example, that doesn't require a full size bus- do what other municipalities do- use smaller vehicles- like what is used for DARTS.

Affordable public transit for low income users YES- Change the Affordable Transit Pass Programme for the HSR to include those who are unemployed and low-income users.

Freeze Hamilton's Urban Boundary (already voted on by Hamilton City Council) YES- And do whatever it takes to fight the province when they, **and they will**- overturn the decision made by the previous council.

City wide sidewalk snow removal- Yes, over time- starting with homes of people with disabilities, the elderly etc. Eventually- with an actual time frame- being city-wide.

Increase support for Hamilton's homeless YES. We are a great city- and it's about time we start acting like it by supporting those of us in need.