



ACORN - Municipal Candidates Survey - 2022

<p>Name: Craig Cassar</p>	<p>Ward: 12</p>	<p>Are you a landlord / own rental property in Hamilton?</p> <p>No, I am not</p> <p>*If yes* Will you be declaring a conflict of interest on tenant issues if elected?</p>	<p>Have you attended an ACORN event (online town hall, direct action, tenant meeting, press conference, chapter meeting) between 2018 - August 2022?</p> <p>No</p>
Municipal Election Priorities	Campaign Asks	If elected, would you commit to working towards this item? (yes/no)	Rationale for response (optional)
<p>Housing - Healthy Homes and tenant protection from renoviction</p>	<p>Develop and implement a city wide landlord licensing program to protect tenants from substandard housing conditions and restrict renoviction.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>It is imperative that all of our neighbourhoods are safe and inclusive, and tenants must be protected from predatory practices. The current licensing program should be expanded to include all wards.</p>

	Improvements to the Tenant Defense Fund (funding, expansion of issues covered, tenant outreach and support).	Yes	The City can play an important role in financially supporting tenants with resources to enable them to advocate for their rights regarding rental housing.
	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	The city can play an important role in educating tenants about their rights and responsibilities when residing in rental properties.
	End financial incentives to developers / landlords who have a history of displacing Hamilton tenants.	Yes	Incentives should be used to provide affordable and deeply affordable, safe and dignified housing, not for the displacement of tenants. I feel strongly that they City has a moral obligation to make sure fair and equitable policies and practices are in place and enforced.

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	The City of Hamilton should be actively and substantially supporting consistent, stable and safe housing options to all those who live in the city.
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 current definition of "affordable housing" excludes residents who require deeply affordable housing geared to provincial and federal support payments. As we are at a crisis level for deeply affordable and affordable housing in the city this must be a priority.
Housing - Affordable housing on public land	Ensure rent control in all market rentals created.	Yes	see below
	Keep public land in public control.	Yes	see below
	100% affordable housing on public land targeting low to moderate incomes (\$30,000 individuals / \$60,000 households and under).	Yes	This is one of my platform pieces: Complete an immediate audit and assessment of all City land assets and determine what land can be allocated and leveraged to build long-term deeply affordable housing and to create a municipal non-market housing program,

			including rentals for all income levels
Housing - Affordable housing on private land	<p>The City of Hamilton create a bold inclusionary zoning policy that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A set aside rate of minimum 40% affordable housing in all new condo & apartment developments where IZ can be used ● Affordable units built with IZ policies be kept affordable forever ● Require targets for accessible housing ● 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 ● IZ policy apply to minimum amount of units as set out in the provincial policy (10 units or more). 	Yes	Part of my platform is to work to expand the <i>vacant homes tax</i> to include commercial properties to encourage development and discourage property speculation. I also support inclusionary zoning, as mixed-use developments are critical to create vibrant, accessible and liveable communities with a variety of desirable amenities that improve the lives of residents and reduce car-dependency.

Internet For All	Investigate a city owned and controlled municipal broadband program to ensure low income Hamiltonians have access to affordable home internet.	Yes	Internet can now legitimately be considered a basic utility and those with out reliable access are disadvantaged. The City has a responsibility to enable equitable access
	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.	Yes	All homes must be made and maintained to be safe and liveable; the climate crisis has created at times perilous conditions in apartments and other residential settings.
Additional platform demands	No encampment evictions	Yes	Let's put all of our efforts into solving the houselessness crisis and address the root causes that create the environment where encampments are the only solution individuals have
	Expansion of public transit throughout the city	Yes	The ward I hope to represent has very poor public transit; most residents I speak to would like to see it improved. We cannot be a truly great city without outstanding public transit

	Affordable public transit for low income users	Yes	
	Freeze Hamilton's Urban Boundary (already voted on by Hamilton City Council)	Yes	I have long supported and advocated for a firm urban boundary and was a volunteer with the Stop Sprawl Movement
	City wide sidewalk snow removal	Yes	The city must be accessible to all residents regardless of the weather
	Increase support for Hamilton's homeless	Yes	The City can play an important role in housing the unhoused with housing availability as well as many other social supports and resources to keep people housed and stable.
Ward Specific Ward 5 Candidates Only			
Community and park space in Riverdale	ACORN is calling on the Ward 5 Councillor to commit to working with tenants in the neighborhood and the Hamilton School Board to improve the vital green and community space outside Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily garbage clean up in the summer ● More garbage cans and recycling bins ● Fix and/or replace the existing picnic tables and benches, and add new seating for families throughout the park ● Expand the playground ● Install drinking fountains ● More trees planted around the park perimeter to provide more shade during the hot summer months. ● Consult the community on fixing or replacing the broken cricket court ● Enforce property standards to the adjacent apartment building who has allowed the fencing to degrade causing dangerous conditions next to the park 		
<p>Redevelopment of Eastgate Square</p>	<p>The redevelopment should include community benefits -</p>		

	affordable housing, green space and transit.		
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