



ACORN - Municipal Candidates Survey - 2022

Name: Lynda Lukasik	Ward: 5	Are you a landlord / own rental property in Hamilton? NO *If yes* Will you be declaring a conflict of interest on tenant issues if elected?	Have you attended an ACORN event (online town hall, direct action, press conference, chapter meeting) between 2018 - August 2022? YES – I have a strong link to ACORN through work my organization (Environment Hamilton) has been doing around extreme heat and vulnerable community members. I continue, as a candidate, to be strongly committed to action to address this serious issue.
Municipal Election Priorities	Campaign Asks	If elected, would you commit to working towards this item? (yes/no)	Rationale for response (optional)
Housing - Healthy Homes and tenant protection from renoviction	Develop and implement a city wide landlord licensing program to protect tenants	YES	Every Hamiltonian deserves a safe, healthy place to live

	from substandard housing conditions and restrict renoviction.		
	Improvements to the Tenant Defense Fund (funding, expansion of issues covered, tenant outreach and support).	YES	People must be supported if/when they find themselves having to take action to see substandard living conditions resolved or to avoid renovictions or other attempts by landlords to push them out of 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	With any issue, knowing your rights is critically important. I strongly support efforts to ensure tenants know their rights and to ensure that their rights are not being violated
	End financial incentives to developers / landlords who have a history of displacing Hamilton tenants.	YES	Developers/landlords who are actively displacing tenants must not be able to benefit from municipal incentive programs. Public dollars must not be facilitating tenant displacement.
Housing - Demoviction	Create a city wide rental replacement and tenant assistance policy to protect tenants from demoviction and prevent loss of affordable	YES	Demoviction is already an issue in our community and it is likely to become more of an issue over time. I support Hamilton looking to other

	housing based on the strong policy from Burnby, BC.		jurisdictions for viable solutions to this issue.
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	This is essential! There is lots of confusion out there regarding the definition of 'affordable'. It is urgent that we establish a clear definition and help people to understand who the priority audience is when we speak about 'affordability'. With recent census data we know that some of our most vulnerable community members (seniors on fixed and limited incomes – who are often also struggling with disabilities) are becoming even more vulnerable where housing is concerned.
Housing - Affordable housing on public land	Ensure rent control in all market rentals created.	YES	The provincial government needs to reinstate rent control for all new market rentals – and to apply controls to rentals built between 2018 and now.
	Keep public land in public control.	YES	In my role at Environment Hamilton, I advocated with other members of Just Recovery Hamilton for the City of Hamilton to actively acquire more public land for deeply

			affordable housing. We urged the city to pay particular attention to properties along the east-west LRT route. Cllr Nrinder Nann has played an important role as a political champion. The city's Real Estate Division is now actively working on this – determining where the city might be able to acquire properties for this purpose. If elected, I would continue to advocate strongly for this to be done.
	100% affordable housing on public land targeting low to moderate incomes (\$30,000 individuals / \$60,000 households and under).	YES	See above response! I am strongly committed to this goal! This is what I would advocate for as a sitting councilor.
Housing - Affordable housing on private land	The City of Hamilton create a bold inclusionary zoning policy that includes: <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 	YES	I support bold efforts to maximize the amount of affordable housing achieved through inclusionary zoning, but I believe this also must include changes to provincial policies where inclusionary zoning is concerned. IZ should be permitted in more areas than just around protected 'Major Transit Station Areas'. An IZ policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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). 		spanning urban Hamilton would enable requirements to be put in place for affordable units in new developments across the city. I would work to ensure that the municipality advocates for this policy to be expanded beyond Protected Major Transit Station Areas.
Internet For All	Investigate a city owned and controlled municipal broadband program to ensure low income Hamiltonians have access to affordable home internet.	YES	This is essential, given how much we all depend on wifi access for essential services and, more and more, to fully engage as community members.
	Expand free public WiFi to more of Hamilton's parks.	YES	
	Free Wi-Fi access on HSR buses, bus terminals and the LRT.	YES	This also makes sense as an important way to convince more Hamiltonians to get on the bus.

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.		Excellent! I support Hamilton pursuing a by-law - as has happened in other jurisdictions - requiring landlords to provide cooling in warm weather just as they must provide heating in cold weather. Ideally, this requirement needs to be coupled with climate actions like shifts to low/no gHg heating/cooling systems/ retrofits/builds like heat pumps or passive house requirements for retrofits + new builds.
Additional platform demands	No encampment evictions	YES	I strongly oppose the harsh measures the City of Hamilton has been using against homeless Hamiltonians living in encampments. We must do better for vulnerable community members!
	Expansion of public transit throughout the city	YES	I firmly support the 10-Year Transit Strategy and the BLAST network. I also support the phase out of area rating for transit.
	Affordable public transit for low income users	YES	I support affordable transit for low income Hamiltonians – but I believe we need to

			expand and improve this program to make it easily accessible to those who need it the most. The current program seems to have too many barriers when it comes to accessing the support being offered, and the amount of support (including the number of low income passes available) is simply inadequate.
	Freeze Hamilton's Urban Boundary (already voted on by Hamilton City Council)	YES	This is already part of my campaign platform. I will continue to support a firm urban boundary and the need for smart approaches to urban growth management.
	City wide sidewalk snow removal	YES	This is already part of my campaign platform. I strongly support city-wide sidewalk clearing.
	Increase support for Hamilton's homeless	YES	This must also include the municipality strongly advocating for more services and supports from higher levels of government – for social housing, and for health care resources to support mental health and addictions treatment.

Ward Specific Ward 5 Candidates Only			
Community and park space in Riverdale	<p>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.</p> <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. 	YES to all of these items	<p>Ideally, I would like to see the city purchase some of the land from the school board(s). I believe this would enable the city to do more in the way of investing in more an better community amenities in the neighbourhood. Right now, what is available to this high density neighbourhood is simply inadequate.</p> <p>I also recently learned that a plan announced back in 2019 to provide 44 affordable housing units for seniors - by adding upper levels to the Dominic Agostino Community Centre - has fallen through because the school board won't /can't agree to allowing residential development on the property it owns (which is zoned for 'institutional uses'). I will advocate for this original commitment to Riverdale to be honoured. The situation with this loss of an affordable</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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>housing project only underscores the urgent need for the city to acquire property in Riverdale for this urgently needed housing as well as the other amenities the neighbourhood requires. The Riverdale Neighbourhood desperately needs more housing supports and recreational amenities in the sizeable school park space located around the community centre. As the city continues to look at options for acquiring more public land for deeply affordable housing and other community services, Riverdale must be placed at the top of the locations list!</p>
Redevelopment of Eastgate Square	The redevelopment should include community benefits - affordable housing, green space and transit.	YES	I am also advocating for accessible and family friendly units in this redevelopment. Additional community benefits should include – improving the neighbourhood streetscape to support people of all mobility abilities, and cyclists (mobility justice).