



ACORN - Municipal Candidates Survey - 2022

<p>Name: Raquel Rakovac</p>	<p>Ward: 2</p>	<p>Are you a landlord / own rental property in Hamilton? No</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, press conference, chapter meeting) between 2018 - August 2022? I have not. However, I thank you for reaching out; I am eager to understand and learn from your organization and how I can best serve and support your endeavours in assisting constituents of Ward 2. My platform does support your initiatives; affordable housing and deeply affordable housing are one of the leading reasons why I am running for leadership in Hamilton. Being an active team member in identifying and implementing solutions is my top priority, and I will continue to work and learn with everyone to ensure this.</p>
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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 from substandard housing conditions and restrict renoviction.	Yes	
	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	
	End financial incentives to developers / landlords who have a history of displacing Hamilton tenants.	Yes	
Housing - Demoviction	Create a city wide rental replacement and tenant assistance policy to protect	Yes	

	tenants from demoviction and prevent loss of affordable housing based on the strong policy from Burnby, BC.		
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	
Housing - Affordable housing on public land	Ensure rent control in all market rentals created.	As I understand it, rent control is a provincial government responsibility. So in full transparency, it is difficult to ensure it's available on new builds. However, I will actively continue to advocate for new and more affordable rental units by supporting and working to have more available units. Please see my platform on affordable housing and also the section on ‘no development fees for affordable housing.’ These are some ideas I have discussed with our not-for-profit groups that can increase inventory and	

		help the viability of affordable housing projects moving forward.	
	Keep public land in public control.	A great way to mitigate this is maybe a consideration for the city to lease public land long-term to not-for-profits organizations to build for affordable housing. They don't pay any costs to lease, and it's a great way to help with continued, deeply affordable housing projects.	
	100% affordable housing on public land targeting low to moderate incomes (\$30,000 individuals / \$60,000 households and under).	Yes, I am for this in principle. However, I understand that the costs of the market-rate units help offset the costs of building affordable units. We can look to the federal and provincial governments to assist in providing more funding for affordable units. This will be a team effort needed and an understanding of how we can work together to achieve this.	
Housing - Affordable housing on private land	The City of Hamilton create a bold inclusionary zoning policy that includes:	I support a partnership model of IZ – the city, private and public sectors working together to create a mutually	

	<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). 	<p>beneficial outcome meeting the needs of all residents. Affordability is essential, we must all work together to achieve this and continue meeting the needs of all residents.</p>	
<p>Internet For All</p>	<p>Investigate a city owned and controlled municipal broadband program to ensure low income Hamiltonians have access to affordable home internet.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

	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.	I Will be there...	
Additional platform demands	No encampment evictions	Yes	
	Expansion of public transit throughout the city	Yes	
	Affordable public transit for low income users	Yes	
	Freeze Hamilton's Urban Boundary (already voted on by Hamilton City Council)	Yes	
	City wide sidewalk snow removal	Yes	
	Increase support for Hamilton's homeless	Yes	
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		

	<p>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.● 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		
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	dangerous conditions next to the park		
Redevelopment of Eastgate Square	The redevelopment should include community benefits - affordable housing, green space and transit.		