



ACORN - Municipal Candidates Survey - 2022

<p>Name: Robert Paris</p>	<p>Ward: 4</p>	<p>Are you a landlord / own rental property in Hamilton? My partner does owns a rental property.</p> <p>*If yes* Will you be declaring a conflict of interest on tenant issues if elected?</p> <p>Not sure at this point, probably look at selling. Would like to discuss with you for advice actually. The only reason we never sold is we love our tenants, charge lower than market, and do not raise rent on tenants. We became accidental landlords. Its a tough situation. Again, any advice would be appreciated.</p>	<p>Have you attended an ACORN event (online town hall, direct action, press conference, chapter meeting) between 2018 - August 2022? I have tuned in for an online townhall. I would really be interested in participating more.</p>
<p>Municipal Election Priorities</p>	<p>Campaign Asks</p>	<p>If elected, would you commit to working towards this item? (yes/no)</p>	<p>Rationale for response (optional)</p>

<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>Two reasons :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) safety and wellbeing of tenants 2) ending renovictions
	<p>Improvements to the Tenant Defense Fund (funding, expansion of issues covered, tenant outreach and support).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>It is my feeling that too many tenants are taken advantage of because they either dont have options or dont know the options they have. I know this from experience with family members and outreach. Renovictions will be a main concern of my platform. As such I have sought out as much information as I can find.</p>
	<p>Create a robust proactive tenant education program to inform tenants of their rights when a building is sold and track reports of tenant displacement.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Hate to say this, but basically the same answer as above. Knowledge is power, and also having people advocating for you is essential.</p>
	<p>End financial incentives to developers / landlords who have a history of displacing Hamilton tenants.</p>	<p>Absolutely yes.</p>	<p>Again, another main reason for me running. Housing is beyond the point of just being about gains for investors. It is a human right. Furthermore, anything that impacts a</p>

			persons dignity is evil and needs to be abolished.
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	I have heard many stories of this, especially since the approval of the LRT, where buildings are sold at a huge profit and tenants are being forced out by some very evil means. I have even talked to one tenant who was asked to pay in cash, did not receive a receipt and was evicted for non-payment. I am familiar with what happened in New Westminster, but not with Burnaby. I will investigate this.
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, which I believe is just an adoption of the CMHC definition which is inadequate. It feels like it would only cover middle income households as rental and housing price increases have WAY outpaced income increases.
Housing - Affordable housing on public land	Ensure rent control in all market rentals created.	Yes	With steep increases, even a middle income household can be pushed down into a lower level rental market, putting more pressure on that level. Not trying to repeat myself,

			but housing has gone beyond an asset class. It's a right.
	Keep public land in public control.	Yes	We need this in order to keep as many options available as possible. I am not sure if this is what you mean, but I may not be opposed to mixed income developments if the high level plan results in more affordable housing because of the private money. This is something I need to research further. The goal should be more affordable units.
	100% affordable housing on public land targeting low to moderate incomes (\$30,000 individuals / \$60,000 households and under).	As above, undecided.	If the overall plan results in more affordable units, that is the plan I believe is best. I am open to discussion on that though.
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 	Yes	The 40% for inclusionary zoning seems reasonable. I would want to understand where this 40% comes from (why not 35 or 35?). Maybe this needs to be an average. I would have to give more thought and do more research on the reasoning for this and the goals.

	<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). 		<p>If IZ applies, not having it in place forever just seems like an easy backdoor for developers.</p> <p>The definition of 'affordable' has to be reassessed, in a matter which works for ODSP/OW, low wage, seniors.</p>
Internet For All	Investigate a city owned and controlled municipal broadband program to ensure low income Hamiltonians have access to affordable home internet.	Yes	First, if we can do it for parks, we can do it for housing. As mentioned above, knowledge is power, and free wifi would assist with this.
	Expand free public WiFi to more of Hamilton's parks.	Yes	This could help the unhoused with access to basic services.
	Free Wi-Fi access on HSR buses, bus terminals and the LRT.	Yes	Same as above.
Coming - Extreme Heat in Hamilton apartments	ACORN Hamilton is currently organizing on the issue of	n/a	AC should be equal to heat as far as rentals are concerned.

	extreme heat in apartments. We will be releasing our demands in front of City Hall - September 7th @ noon.		
Additional platform demands	No encampment evictions	Yes	Yes, although I believe encampments should be positioned on purpose with services available on site that allow for transition to more stable housing. There is a project in Kitchener-Waterloo that has seen success. I believe this model is worth investigating.
	Expansion of public transit throughout the city	Yes	Expansion of transit makes the city bigger to those who rely upon it, opening up more opportunities for housing/work/school etc.
	Affordable public transit for low income users	Yes	I would go further and say free.
	Freeze Hamilton's Urban Boundary (already voted on by Hamilton City Council)	Yes	This makes complete sense. Increasing density has to be done in a smart way that does not adversely affect residents.
	City wide sidewalk snow removal	soft yes	I am back and forth on this. For main streets and transit routes, for sure. Im not sure the city could clear my residential sidewalk as quickly

			as I can. I need to look into this more.
	Increase support for Hamilton's homeless	Yes.	<p>Right now the CMHC model has a transition flow of homeless to emergency shelter to transitional housing etc.</p> <p>I dont think this is working. We need another more scalable step between homeless and transition and affordable housing. This part of the process needs to be rethought.</p>
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 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 - affordable housing, green space and transit.</p>		

