



Catherine McKenney: 2022 Candidates Survey*

*The McKenney Team isn't doing policy surveys but ACORN has filled out the survey for our members based on our Political Action Committee (PAC) meeting with Catherine McKenney on Sept 29th, their current mayoral platform, and their track record as a city councillor.

Municipal Election Priorities	Campaign Asks	If elected, would you commit to working towards this item?
Improving Our Democracy	That the City ensure section 6.1 is enforced (Province of Ontario, Municipal Elections Act) where polls are advised to be present "in buildings containing 100 or more dwelling units". We would like to see the City of Ottawa pass a policy reflecting access to voting.	In a meeting with ACORN's PAC (APAC), Catherine expressed support.
	Ensure polling stations open from at least 10am-8pm.	See answer above.
	The city should bring back door to door to find eligible voters.	See answer above.
	Ban developer lobbyist donations to city councillors	In a meeting with the APAC, Catherine stated it is provincial responsibility to limit who donates to election campaigns. That being said, their platform commits to ensuring the City takes money out of our politics and they are not accepting any

		developer donations. They also recently released their list of donors to the public.
	Split the Planning Committee into separate urban-core and suburban committees similar to Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee	Catherine's 2022 Mayoral Platform says: "City Hall should work to improve life for everyone in our community and build a city that leaves no one behind. That means restoring trust, transparency and accountability at City Hall." In our recent APAC meeting they said they would ensure there is regional and gender balance on all committees.
Build Affordable Housing	ACORN wants to see a strong Inclusionary Zoning policy with 25-35% affordable rental housing targeting those in core housing need, citywide in perpetuity.	In our recent APAC meeting, Catherine said they cannot commit to a percentage at this time but supports Inclusionary Zoning.
	Convert empty office buildings to non-market affordable housing	Yes - Catherine supports this. In a CityNews article they were quoted as saying "I think we have to start looking at both conversion and acquisition. In a city like Ottawa, we need to look at how do we renew those housing towers, what do we need, what do we need from the Federal government, funding and everything so that non-profit providers can acquire and renovate those buildings."
	Reserve public land for affordable housing	Catherine previously led the charge at City Hall to reserve 20 parcels of public land for affordable housing that are currently under development.
Fund Affordable Housing	We are calling on the City of Ottawa to dedicate \$40 million to building affordable, non-market housing to match its budget for emergency shelters.	Catherine supported ACORN and others' calls for more money back in the city budget in 2019 when the City decided to dedicate \$15 million for affordable housing. Catherine told our APAC that we also need greater investment in rent supplements for those in core housing need and a commitment to end chronic homelessness
	Tax all luxury homes- increase property taxes on houses worth more than 2 million.	Catherine doesn't have a position at this point.
Protect Affordable Housing	We need the City to enact an Anti Displacement Policy to protect	Catherine has been a vocal advocate against demovictions in Herongate, Manor Village, 142 Nepean and elsewhere.

	affordable housing and stop tenants from being priced out of their neighbourhoods.	
	Ottawa needs an Anti-Renoviction Bylaw similar to New Westminster, BC's where the bylaw effectively ended renovations.	Yes - their 2022 platform explicitly mentions the need to tackle both renovations and demovictions.
	No public funds, or permit approvals, to predatory landlords.	As Councillor, Catherine voted against the Herongate redevelopment, Stage 3LRT going through Manor Village and 142 Nepean being demolished for a parking lot.
	The City should expand its existing programs to introduce a Rent Bank like other Ontario cities.	In their 2022 mayoral platform, they plan to have the same outcome but in a different way. As mayor, they want to provide a hotline connecting tenants to rent arrears support and have rent subsidies for people at risk of falling into homelessness.
	Explore a Non-Profit Acquisition Strategy that would give non-profit & social housing providers, co-ops and land trusts the right of first refusal to purchase at risk apartment buildings on the private market similar to Montreal.	Catherine told the APAC that this is key to protecting affordable housing.
Tenant Engagement	Ottawa ACORN is calling for a proactive education program to inform tenants about their rights/resources when there are signs of potential renovations/demovictions.	Catherine moved a motion in June 2022 to direct staff to study the creation of such a program. This is currently underway.
	We want to see Ottawa follow the lead of cities like Toronto and Hamilton by creating a Tenant Defense Fund that would allow tenant groups to apply for funding for legal assistance when challenging renovations, AGIs or when submitting tenant applications to the LTB.	Catherine moved a motion in June 2022 to direct staff to study the creation of such a program. This is currently underway.

Healthy Homes	Enforcement mechanisms of property standards at the municipal level need to be improved. There should be more severe consequences for negligent landlords. We need Landlord Licensing, similar to Toronto, which would include a landlord registry, proactive inspections, increased enforcement and better standards of repair.	Working with ACORN members, Catherine championed landlord licensing from 2017-2020 on city council.
Infrastructure and Employment	The City should support community organizations advocating for Community Benefits Agreements during development projects.	Catherine was an ally of ACORN's when fighting for the City to create a legally binding agreement with Hazelview/Timbercreek in Herongate which mandated strong tenant protections and benefits. Catherine has also been vocal about the need for a CBA at LeBreton Flats.
	The City of Ottawa should create an Ethical Purchasing Strategy that protects workers' wages and benefits and avoids contract flipping. All employees working on city grounds should be paid a fair wage.	Catherine's 2022 mayoral platform calls for all city contracts to follow a fair wage policy.
Internet for All	The City should leverage its own assets to create a municipal broadband program that can provide \$10-30/month home internet to low and moderate income households similar to Toronto's ConnectTO program.	In our APAC meeting, Catherine said the digital divide is a key equity issue. The pandemic taught us the absolute essential nature of broadband.
	Expansion of programs that offer free or subsidized devices to low income people	See above
	Provide FREE public wifi in all public spaces such as bus shelters, parks, community centres and more	See above
Community Services	Prioritize city funding for youth services, street lighting, mental health supports, addiction supports, sidewalks and traffic	Catherine told the APAC we need public streets to be safe for everyone. They said the City also needs to invest in mental

	controls in underserved, often low income & working class communities	health and community services to address the root of crime which always happens long before police are called to the scene.
	Support ACORN's national campaign to end predatory lending by calling on the Federal Government to support alternatives to payday and installment loans, lower the criminal interest rate and more.	Catherine told the APAC that they support our national campaign.
Childcare	We need funding for affordable public/non-profit daycare spaces to be prioritized in lower income neighborhoods and communities	Catherine explained during our APAC meeting that the City delivers childcare programs for the Province and that they support putting more spaces in low income neighbourhoods and francophone communities where we're currently losing them.
	Parents need easier access to information in order to understand Ontario's patchwork childcare system. We need transparency and accountability to parents through a simplified online process and face to face assistance when applying for subsidies.	Catherine told our APAC that we must ensure parents can navigate the systems that exist.
	Expanded programming for parents who work non-standard hours (ie. shift work, overnights).	See above answer
Affordable & Reliable Transit	We believe transit should be free, starting with those living on social assistance.	In 2017 Catherine fought for a low-income transit pass called the Equipass. Their 2022 mayoral platform commits to bring down the Equipass to the same rate as the Community Pass (approximately \$40/month), freeze fares for everyone and have free transit for youth under 17 as a first step.
	Presto passes should be free for anyone under the low income measure, and there should be no minimum payment to upload Presto passes for people under the low income measure.	See above answer.

	Increase bus service in underserved neighbourhoods.	<p>In their 2022 mayoral platform, they commit to make transit more convenient by increasing transit operations by 20% over the next four years, to help us get across the city and around our own community. They will also make transit more reliable and efficient by initiating a review of the entire route system to ensure transit is serving communities across the city in the most efficient and effective way.</p> <p>They will also invest in Para Transpo and accessible taxi services with funds raised by increasing the accessibility surcharge on rideshare companies (to 20 cents per ride) and implement the 'ParaParity' principles to improve services and provide quality accessible transit.</p>
Climate Change	Retrofitting Canada's aging highrise communities from a tenant led perspective is an important step in reducing Energy Poverty. Ottawa needs an Energy Equity Program that targets the lowest-income and least Energy efficient private apartment buildings across the city.	Catherine told our APAC that as Mayor, they will bring bold action on climate change, bringing Ottawa on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. They'll also build a greener city with the greenspace and trees we need. Their plan is to retrofit 80% of city buildings by 2050.
	Ensure low and moderate income renter communities have access to green space	Catherine told the APAC that everyone needs access to greenspace. They also plan to make the greenbelt a national urban park.