



Tessa Franklin: 2022 Candidates Survey

Municipal Election Priorities	Campaign Asks	Would you work with us to achieve these goals?
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.	Between work, childcare, school and other daily activities it can be difficult for people to make it to the polls, especially since elections take place during the week. Improving access to polling stations is a key step in improving access to democracy.
	Ensure polling stations open from at least 10am-8pm.	As mentioned above, access to democracy is key. People often say they don’t vote because they can’t fit it into their schedule, we must make voting accessible to everyone.
	The city should bring back door to door to find eligible voters.	Grassroots outreach is proven to be the most effective way to get neighbours involved.
	Ban developer lobbyist donations to city councillors	Developer influence at city hall must end. Banning these donations would not only help remove developer influence but even the playing field for candidates choosing to say no

		to developer donations to better serve their community.
	Split the Planning Committee into separate urban-core and suburban committees similar to Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee	Bickering related to the urban/rural divide has held up serious change at city hall. Urban areas and rural areas do have different needs, however it's hard to work together if our needs are being ignored. By giving both demographics opportunities for better representation we can focus on working together to solve the big issues instead of bickering over community specific issues.
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.	Inclusionary zoning is a proven way to fight the affordable housing crisis and ensures residents are not priced out of their neighbourhoods.
	Convert empty office buildings to non-market affordable housing	With new hubs being used to supplement work from home it makes sense to use these empty office buildings to help solve the affordable housing crisis and contribute to the revitalization of our downtown core.
	Any developments getting municipal public funds must have rent control on all units (not just the affordable units). This is in addition to Vacancy Control on all units - so when the tenant leaves, the landlords can't double the rent.	Throughout my time in the music industry we received several grants for different projects. We were required to use the money from these grants to reach certain benchmarks we wouldn't be able to reach due to financial burden such as low cost/free events, higher artist payout etc. This same idea should be applied across government funding.
	Reserve public land for affordable housing	This is one of our biggest assets we can use to help solve the affordable housing crisis.
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.	We know that housing first strategies with wrap around services are not only better but cheaper. Bu shifting our focus from emergency shelters to a housing first strategy we can help

		more people and have a better impact while giving our neighbours dignity.
	5% Vacant Unit Tax with revenues funding affordable housing projects	This ensures that rentals are priced to the need of the neighbourhood and incentivizes landlords to work with tenants instead of against them.
	Tax all luxury homes- increase property taxes on houses worth more than 2 million.	We should keep this benchmarked to the housing market to ensure we are not causing difficulties for residents. There are existing programs to assist seniors with property taxes to help them age in place, this ensures that we can have a tax like this but not have people who's home values have risen over the last 25+ years fall through the cracks.
Protect Affordable Housing	We need the City to enact an Anti Displacement Policy to protect affordable housing and stop tenants from being priced out of their neighbourhoods.	One of the biggest issues facing our neighbours is displacement from their neighbourhoods. By enacting an Anti Displacement Policy we can help curb this issue and keep people in their homes.
	Ottawa needs an Anti-Renoviction Bylaw similar to New Westminister, BC's where the bylaw effectively ended renovictions.	As mentioned above, neighbours who are subject to renoviction often are pushed out of their communities. An Anti Renoviction Bylaw would prevent this.
	No public funds, or permit approvals, to predatory landlords.	We have a moral obligation to engage with quality companies and hold private companies accountable for their behavior when it comes to public funds.
	The City should expand its existing programs to introduce a Rent Bank like other Ontario cities.	This would serve as a significant quality of life benefit for neighbours, keep people in their homes and prevent them from being unhoused.
	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	A non profit acquisition strategy can serve as an amazing tool for us to expand our affordable housing options.

	at risk apartment buildings on the private market similar to Montreal.	
Tenant Engagement	Ottawa ACORN is calling for a proactive education program to inform tenants about their rights/resources when there are signs of potential renovictions/demovictions.	Education is the most important step in helping neighbours advocate for their rights. A proactive education program would ensure residents are equipped with the knowledge they need to navigate situations that may arise.
	We want to see a public registry of tenant buyouts, building permits, home and rental building sales	This information should be public to ensure good faith dealings between landlords and tenants as well as to provide background for residents when they explore possible rental locations.
	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 renovictions, AGIs or when submitting tenant applications to the LTB.	This would be a step we can take to strengthen actions like proactive tenant rights education;
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.	Part of protecting affordable housing is maintaining the quality of the stock we already have. This protects landlords and tenants as well as increasing peoples security in renting in Ottawa.
	More funding in the city budget for repairs and maintenance in Ottawa Community Housing	The current quality of many OCH buildings and units is disheartening to say the least. People deserve a safe, well maintained place to live regardless of their income.

Infrastructure and Employment	The City should support community organizations advocating for Community Benefits Agreements during development projects.	Working with community organizations allows the city to be aware of on the ground issues and give residents a voice in their city.
	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 living wage.	We must lead by example and this is the first step.
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.	Internet access is more important than ever and it is critical that we ensure residents can be connected to the internet. It helps people search for jobs, access news and connect with their community.
	Expansion of programs that offer free or subsidized devices to low income people	As mentioned above, people who do not have access to technology and internet are put at a disadvantage and deal with more hurdles when doing things like looking for employment.
	Provide FREE public wifi in all public spaces such as bus shelters, parks, community centres and more	This is a quality of life improvement that would benefit residents across the board. This has been successfully implemented in other municipalities and is achievable in Ottawa.
Community Services	Prioritize city funding for youth services, street lighting, mental health supports, addiction supports, sidewalks and traffic controls in underserved, often low income & working class communities	When we lift our neighbours up we all rise. These are actions that have benefits for community safety, equity, quality of life and provide budget savings in the long run.
	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.	Predatory lending needs to be removed from our communities. These lending options keep people in the cycle of poverty and prevent people from lifting themselves up.

Childcare	We need funding for affordable public/non-profit daycare spaces to be prioritized in lower income neighborhoods and communities	Childcare is a large burden for families and can prevent parents from reentering the workforce. This would provide quality of life and equity benefits for neighbours.
	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.	Education is the first step in making systemic improvements. Equipping parents with the knowledge and resources they need is key to helping bridge the gap in the childcare systems.
	Expanded programming for parents who work non-standard hours (ie. shift work, overnights).	Many people work outside of 9 – 5 hours and it only makes sense to ensure they are not left out.
Affordable & Reliable Transit	We believe transit should be free, starting with those living on social assistance.	A study to understand the economic impacts of free transit and other tools to increase ridership still needs to be done. In the meantime, ensuring those who need it most have access to transit is key.
	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.	As mentioned above, ensuring those who need it most don't have barriers to getting to work and connecting with their communities is essential.
	Increase bus service in underserved neighbourhoods.	Many of our suburban and rural neighbours do not have access to their community without a car. Whether it's to get to work, go shopping or access social services we all need a reliable way to get around.
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.	Energy equity ensures we leave none of our neighbours behind. As we see a rise in the senior population this will become more and more important.

	Financial support for low and moderate income households impacted by natural disasters	Climate change is real and the impacts are right in front of us. This is a program that can be done with collaboration from the provincial and federal governments.
	Ensure low and moderate income renter communities have access to green space	Green space is good for all of us and residents deserve access regardless of their wealth or where they live.