



Laine Johnson: 2022 Candidates Survey

Municipal Election Priorities	Campaign Asks	Will you work with us to help 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.	Everyone in our city should be able to easily exercise their right to vote, and happily the law already reflects that intention, but it needs to be enforced. I strongly agree with offering polling stations where people live. Other supportive measures should also be encouraged, such as free transit on election day and improving the availability and promotion of advance polls.

	<p>Ensure polling stations open from at least 10am-8pm.</p>	<p>Yes Making voting easy and accessible is key to encouraging equitable and active participation. Voting Stations should stay open until 8pm to accommodate work schedules and bus families.</p>
	<p>The city should bring back door to door to find eligible voters.</p>	<p>While door to door is incredibly valuable for forming meaningful community engagement, I am not certain that it is the best use of funding with regard to election participation. There are many ways to leverage platforms people already use—radio ads, social media ads, mailers, bus station ads, etc. The City could do better outreach to places where people naturally gather, such as cultural groups, community hubs like dance studios, faith-based organizations, community centers, with traveling services like the Market Mobile. I did this for Vote PopUp and a public consultation for the arts community in Ottawa and it created better outreach than online only, but was more time and cost-effective than knocking on every door.</p>
	<p>Ban developer lobbyist donations to city councillors</p>	<p>My campaign has decided to not accept donations from individuals associated with the for-profit development industry, because I believe there should be a healthy boundary between those who make planning decisions and those who profit from them. I support the disclosure of donations and ensuring that the public has the information they need about candidates and their supporters to make an informed choice. I've spent my entire career leading nonprofit orgs, which means spending other people's money, often public money. Doing so requires a full commitment to ethics, transparency, and accountability to ensure my actions hold up to</p>

		public scrutiny.
	Split the Planning Committee into separate urban-core and suburban committees similar to Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee	The City of Ottawa has struggled to balance the needs and desires of urban, suburban, and rural residents since amalgamation, and there is a perception of an adversarial relationship between these areas. We currently see a majority of suburban and rural councillors on the Planning Committee while the decisions for intensification are often located in the downtown core. This lack of representation creates mistrust of the decisions that are made around the table. There should be guaranteed proportional representation on the planning committee for councillors representing both urban and rural/suburban regions of the City, and greater collaboration should be encouraged.
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.	As Executive Director of CCOC, I know all too well the dismal current situation with regard to affordable housing in Ottawa. Currently, 14,000 people are on a waitlist for affordable housing in this city. This is unacceptable. I support inclusionary zoning. Rules surrounding mandatory affordable units must be developed carefully to ensure there isn't an overall disincentive building rental stock. Consider the non-profit housing sector as a partner and leader to address the housing crisis: fund their capital projects to meet the demand. Private industry is only one piece of the puzzle.

	Convert empty office buildings to non-market affordable housing	With the pandemic shifting so many to remote work, we have a golden opportunity to redevelop office buildings to ease some of the urgent housing need in Ottawa. I support such conversions, but we must ensure that adequate services and amenities are also added to support new residential communities (schools, green spaces, grocery stores, etc).
	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.	With rental costs skyrocketing in Ottawa, greater controls are needed in order to ensure affordable rentals remain available. The city is within its right to implement a bilateral agreement in exchange for funding that creates caps on rents. However, there would need to be a formula that would aim to share the inflation and cost escalations so that landlords are not incentivized to let homes fall into disrepair.
	Reserve public land for affordable housing	Public lands should be kept in the public hands, not sold to developers for profit. I created the Ottawa Community Land Trust for this very reason. If building is to occur on public lands, it should benefit the community, whether in the form of affordable housing, community greenspace, or other services.
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.	The need for affordable housing is urgent and the lack of progress being made is shameful for a national capital. The city must build more affordable housing. That housing should be mixed income and household types, which studies and experience have shown offers the best outcome for communities.

	5% Vacant Unit Tax with revenues funding affordable housing projects	I can appreciate the intent of the Vacant Unit Tax as a means by which to address speculative property owners and those who choose to let their properties fall into disrepair. However, the tax as it is currently designed is an opt-out, which is challenging when many homeowners pay their property taxes through their banks. I am also concerned about the tax unduly affecting those who don't use or have the internet, such as seniors. I think it's prudent to allow for the tax implementation to be in place for a few years before raising the rate. I do support reinvestment of the revenues into affordable housing.
	Tax all luxury homes- increase property taxes on houses worth more than 2 million.	On the surface it does seem to make sense to tax high-value assets such as homes worth over \$2 million, but given the market forces inflating property values, we now have seniors and others on fixed incomes in College Ward who live in some very high-value homes. In order to properly fund our needs, we need to tax income, not assets. Property value as a proxy for cash flow is not a certainty.
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.	Displacement is a major concern across the city and certainly in College Ward. People want to stay in their communities, for their social connections, medical services, children's schools, or proximity to work. Some residents need to move house for space needs, accessibility needs, or personal reasons, and they should be able to find affordable housing in their current neighbourhood. An anti-displacement policy must work in concert with smart development: ensuring the housing options within a given neighbourhood serve those that live there.

	Ottawa needs an Anti-Renoviction Bylaw similar to New Westminster, BC's where the bylaw effectively ended renovictions.	Renovictions are a huge problem in Ottawa that needs to be addressed immediately and decisively. A landlord should be performing routine maintenance to avoid the need for serious construction work, and upgrades should be completed between tenants. Should a landlord need to vacate a unit to perform necessary work, the displaced occupants must be offered similar accommodations at the same rate in a nearby location, and/or have the right to return to their unit after work is complete.
	No public funds, or permit approvals, to predatory landlords.	While many landlords do break or skirt the law and deal unfairly with tenants, there is no legal way to determine who is or is not a "predatory landlord," so this would be impossible to enact. But if Ottawa had away to codify what is predatory landlord, and mechanism was in place to bar the from getting public funding permit approvals, I would support that.
	The City should expand its existing programs to introduce a Rent Bank like other Ontario cities.	Yes.
	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.	Yes.
TenantEngagement	OttawaACORN is calling for a proactive education program to inform tenants about their rights / resources when there are signs of potential renovictions / demovictions.	Yes.

	<p>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.</p>	<p>Given the increasing incidence of renovations in Ottawa, I absolutely support the creation of a tenant defense fund. Most tenants don't have the experience or background to know their rights without legal assistance, and further, many do not have the financial capacity to take on lengthy and costly legal challenges.</p>
<p>Healthy Homes</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Low-income tenants are often those who live in the buildings with the largest maintenance issues, while having the least time or resources to fight negligent landlords. The City should take proactive responsibility to ensure its bylaws are being respected and that housing is safe and healthy for all renters. The suite of Ottawa bylaws that came into effect in 2021 does mandate long-range capital planning so that landlords must demonstrate the capital reserves to maintain their buildings, but enforcement of those standards requires investment.</p>
	<p>More funding in the city budget for repairs and maintenance in Ottawa Community Housing</p>	<p>Yes, but it's not only OCH! We need to build new affordable housing, but yes, we also need to preserve what we</p>
	<p>More funding in the city budget for repairs and maintenance in Ottawa Community Housing</p>	<p>Yes, but it's not only OCH! We need to build new affordable housing, but yes, we also need to preserve what we built decades ago. If elected City Councillor for College Ward, I would champion a set of co-op and non-profit housing funding programs. We need to give social housing tenants a commitment that their homes will remain affordable and good places to live. The original programs were designed when these buildings were new, but many are now facing significant renovation and repair costs. We can't afford to lose</p>

		<p>these affordable homes in our communities ,and the City needs to properly support their renewal.</p> <p>I founded Ottawa Community Land Trust as a new tool in the City’s toolbox to invest in affordable housing now and take action to address our housing emergency. The Land Trust can help non-profit housing providers to leverage capital, grow, renovate and renew their existing assets.</p>
Infrastructure and Employment	The City should support community organizations advocating for Community Benefits Agreements during development projects.	<p>Community Benefits Agreements are an interesting tool to create relationships between people and the development industry. With the right information and connections, people should not be left to wonder or left out completely as their neighbourhoods are designed and developed. My professional experience comes from doing such community, government and private sector liaison work, empowering residents to make positive change. As councillor, I will dedicate resources to helping with this work. We should be able to speak a common language and work towards a common vision without being so adversarial. Everyone in this city deserves to make a living wage and outsourcing should not be used as a way to circumvent the city’s union and policies on hiring and pay.</p>
	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.	Yes.
Internet for All	The City should leverage its own assets to create a municipal broadband program that can provide	In this day and age everyone needs internet access at home. I believe support for this is already

	\$10-30/month home internet to low and moderate income households similar to Toronto's ConnectTO program.	happening at the Federal level: The Connecting Families initiative, the Government of Canada is supporting affordable Internet Service For Those Who need it most. As well, amazing community-run organizations exist that support a similar mandate, such as National Capital Freenet. The city could offer greater support for such initiatives rather than reinventing the wheel
	Expansion of programs that offer free or subsidized devices to low income people.	The Federal program Connecting Families, mentioned above, also covers devices for low-income seniors and families. This is great idea—internet access is useless without a device on which to use it.
	Provide FREE public wifi in all public spaces such as bus shelters, parks, community centres and more	Free publicWiFi is helpful for people who don't have internet access at home to access information and stay connected with friends and family. A pilot project done this in parts of Toronto during the pandemic. Brampton also has free public wifi. Currently in Ottawa, public libraries provide free internet access and free access to computers.
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	Providing those among us with low incomes with a safe community and support is one of the most important responsibilities of city government. InOttawa,15.2 percent of the population lived in poverty in 2005. Making sure these services are located in the communities that need them most is a priority. College Ward lags in many areas of both capital investment and service delivery. As City Councillor, I would fight for College Ward's fair share to support our underserved communities.

	<p>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.</p>	<p>Predatory lending like payday loans unfairly targets low-income people in Ottawa and keeps them in a cycle of debt, for corporate profit. The pandemic has increased the use of these lenders of last resort, who sometimes have very high interest rates of between 45% and 60% interest per year. The federal government should regulate this industry, including setting a maximum interest rate that companies can charge, to prevent harm to our most vulnerable people and families.</p>
<p>Child Care</p>	<p>We need funding for affordable public/non-profit daycare spaces to be prioritized in lower income neighborhoods and communities.</p>	<p>Given the exodus of women from the workforce during the pandemic, it is extra important right now to ensure that childcare is both affordable and accessible. The Federal \$10/day childcare program has been established, but there is significant reticence by many providers to sign up, as they are not convinced that the rebates provided by the government will cover their expenses, and unlicensed daycare providers are not included in the program at all. This leaves gaps in coverage, which the City could do a lot to mitigate. The City should incentivise the construction of not-for-profit childcare centers adjacent to or within proposed new schools and residential developments. Childcare spaces offered must also reflect the reality of shift work and those who work hours not covered by the “standard” workday.</p>
	<p>Parents need easier access to information in order to understand Ontario's patchwork childcare system. We need transparency and accountability to parents through and simplified online process and face to face assistance when applying for subsidies.</p>	<p>Childcare is a maze that exhausted parents expected to simply navigate on their own or with help from family and friends. The introduction of the \$10/day childcare program, while overall a significant positive for working parents, adds yet another level of complexity.</p>

	Expanded programming for parents who work non-standard hours (ie. shift work, overnights).	The city can and should be part of a ofa simplified solution/database in partnership with providers and parents,and offer help navigating the system in a variety of languages. A lack of childcare programming outside 9 to 5 working hours is a particular barrier for low-income parents who may work part-time or on shifts. Expanded Programming is urgently needed.
Affordable & Reliable Transit	We believe transit should be free, starting with those living on social assistance.	I do agree that current fares may be too high for some residents, and I commit to working toward making it easier for everyone to afford to take transit. I want to see expansion of equi-passes and potentially eliminating means testing. College Ward will see quite a bit of new development targeting our transit corridors, so my priority as Councillor for College Ward would be to ensure our current and new transit systems, such as the Baseline BRT and extension of theLRT ,are funded and designed properly to meet the needs of people inCollege Ward within a reliable and effective system.
	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.	This is an easy win that can be implemented immediately to make transit affordable and accessible for those living on low incomes. I am glad to see that OC Transpo will soon implement contactless payment through credit/debit cards, which requires no minimal “load” on a Presto card.
	Increase bus service in underserved neighbourhoods.	Bus service must be increased and made more effective throughout the city, as the current lack of connectivity and reliability is unacceptable. The BaselineRapidTransitCorridor is an essential piece of the network that is currently missing to deliver convenient and reliable bus service for College Ward.

Climate Change	Retrofitting Canada's aging high rise 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.	So many highrises in Ottawa are in disrepair and extremely energy-inefficient, contributing to climate change. Action And funding should be directed at ensuring existing private building stock is upgraded. Cross-referencing with the existing data from the Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking (EWRB) could be used to identify the poorest performing buildings.
	Financial support for low and moderate income households impacted by natural disasters	With more frequent and intense weather events becoming regular occurrences in Ottawa, the city should be looking for opportunities to work with other levels of government to ensure adequate support for climate change-induced weather events and other natural disasters. The city could also consider a tree maintenance program that helps people maintain their trees to improve how they withstand extreme weather.
	Ensure low and moderate income renter communities have access to green space	NCC maintains significant amount the greenspace in the higher-income areas of Ottawa, which benefits residents in those areas. the city must prioritize non-NCC adjacent neighbourhoods to ensure equitable access to quality greenspace. The residents of College Ward, and City View in particular, have undertaken serious advocacy in this area to resolve some of the inequity in the cash-in-lieu park program so we should see greater investment in our neighbourhoods.

