



Rawlson King: 2022 Candidates Survey

“As a candidate seeking re-election to Ottawa City Council, I am pleased to endorse and support ACORN’s agenda to build a more progressive and democratic City. ACORN’s Agenda for Change Agenda supports improving housing affordability, funding affordable housing, and increasing tenant engagement.

As a sitting Councillor, I sought exponential investment in housing geared to both moderate-income and vulnerable communities to address the crisis in housing affordability. Therefore, I am proud to have obtained over \$38 million from successive City budgets for housing and secured over 350 units of new affordable housing in Ward 13. I am also proud to have supported various investments in safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency improvements in social housing in Ward 13, as well as investments to repair and modify homes to support independent living for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

At Council, I was committed to supporting the creation of a comprehensive policy to address renovictions and demovictions and was proud to secure a memorandum of understanding in Rideau-Rockcliffe concerning redevelopment in Manor Park that safeguards tenants against displacement as well as the introduction of the City of Ottawa’s first community benefits agreement. In support of landlord licensing, like that operated in the City of Toronto, in 2019, I seconded and supported a failed motion at Council that would have introduced a landlord registry. I continue to believe we need a landlord licensing system that would include yearly inspections, increased enforcement, and better repair standards.

I also believe a multi-fold increase in funding from the provincial government is necessary to address the 12,000-person housing registry wait list in Ottawa. Therefore, I continue to advocate for \$100 million per year from senior levels of governments over 10 years for Ottawa Community Housing and other local housing agencies, so that at least 10,000 units can be built. This is also the driving factor that compelled me to second and support the Housing and Homeless Emergency declaration that was approved by Council in the previous term.

I will continue to pursue greater equity and affordability for all if re-elected as City Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe.”

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.	Yes
	Ensure polling stations open from at least 10am-8pm.	Yes
	The city should bring back door to door to find eligible voters.	Yes
	Ban developer lobbyist donations to city councillors	Yes
	Split the Planning Committee into separate urban-core and suburban committees similar to Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee	Yes
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.	Yes
	Convert empty office buildings to non-market affordable housing	Yes

	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.	Yes
	Reserve public land for affordable housing	Yes
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.	Yes
	5% Vacant Unit Tax with revenues funding affordable housing projects	Yes
	Tax all luxury homes- increase property taxes on houses worth more than 2 million.	Any change to the tax regime would require study before implementation to determine the specific impacts on supply and affordability in the housing market, especially in the context of post-pandemic recovery. Economists also note that luxury home levies if implemented are better accommodated through a land transfer tax, rather than through the property tax base.
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.	Yes
	Ottawa needs an Anti-Renoviction Bylaw similar to New Westminister, BC's where the bylaw effectively ended renovictions.	Yes
	No public funds, or permit approvals, to predatory landlords.	Yes
	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	Yes

	providers, co-ops and land trusts the right of first refusal to purchase 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.	Yes
	We want to see a public registry of tenant buyouts, building permits, home and rental building sales	Yes
	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.	Yes
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.	Yes
	More funding in the city budget for repairs and maintenance in Ottawa Community Housing	Yes
Infrastructure and Employment	The City should support community organizations advocating for Community Benefits Agreements during development projects.	Yes

	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.	Yes
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.	Yes
	Expansion of programs that offer free or subsidized devices to low income people	Yes
	Provide FREE public wifi in all public spaces such as bus shelters, parks, community centres and more	NA
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	Yes
	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.	Yes
Childcare	We need funding for affordable public/non-profit daycare spaces to be prioritized in lower income neighborhoods and communities	Yes
	Parents need easier access to information in order to understand Ontario's patchwork childcare system. We need transparency and accountability to parents through a	Yes

	simplified online process and face to face assistance when applying for subsidies.	
	Expanded programming for parents who work non-standard hours (ie. shift work, overnights).	Yes
Affordable & Reliable Transit	We believe transit should be free, starting with those living on social assistance.	Yes
	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.	Yes
	Increase bus service in underserved neighbourhoods.	Yes
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.	Yes
	Financial support for low and moderate income households impacted by natural disasters	Yes
	Ensure low and moderate income renter communities have access to green space	Yes