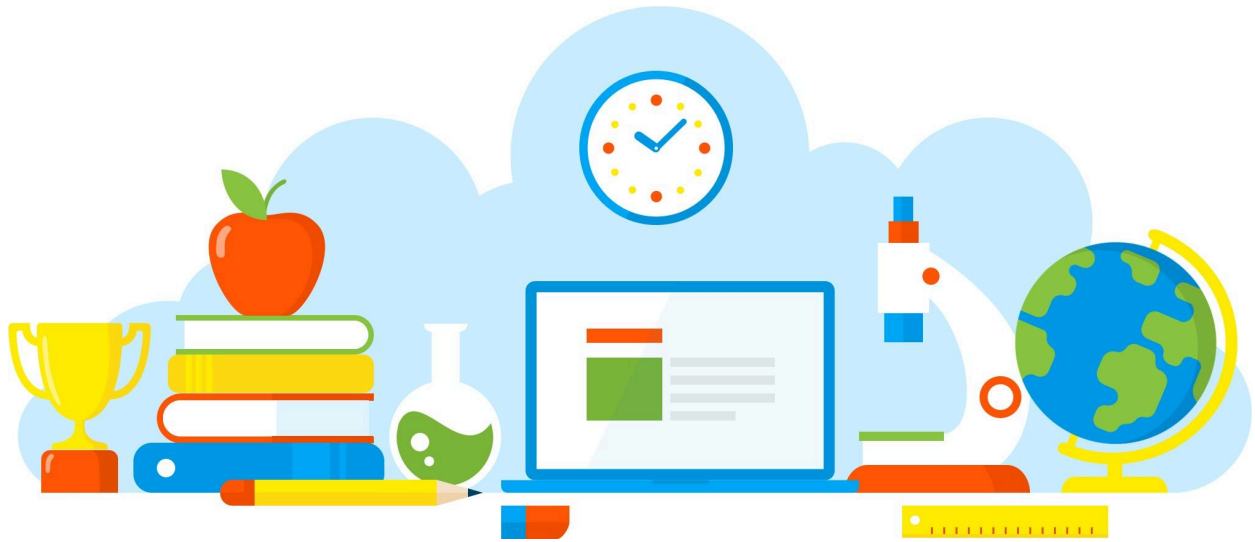




ACORNWR's 2026 Municipal Report Card

Summary of municipal candidate responses to ACORN's summer school survey by city and township in the Region of Waterloo



**Responses collected from candidates prior to
September 30th
For the 2026 Municipal Election**

Introduction

Waterloo Region ACORN is a membership-based community organization of low- and moderate-income tenants working to improve housing affordability, security, and quality.

As housing costs continue to rise and tenants face increasing challenges, municipalities have an important role to play in protecting renters and preserving affordable housing. With municipal elections happening this Fall, ACORN members are taking action to ensure candidates running to represent us at city hall and regional council understand and prioritize tenant issues.

Improvements to housing supply on its own will not make a dent in Waterloo Region's housing crisis. If financialized landlords are enabled to abuse the loopholes in Ontario's rent control laws (lack of vacancy control, Above Guideline Increases (AGIs), and exemptions for new builds) to raise rents beyond what low income tenants can afford, the crisis will worsen.

In light of there being no desire from the provincial government to maintain affordability in rental housing and close these loopholes, Waterloo Region ACORN has been focusing on municipal solutions to build, protect and maintain our region's affordable housing. Though we continue to urge ALL levels of government to take action. ACORN members have organized tirelessly through building and neighbourhood tenant meetings, actions, town halls, and workshops to ensure our members and tenants across the region know their rights and how to work with their neighbours to defend their homes. ACORN organizing forced both Kitchener and Waterloo to pass renoviction bylaws in 2026!

Now, with municipal elections this Fall, Waterloo Region ACORN is calling on all candidates to support our local platform and make tenant issues a priority.

ACORN'S Municipal Platform

We've taken out local candidates to summer school over the past few months teaching them about what it takes to protect tenants in our region. Waterloo Region ACORN's municipal platform outlined our needs including:

- Inclusionary Zoning
- Income-based definition of affordable housing
- Rental Replacement Bylaws

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- Renoviction Bylaws
 - Pro-active Tenant Education
 - Non-profit Acquisition Strategy
 - Tenant Defense Fund
 - Rent Registry
 - Landlord Licensing or Registration
 - Maximum Indoor Temperature Bylaw
 - Public Registry of Rental Housing Enforcement

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full platform.

But we aren't just here to teach, we're here for accountability, so we tested those candidates to see who is listening, and who chooses to ignore tenants. To see the results for your city/township, use the links below.

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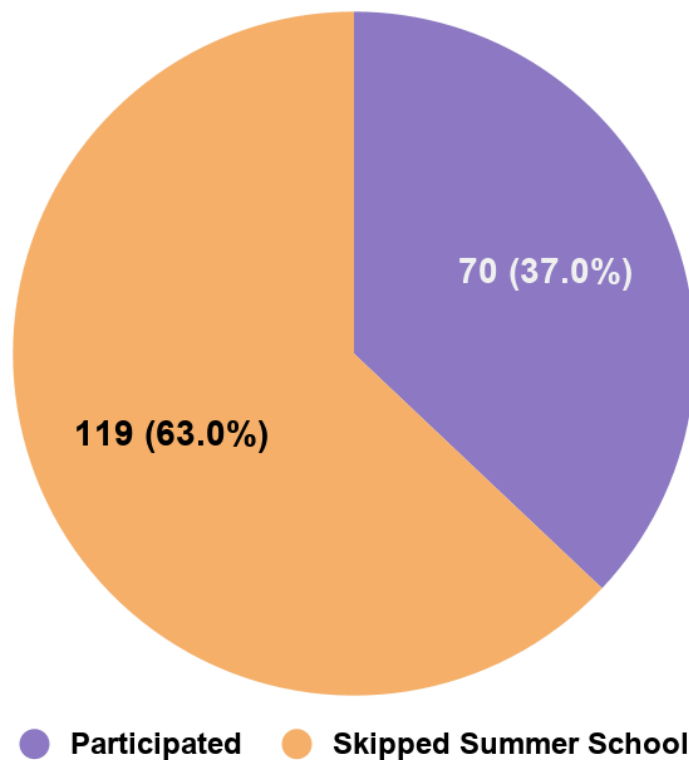
[Wellesley](#)

Participation in the Region

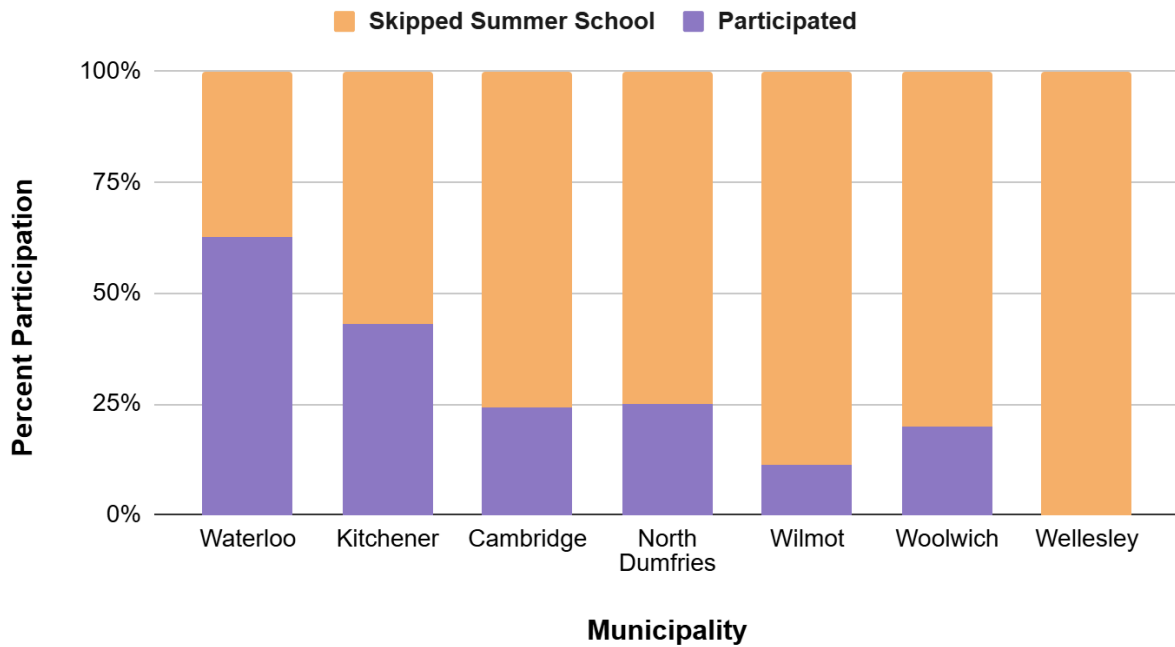
According to the 2021 federal census, the Region of Waterloo has over 75,000 renters, with higher rental rates than the Ontario or Canadian average. These renters deserve representation at the municipal level, with candidates that are willing to protect renters, and increase the availability of safe, long term, affordable housing.

There are a total of 189 candidates running for Mayor, Regional Councillor, or City Councillor in the Region of Waterloo, which includes Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, North Dumfries, Wilmot, Woolwich, and Wellesley. Of these 193 candidates 70 participated in ACORN's summer school for a total summer school attendance rate of 37%. Attendance varied across the cities and townships. With better participation in the cities.

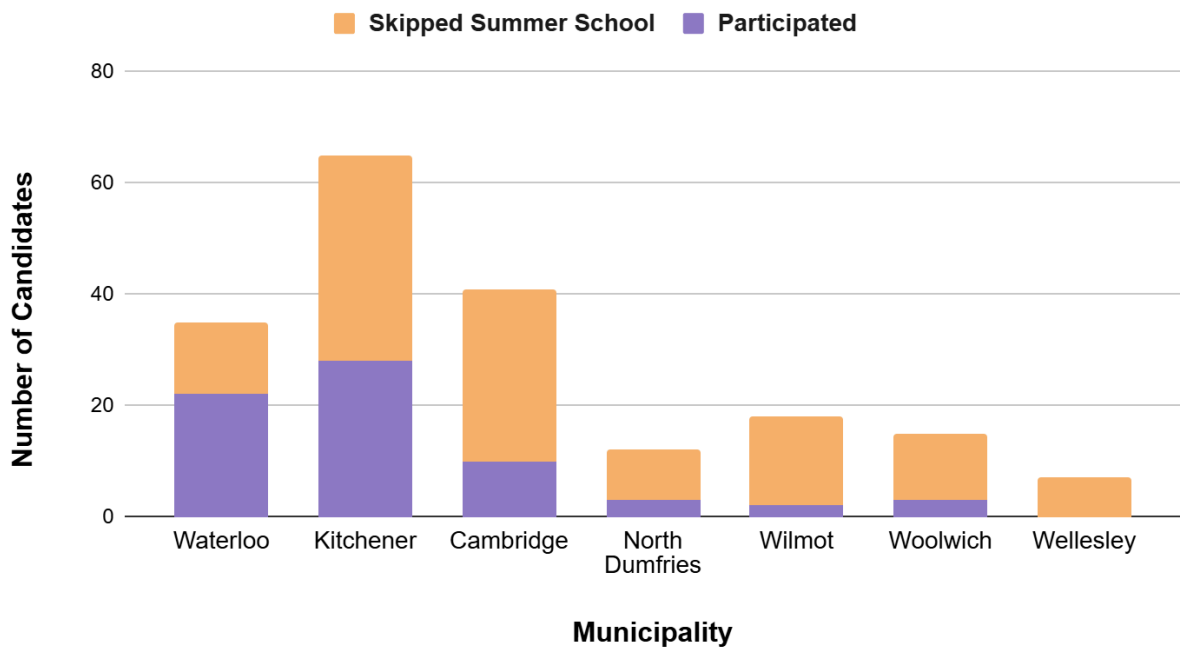
Total Regional Participation



Percent Participation in Summer School (Attendance)



Number of Candidates and Summer School Participants (Enrollment)



Summer School Marking Rubric

Responses from all candidates were reviewed and graded according to their support for the ACORN's municipal platform. Grades were assigned based on the support of the 12 policies endorsed by ACORN in the following manner:

- A+ for support of all 12 policies
- A for support of 10-11 policies
- B for support for 8-9 policies
- C for support for 6-7 policies
- D for support for 5-6 policies
- F for support of less than 5 policies

Any candidates who did not participate in our survey received an automatic F. If your candidates skipped summer school, but would like to participate late please ask them to reach out to kw@acorncanada.org.

The results by city/township are provided in this report for each type of position sought. To receive the full report card that can be shared on social media for any candidate in the region please reach out to kw@acorncanada.org.



Candidate Name

REPORT CARD

ACORN TENANT UNION WATERLOO REGION

COURSES	
Landlord Licensing & Registration	✓
Inclusionary Zoning Policy	✓
Non-Profit Acquisition Strategies	✓
Tenant Defense Fund	✓
A Real Definition of Affordable Housing	✓
Rental Replacement Bylaws	✓
Renoviction Bylaws	✓
Rent Registries	✗
Tenant Education Programs	✗
Public Rental Registry	✗
Maximum Temperature Bylaws	✗

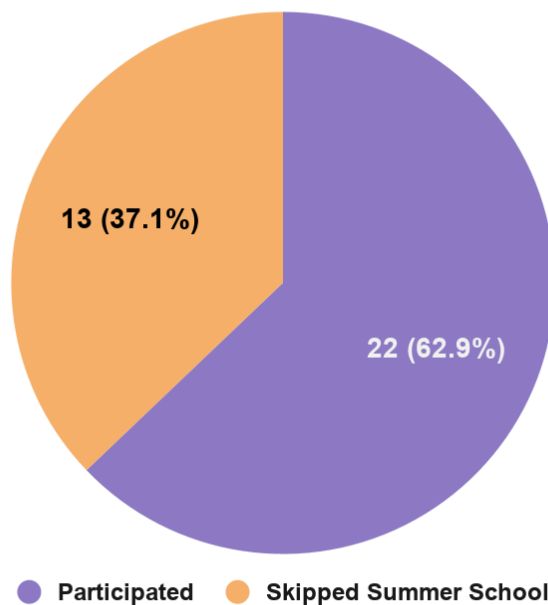
[@waterlooregionacorn](https://twitter.com/waterlooregionacorn)

Results by City and Township

Waterloo

Participation in the City of Waterloo was the highest in the region at 62%. With the majority of total 35 Candidates responding and results for every ward and position.

Waterloo Participation



According to the 2021 Census, the city of Waterloo had over 18,000 renters, equivalent to roughly 39% of all households in the city. That's 18,000 people that need the support of their councilors to ensure they can continue to live in appropriate, secure, affordable rental units.



Mayoral Candidates

- Dorothy McCabe - A
- Jamie Hari - A+
- Jeyas Balaskanthan - A
- Shannon Weber - A

Regional Councillor

- Chantal Huinink - A+
- Jim Erb - A
- Lindsay Manary - A
- Rami Said - A

City Councillors

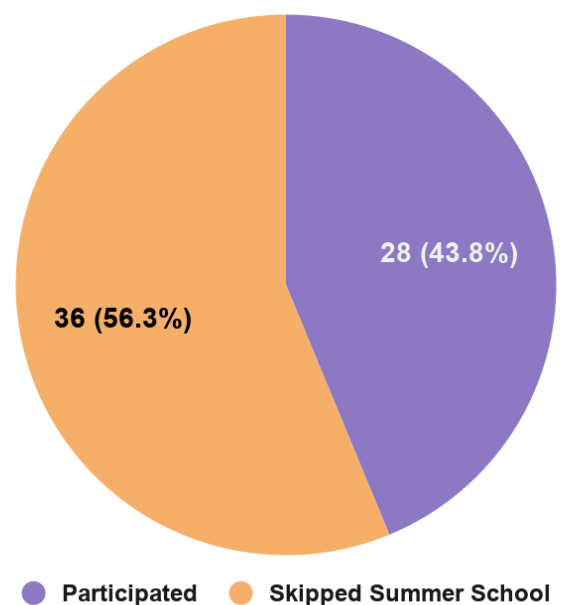
Candidate	Ward	Grade
Joel Botter	1	B
Shawn Humes	2	D
Venkat Kondam	2	B
Moraa Mochama	2	B
Ying Susan Jiang	2	C
Hans Roach	3	A+
Victoria Robertson	3	A+
Diane Freeman	4	A+
Eda Dede	5	A+
Scott Piatkowski	5	A+
Victoria Richardson	5	A
Damian Mikhail	6	A+
Mary Lou Roe	6	A+
Julie Wright	7	A

Kitchener

Kitchener has the second highest participation rate in the region and the highest number of participants. Out of the total 64 candidates running in Kitchener 28 participated (42%). Kitchener also has the highest rates of renters in the region with over 40,000 renters according to the 2021 census.

As Kitchener continues to grow, residents deserve a city and regional council that support the needs of more than 40% of the population, by fighting for renters and increased housing affordability for all.

Kitchener Participation



Mayoral Candidates

- Cindy Ward - A
- David Alton - A+
- George Trihenea - A
- Wazhma Frogh - A+

Regional Councillor

- Colleen James - A+
- Ed Edwards - A+
- Kevin White - A+
- Matt Rodrigues - A+
- Mike Wisniewski - F
- Simon Guthrie - A+
- Joe Gowing - A+

City Councillors

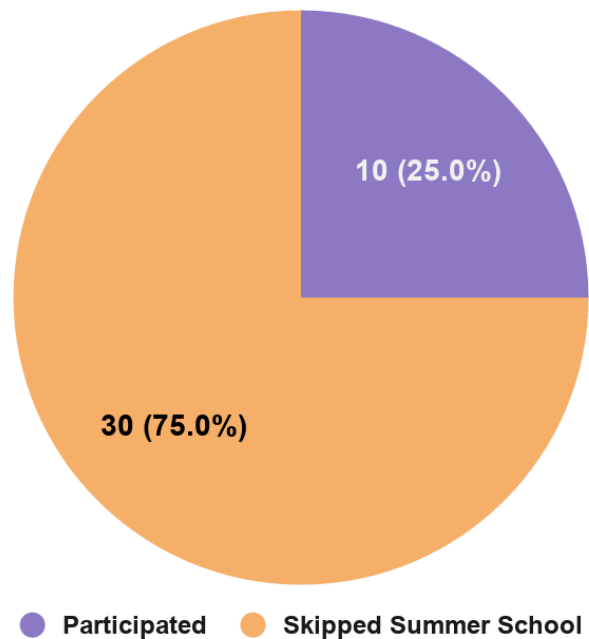
Candidate	Ward	Grade
Derrick Rabethge	2	B
Soran Ibrahim	2	A+
Jason Deneault	3	A
Joanne Delaney-Fraser	3	A+
Matt Parker	3	B
Ibraheem Kappaya	4	A
Vikki-Lee Poirier	4	A+
Jon Massimi	5	A+
Rich Peers	5	A
Brooklin Wallis	6	A+
Amber Louise Culley	6	A
Nikki Rollick	7	A+
Richie Nanan	7	A+
Debbie Chapman	9	A+
Everton Dixon	10	A+
Sam Nabi	10	A
Stephanie Stretch	10	A



Cambridge

The rates of participation in Cambridge were the third highest in the region with 10 out of the 40 total candidates participating (25%). With nearly 16,000 renters in the city, we must do more to hold councillors in Cambridge accountable to their constituents. ACORN will fight for the 31% of Cambridge residents who rent to ensure the renters in Cambridge have access to the same protections as those in Kitchener and Waterloo.

Cambridge Participation



Mayoral Candidates

- Scott Hamilton - A

Regional Councillor

- Bryan Causarano-Bolton - A+

City Councillors

Candidate	Ward	Grade
Jeff Donkersgood	1	A+
Matt Rogers	2	A+
Ross EarnCambshaw	4	B
Barbara Harrington	6	A
Dani Ieso	7	A+
David Guerin	7	A+
Manuel de Silva	7	A+
Cody Botelho	8	D



Wilmot

Only 2 out of the 18 candidates running in Wilmot participated in ACORN's summer school. While the numbers of renters in the townships of Waterloo Region might be lower than in the cities their rights must still be protected. According to the 2021 census there were over 1,000 renters in Wilmot, making up roughly 15% of the population. If candidates in Wilmot are unwilling to listen, learn or participate, ACORN will take the fight to them to stand with renters and advocate for policies for all renters in the Region of Waterloo.

Mayoral Candidates

- Stephanie Goertz - B

City Councillors

Candidate	Ward	Grade
Michael Roth	2	C



North Dumfries

3 of the 11 candidates running in North Dumfries participated in ACORN's summer school, for a participation rate of 25%. According to the 2021 census there were over 400 renters in Wilmot, making up roughly 12% of the population.

Mayoral Candidates

- Rodney Rolleman - B

City Councillors

Candidate	Ward	Grade
Kishan Patel	1	A
Qavi Aziz	2	A

Woolwich

5 of the 15 candidates running in Woolwich participated in ACORN's summer school, making it the township with the highest participation rate at 33%. According to the 2021 census there were over 1,500 renters in Woolwich, making up roughly 16% of the population. Of the townships Woolwich has the highest rate and number of renters, making it a key place for action on renters rights.

Woolwich City Councillors

Candidate	Ward	Grade
Nathan Cadeau	1	F
Sheryl Tilley	2	A+
Steven Haase	2	C
Eryn Koncir	3	A
Janet Cox	3	A



Wellesley

There were no respondents from Wellesley. Leaving more than 400 renters in the township, unrepresented.

When we fight we win!

We can and will hold our elected officials accountable. ACORN members have organized tirelessly through building and neighbourhood tenant meetings, actions, town halls, and workshops to ensure our members and tenants across the region know their rights and how to work with their neighbours to defend their homes. Now, with municipal elections this Fall, Waterloo Region ACORN is calling on all candidates to support our local platform and make tenant issues a priority.

To make the changes we need at the municipal level ACORN is encouraging all its members to vote for the candidates that will fight for them on **October 26th, 2026.**

Democracy and ACORN don't stop at the ballot box. The results from this survey aren't just answers on a quiz, they are a call to actions, and a commitment that must be kept. Once our new councils and mayors are elected it's up to us to keep up the pressure and make sure they keep their promises.

ACORN has fought for many of the priorities in our municipal platform... and WON!

- Renovictions bylaws in Kitchener and Waterloo
- Demoviction bylaws in Kitchener and Waterloo
- Inclusionary zoning in Kitchener and Waterloo

ACORN will continue to demand more from our municipalities until the entire region has access to the same tenant protections.

Fight with us by becoming a member of the Waterloo Region ACORN chapter today!

https://acorncanada.org/take_action/

<https://acorncanada.org/join-us/>

<https://acorncanada.org/newsletter/>

The Candidates who Skipped Summer school

Candidate	Position	City/Township
Jerry Jiang	Mayor	City of Waterloo
Soo Bok Lee	Regional Councillor	City of Waterloo
Chris Moser	Regional Councillor	City of Waterloo
Sarvesh Pratap Singh	Regional Councillor	City of Waterloo
Sandra Hanmer	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Waterloo
Asma Al-Wahsh	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Waterloo
Khaled Berbash	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Waterloo
Janice Moore	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Waterloo
Travis Restoule	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Waterloo
Syed Tirmizi	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Waterloo
Andrew Portwine	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Waterloo
Marty Rempel	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Waterloo
Abdullah	City Councillor (Ward 7)	City of Waterloo
Wali Khan	Mayor	City of Kitchener
Manikantan Nair	Mayor	City of Kitchener
Berry Vrbanovic	Mayor	City of Kitchener
Mac Graham	Regional Councillor	City of Kitchener

Michael Harris	Regional Councillor	City of Kitchener
Kim Huxted	Regional Councillor	City of Kitchener
Anna Meksavanh	Regional Councillor	City of Kitchener
Eve Elizabeth Simson	Regional Councillor	City of Kitchener
Elizabeth Bate	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Kitchener
Scott Davey	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Kitchener
Zahid Mian Mahmood	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Kitchener
Haile Kiflai	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Kitchener
Dave Schnider	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Kitchener
Shawn Bradshaw	City Councillor (Ward 3)	City of Kitchener
Lurdes Jordao	City Councillor (Ward 3)	City of Kitchener
Ismail Mohamed	City Councillor (Ward 3)	City of Kitchener
Anant Jain	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Kitchener
Christine Michaud	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Kitchener
Harry Scalan	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Kitchener
Nate Bahlbi	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener
Dimple Birdee	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener
Muhammad Miqdad Hudda	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener
Navjot Sandhu	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener

Sumit Sehli	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener
Fitz Vanderpool	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener
Tracey Weiler	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Kitchener
Paul Singh	City Councillor (Ward 6)	City of Kitchener
Bil Ioannidis	City Councillor (Ward 7)	City of Kitchener
Wendy Creighton	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Kitchener
Margaret Johnston	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Kitchener
Philip Molto	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Kitchener
Carly Pettinger	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Kitchener
Mohamed Askalany	City Councillor (Ward 9)	City of Kitchener
Tim Willcox	City Councillor (Ward 9)	City of Kitchener
Peter Gordon Piluk	City Councillor (Ward 10)	City of Kitchener
Aalaa Rehman	City Councillor (Ward 10)	City of Kitchener
Ryan Bolender	Mayor	City of Cambridge
Tony Chaves	Mayor	City of Cambridge
Ihtsham Haq	Mayor	City of Cambridge
Jan Liggett	Mayor	City of Cambridge
Ken Roche	Mayor	City of Cambridge
Salman Arefin	Regional Councillor	City of Cambridge

Doug Craig	Regional Councillor	City of Cambridge
Prakash Venkataraman	Regional Councillor	City of Cambridge
Pam Wolf	Regional Councillor	City of Cambridge
Saleem Shaikh	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Cambridge
Helen Shwery	City Councillor (Ward 1)	City of Cambridge
David Craig	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Cambridge
Mike Devine	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Cambridge
Mark Linton	City Councillor (Ward 2)	City of Cambridge
Kiran Abid	City Councillor (Ward 3)	City of Cambridge
Corey Kimpson	City Councillor (Ward 3)	City of Cambridge
Shaun Spalding	City Councillor (Ward 3)	City of Cambridge
Jawad Ahmad Malik	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Cambridge
David O'Hara	City Councillor (Ward 4)	City of Cambridge
Sheri Roberts	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Cambridge
Nazim Shah	City Councillor (Ward 5)	City of Cambridge
Randy Carter	City Councillor (Ward 6)	City of Cambridge
Adam Cooper	City Councillor (Ward 6)	City of Cambridge
Chris McCormick	City Councillor (Ward 6)	City of Cambridge
Tasneem Chhadiya	City Councillor (Ward 7)	City of Cambridge

John Teat	City Councillor (Ward 7)	City of Cambridge
Chris Alward	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Cambridge
Nicholas Ermeta	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Cambridge
George Fiddick	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Cambridge
Arpan Pandit	City Councillor (Ward 8)	City of Cambridge
Chris Martin	Mayor	Township of Wellesley
Joe Nowak	Mayor	Township of Wellesley
Shelley Wagner	Township Councillor (Ward 1) — Acclaimed	Township of Wellesley
Chris Van Bargaen	Township Councillor (Ward 2) — Acclaimed	Township of Wellesley
Derek Brick	Township Councillor (Ward 3) — Acclaimed	Township of Wellesley
Claude Hergott	Township Councillor (Ward 4) — Acclaimed	Township of Wellesley
Chane Ballantyne	Mayor	Township of Woolwich
Evan Burgess	Mayor	Township of Woolwich
Glenn Fern	Mayor	Township of Woolwich
Eric Schwindt	Mayor	Township of Woolwich
Paula Ferguson	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Woolwich
Jason Godglick	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Woolwich

Tony Stevens	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Woolwich
Tina Weltz	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Woolwich
Bonnie Bryant	Township Councillor (Ward 3)	Township of Woolwich
Jeff Carruthers	Township Councillor (Ward 3)	Township of Woolwich
Natasha Salonen	Mayor	Township of Wilmot
Kristopher Wilkinson	Mayor	Township of Wilmot
Clive Woolner	Mayor	Township of Wilmot
Stewart Cressman	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Wilmot
Kiera Upward	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Wilmot
Peter Varga	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of Wilmot
Alan Dicknoether	Township Councillor (Ward 2)	Township of Wilmot
Lucy Lantz	Township Councillor (Ward 2)	Township of Wilmot
Tammy Gaudun Gies	Township Councillor (Ward 3)	Township of Wilmot
Harvir Sidhu	Township Councillor (Ward 3)	Township of Wilmot
Kevin Sundberg	Township Councillor (Ward 3)	Township of Wilmot
Jeff Bell	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of Wilmot
Scott Dunstall	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of Wilmot
Sam Hiemstra	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of Wilmot
Steven Martin	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of Wilmot

Krista Straus	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of Wilmot
Terry Knarr	Mayor	Township of North Dumfries
Prabhjap Sandhu	Mayor	Township of North Dumfries
Derrick Ostner	Township Councillor (Ward 1)	Township of North Dumfries
Sherri Hughes	Township Councillor (Ward 2)	Township of North Dumfries
Denise Vanderhorst	Township Councillor (Ward 2)	Township of North Dumfries
Alida Wilms	Township Councillor (Ward 3) — Acclaimed	Township of North Dumfries
Jonathan Bos	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of North Dumfries
Barb Elliott	Township Councillor (Ward 4)	Township of North Dumfries