

A CITY FOR ALL

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

OCTOBER 2018



City for All Women Initiative
Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes

**MAKING
VOICES
COUNT**



COALITION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND RESOURCE CENTRES OF OTTAWA

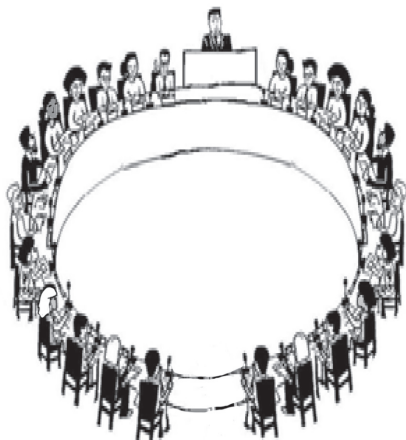
COALITION DES CENTRES DE RESSOURCES
ET DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRES D'OTTAWA

Why Municipal Elections Matter

On **October 22nd, 2018**, citizens in Ottawa will go to polls.

The people we elect will make decisions that will affect our everyday lives.

We will choose the people who will represent us at City Council (24 members: Mayor plus 23 Councillors, 1 Councillor per ward) for the next 4 years. We will also elect a school board Trustee for a school board.



Visit www.makingvoicescount.ca to view candidates in your ward and where they stand on City for All issues.

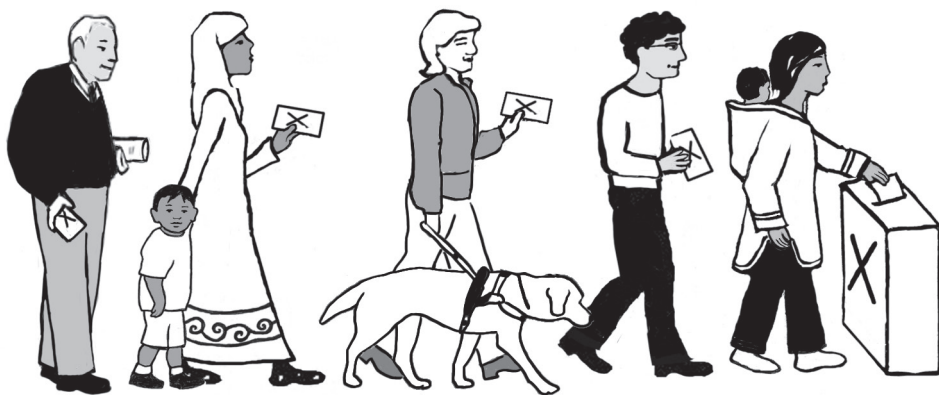
Who Can Vote

To be able to vote in the municipal election, you must be:

- a resident of the City of Ottawa, or an owner or tenant of land in the City, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant;
- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old; and
- not prohibited from voting by law.

Whether or not you can vote, you can raise your concerns with the candidates in this election.

When to Vote



Election Day is Monday, October 22, 2018

Special Advance Voting – open to everyone

October 4 to 7, 2018, 10 am - 8 pm.

Ben Franklin Place; City Hall; François Dupuis Recreation Centre; Greenboro Community Centre; Minto Recreation Complex – Barrhaven; Richcraft Recreation Complex – Kanata.

Advance Voting - for voters at specific locations

Friday, October 12, 2018, 10 am - 8 pm.

Your voting locations will appear on your voter notification or can be found on **www.ottawa.ca/vote**.

For more information on the Election, contact the City's Elections Office at 613-580-2660 (TTY:613-580-2401) or visit **www.ottawa.ca/vote**.

To make voting easy on election day, make sure your name is on the Voters' List. To find out if you are on the List, visit **www.voterlookup.ca** or call 613-580-2660.

You can still vote if you are not on the Voters' List.

Why Pay Taxes

Let's keep taxes low, better to have that money in my own pocket.


That sounds good, but our taxes pay for services that we use every day.

The cost of delivering services goes up every year. When taxes don't increase, services decrease.



We get a lot for the taxes we pay, like all these services the City delivers.

- social housing and shelter
- community funding for community and health centres, counselling programs, emergency food banks, child and youth programs, senior programs, community development, community gardens
- Police and crime prevention
- public transit
- roads
- parks and recreation
- libraries
- water and sewage
- protection of environment
- paramedic and fire services
- long term care
- cultural services
- garbage and recycling
- childcare
- public health
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Ontario Works

An illustration of three people sitting at a round table. On the left, a woman with long dark hair is seen from the back. In the middle, a woman with short dark hair is looking towards the man on the right. The man is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt with a white graphic on the chest and is holding a white mug. There are two more white mugs on the table. The background is plain white.

I don't want taxes to increase.

None of us do, but did you know that a 1% tax increase will only cost the average homeowner \$37 a year on their property taxes? Each 1% tax increase gives the City \$14 million to pay for services?

Wow, that is only \$3 a month, just a little more than this cup of coffee.

The City also depends on user fees like parking, recreation and transit fares.

Do property taxes pay for everything the City delivers?

It also gets transfer money from the provincial and federal governments.

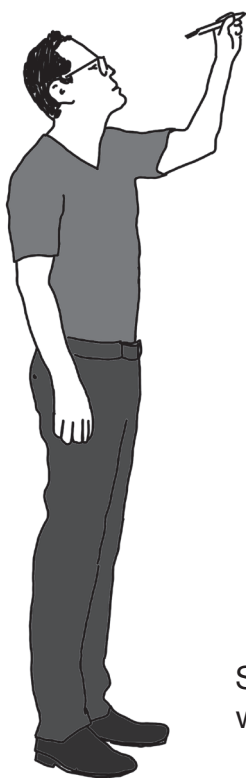
So the taxes we pay at the provincial and federal level help to pay for City services, too.

Choosing A Candidate

Voters have the right to vote for Mayor and for their City Councillor. You also vote for a school board Trustee of one of the school boards.

Start by asking yourself, what kind of person you would like to see represent you:

Someone who...



- ☐ Is honest
- ☐ Listens to the community
- ☐ Works with community partners
- ☐ Communicates with all members of the community
- ☐ Understands and values the perspective of you and your community
- ☐ Is able to solve problems
- ☐ Is representative of the population they serve

Second, ask yourself, what concerns you would like to see him or her address.

Candidates have been asked to complete a City for All survey. See where your candidates stand on these issues, visit **www.makingvoicescount.ca**.

Influencing Candidates

Whether or not you can vote, you can influence candidates and volunteer in their campaigns.

By raising concerns with candidates, we educate them and influence their electoral platforms.

Ask the candidates what they will do if elected:

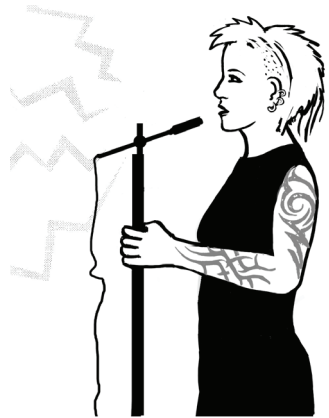
My name is ...

I live in the ward where you are running for City Council.

I am concerned about...

This concern is important to my community (family, organization) because...

What will you do about this if elected?



Where can I ask this question?

- In a phone call, email, letter or tweet to the candidates
- When a candidate or someone from their campaign comes to your door.
- At a community event where candidates attend.
- At an all-candidates meeting held in your ward.
- Invite people you know to ask the question (give them a sample message).

Safe and Affordable Transit

In a City of All, everyone has access to safe and affordable transit so they can access jobs, services and participate in their communities.

In Ottawa:

- In the last five years, transit prices have increased a lot more than the rate of inflation.
- Since 2008, transit fares have increased by 40%.
- Since 2011, OC Transpo ridership has fallen by 6.7%.
- With higher transit fares, some women end up walking in unsafe situations or remain isolated at home.
- EquiPass is a monthly adult pass for people living on low income, but it is still unaffordable for many.



Questions to ask candidates:

- Will you reduce EquiPass fare from \$58/month to \$43/month no later than 2019?
- Will you freeze transit fares to make them more affordable for everyone?

Inclusive City

In a City for All, regardless of race, gender, ability, religion and gender identity, everyone has opportunities to succeed.

In Ottawa:

- People who are Indigenous, immigrants, racialized, living with disabilities and trans are more likely to be unemployed, with lower salaries and less opportunities for advancement.
- In comparison to men, women are more likely to have higher rates of unemployment, over-representation in part-time jobs and higher rates of poverty. On average women earn 87 cents to the dollar earned by men.



Questions to ask candidates:

- In order to have City staff and managers that are representative of Ottawa's population, will you increase hiring and advancement of people from equity seeking groups including Indigenous people, women, racialized people, LGBTQ, people with disabilities and newcomers?
- City Council has voted to study the creation of a Women's Bureau in the City. Will you support the creation of a Women's Bureau to ensure gender differences are taken into account in city decision making?

Affordable housing

In a City for All, everyone has an affordable place to call home.

In Ottawa:

- Overall shelter use increased by 16% from 2014-2017. This is primarily influenced by the increase in family and newcomer shelter use.
- Up to 21% of single shelter users in Ottawa are single women.
- There is not enough affordable housing in Ottawa to meet demand, with over 10,000 people on the Centralized Waiting List for social housing in 2017.
- National trends indicate that housing costs significantly increase near rapid transit systems.
- High rent costs place many individuals at risk of homelessness or living in sub-standard conditions.



Questions to ask candidates:

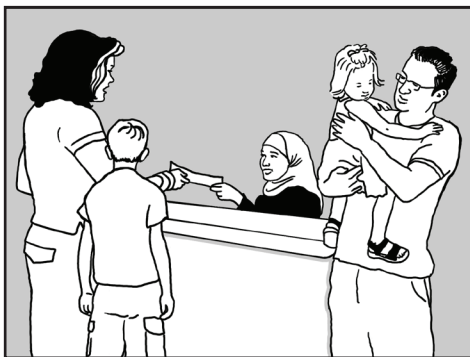
- Will you ensure that the City's plan to reduce homelessness has specific actions, targets and money attached?
- Will you commit at least \$12 million/year of City funding, over and above federal and provincial grants, to build new affordable housing?
- Will you ensure that 25% of new development is dedicated to affordable housing with a special emphasis on deeply affordable housing within 1km of rapid transit stations?

Access to services

In a City for All, everyone has access to social services.

In Ottawa:

- Ottawa has a growing, aging, increasingly diverse population.
- Social services play a key role to decrease crimes and enhance wellbeing and belonging.
- In 2017 City Budget, the City-funded social service providers requested \$2.8 million to address growing demands and emerging needs. This shows the size of the problem and the need to increase community funding.
- In a 2018 survey to City-funded social service providers conducted by Social Planning Council, 87% of respondents reported an increase in demand for services, 44% reduced services, 18% turned clients away.



Questions to ask candidates:

- Will you ensure that community and city social services have sufficient funding to keep pace with the growing demand?
- Will you raise taxes as needed in order to meet the unmet and emerging needs of our increasingly diversity and complex city (i.e. housing, transit, social services)?

Your Vote Matters

When communities don't vote, politicians are less likely to listen to their concerns. Let's change that.

Whether or not you can vote, you can make a difference:

- Tell others why voting matters
- Organize an event to make it fun to vote
- Support a candidate of your choice
- Let the candidates know the issues that matter to you
- Support others in getting to the polls



A City for All

... Where everyone has a home and access to affordable transit

... Where social services meet needs of communities

... Where everyone is included

**Making Voices Count – www.makingvotescount.ca
www.coalitionottawa.ca**

**Women Reducing Poverty Together
– Maamawe
www.cawi-ivtf.org**



**Status of Women
Canada**

**Condition féminine
Canada**

Canada