2018 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire was compiled by CBC Ottawa and emailed to all registered candidates running in Ottawa's 2018 municipal election, and who provided an email address to the City of Ottawa's election office. The responses will live on the CBC Ottawa website for the duration of the campaign.

NOTE: Please mark (X) next to your response to multiple choice questions.

Information About You

- Name: James Parsons
- How many years have you lived in Ottawa? 55 yrs old
- How do you identify?
  - Female
  - Male
  - Non-Binary
- Do you identify as part of a minority group?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Prefer Not to Say
- How old are you? see above
- How many council or committee meetings have you attended since Sept. 1, 2017?
- When was the last time you took public transit? Choose the statement that best describes you:
  - I take transit more than once per week. Never
  - I take transit more than once per month.
  - I take transit less than once per month.

City Issues

1) In the last term, what was council's single greatest accomplishment? What was council's biggest failure? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Accomplishment - None to note.
Failure - Dump issues, Police issues, Fiber optic Internet for West Carleton, etc.
2) In the past four years, property taxes have increased about two per cent each year. Do you have a target for future tax increases?

- Yes  
- No

What does \( 2^3 \) equal?

2a) What is your target for future property tax increases, as a percentage?  

3) Does Ottawa have an adequate level of policing?

- Yes  
- No

3a) Would you increase the police budget by more than two per cent?

- Yes  
- No

3b) Please explain why. (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Crime rate in Ottawa is stable to decreasing

4) Do you support cannabis retail shops in Ottawa?

- Yes  
- No

4a) Do you support cannabis retail shops in your ward?

- Yes  
- No

4b) What role should the city have regulating this new industry? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Federal law, poorly thought out and implemented.

5) LRT is the single largest infrastructure project in Ottawa’s history. As the city moves into Stage 2, what would you do differently to improve the plan? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

No plan for public transportation across entire city.  
No public transportation in west Carleton

6) How much public money, if any, should the city invest in redeveloping LeBreton Flats? What should the money be spent on? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

N.C.C. / Federal jurisdiction. (None)
7) Do you support supervised injection sites (SIS)?

☐ Yes
☒ No

7a) If the province retracts funding for SIS, would you support the city paying for their operation?

☐ Yes
☒ No

8) Do you support inclusionary zoning as a tool to improve the supply of affordable housing units in Ottawa?

☐ Yes  Please explain exactly what inclusionary zoning will be.
☒ No

Ward Issues

9) What do you love most about your ward? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

The Country, Peace and quiet, wildlife.

10) What is your top infrastructure priority for your ward? The Best Internet.

10a) What are two other priorities for your ward? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Roads, Seniors Housing, Rent to Income Housing.

11) Residents often complain about traffic (speeding, congestion, etc.). What would you do to improve traffic in your ward? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Pave Roads - in a Timely Fashion.

12) How would you encourage residents of your ward to recycle more, especially green-bin organics? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

I wouldn't, the garbage portfolio needs a makeover. Biodiesel or electricity production.

12a) Do you support a city ban on single-use plastic?

☒ Yes  Federal/Provincial legislation needed.
☐ No

Governance

13) Do you support posting councillors' voting and attendance records online and in the city's open data portal?

YES
14) What would you do to improve the diversity of city staff? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Best men or women for the job period.

15) Do you support a women’s bureau? Why or why not? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

No, see above.

16) The city is planning to undertake a ward boundary review. Do you think the city has too many wards, too few or the right number? Why? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

As far as west Carleton goes, it is too large to handle for only 1 Councillor.

A Bit More About You

17) Which municipal figure, alive or dead, do you admire? Why? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

18) Do you live in the ward you’re running in?

Yes As it should always be.

18a) If not, why are you running there? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Probably to take advantage of an opening on Council.

19) Tell us about any formal education, training or other credentials you think are relevant to the job of being a councillor. (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Forestry Technician (Honours) Fish and Wildlife Technician

Business Owner/operator for 30+ years.

20) If elected, what single greatest change do you hope to have made in Ottawa or in your ward, four years from now? (Limit answer to 150 words.)

Fiber Optic Internet Across all of west Carleton.

All roads brought up to standard (safe).