

2022 Municipal Election Priorities

If we've learned anything after nearly three years in a pandemic, it is how interconnected the wellbeing and prosperity of our community is. Right now, the city of Guelph stands at an economic crossroads. Businesses continue to face numerous barriers to recovery that continue to hinder their success. We must ensure local growth and business competitiveness, where all levels of government are focused on fundamental issues such as healthcare, housing, food, infrastructure, climate and energy, and workforce development, all while considering the cost and ease of doing business.

The next municipal government will face tough decisions and will need to bring businesses and stakeholders to the table to create the conditions for business and community success. The priorities below outline what we need from our municipal leaders to ensure inclusive prosperity over the next four years.

Leadership

We will continue to work with City of Guelph staff and Councillors on projects that lead to outcomes that drive, innovate, and sustain Guelph's unique and diverse business community.

To maximize success, we must strive for better partnerships. We cannot accept leadership that evades responsibility or delays results. We will not accept old thinking that perpetuates a false choice between "the economy" and "the community". They are the same.

Smarter Regulation

Smart regulation supports business competitiveness while also protecting public interest. Businesses often express concern over the navigation of process, forms, timelines, and inconsistent communication with the City of Guelph.

Avoiding smarter regulations will only enable increased costs and delays in progress on important issues such as housing affordability, reliable transit, and many other shared goals for better.

Workforce Development and Talent Attraction

A well and productive community is a place where people can afford to live and work. If Guelph is to be a place people choose to come for good jobs and accessible opportunities and services for all, implementing a comprehensive plan that maintains a skilled and supported workforce is essential to creating high quality goods and services.

An increased investment and commitment to programs and institutions that focuses on skills matching and attracting new talent to the City of Guelph must be prioritized.

Addressing Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness

Social issues are business issues and mental health, addictions, and homelessness challenges have become increasingly consequential. By addressing this crisis, the City of Guelph and its partners would be able to lower the costs of policing, increase property value, and improve the health and well-being of the local population.

There must be priority on addressing this crisis to foster a thriving community and ensure economic prosperity for all. Councillors will need to display courageous leadership and require better systems and services for all residents. Compassion and empathy for those that are struggling will need to be balanced with the acknowledgement of the burden and pressures placed on business owners and the community at large. The social and economic vitality of our neighbourhoods depends on it.

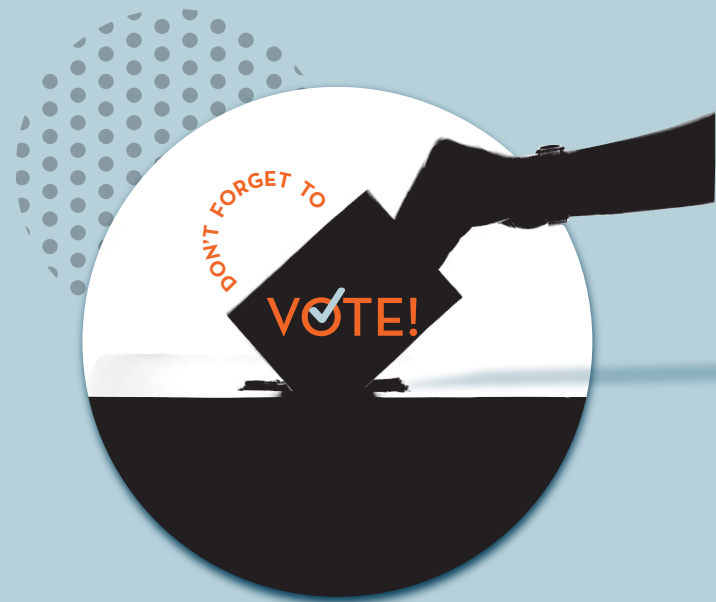
Providing Value for Services

Inflationary and affordability pressures continue to challenge business productivity and growth. Guelph will struggle to grow and compete for investment if these concerns are not meaningfully addressed. The continued projection for incompatible tax increases risks Guelph's economic potential.

To ensure value for services, Councillors must prioritize projects and investments that meet community objectives and include fiscal anchors.

Voter Guide

*In Guelph's 2018 Municipal Election, only 37% of eligible voters cast their ballot. **October 24** is voting day, and it's your opportunity to vote for leaders who make critical decisions for our community.*



Why it's **important** to vote:

Municipal government is responsible for many day-to-day services that we rely on including police, fire, EMS, and emergency services, garbage collection, snow removal of streets and sidewalks, parks and recreation, water and wastewater delivery and treatment, economic development, public transit, and more. In addition, City Council approves bylaws, the City's budget, and plans for the future of the community.

The **composition** of City Council:

Guelph's City Council is made up of one Mayor and 12 Councillors, with two Councillors representing each of Guelph's six wards. When you go to vote, you'll be able to vote for one candidate for Mayor, two candidates for your ward Councillor, and one or two candidates for School Board Trustee, depending on your ward.

Click **here** to see which ward you are located in.

Find out more about the **candidates**:

There are many ways to get informed and research candidates. Watch our Ward and Mayoral Candidate videos on our **YouTube channel** or click **here** for candidate information.

How to vote:

October 24 is election day! Click here to find out where you can vote on election day. Advanced voting is available at various locations from October 8, 9, 10, and October 14, 15, 16. Click **here** to find advanced voting locations and hours.