

London Downtown Business Association Municipal Election Priorities (2026)

About Downtown London BIA

The Downtown London Business Improvement Area (BIA) represents over 1,400 businesses and property owners. As a local board of Council, we partner with the City to support economic development, vibrant public spaces, and a thriving downtown.

Vision: Downtown London represents a thriving, progressive, and welcoming district in the heart of the city. The people that own businesses, visit, work, learn, and live in the district are the essence of its vibrancy and diversity.

Mission: Downtown London represents and supports its members, fostering a strong, thriving downtown in the economic and cultural heart of the city of London.

Top Issues & Candidate Questions

1. Office Vacancy & Downtown Economic Health
 - a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that reducing office vacancy and increasing downtown employment is critical to the long-term economic health of downtown.
 - b. Question to candidate: What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?
2. Cleanliness & Sustainable Funding for Downtown Services
 - a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that a clean, well-maintained downtown requires sustained municipal investment and coordination with BIA-led services.
 - b. Question to candidate: Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?
3. Mental Health, Addiction & Homelessness

- a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that addressing mental health, addiction, and homelessness requires coordinated, compassionate responses that also ensure a safe and welcoming downtown.
 - b. Question to candidate: How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?
- 4. Parking & Downtown Accessibility
 - a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that accessible, convenient, and well-managed parking is essential to supporting downtown businesses and visitor activity.
 - b. Question to candidate: What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?
- 5. Supervised Dispensing & Downtown Impacts
 - a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that provincial policies related to supervised consumption, safe supply, and pharmaceutical dispensing have direct impacts on public spaces, business environments, and perceptions of safety in the downtown. We also believe that services with significant street-level impacts should not be concentrated within BIA commercial corridors.
 - b. Question to candidate: If elected, how would you advocate to the Province and work with local health partners to ensure that programs related to medication dispensing and substance use are delivered in a way that supports both client care and safe, well-managed public spaces in the downtown, including appropriate consideration of location?
- 6. Working in Partnership
 - a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that strong collaboration between the municipality and BIAs is essential to a successful downtown.
 - b. Question to candidate: If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?
- 7. Downtown Plan Implementation & Investment
 - a. Downtown London BIA Position: Our BIA believes that the City of London's Downtown Plan provides an important roadmap for strengthening the downtown and that its success will depend on sustained implementation, accountability, and appropriate municipal funding to advance its actions.
 - b. Question to candidate: If elected, will you support moving forward with the actions identified in the Downtown Plan, including allocating the funding and resources necessary for their implementation?

What Every Candidate Should Know About BIAs

- BIAs are self-funded through a levy (not general municipal taxes)
- BIAs are local boards of Council
- BIAs represent collective business interests
- BIAs are economic drivers
- BIAs are partners in placemaking and promoting the district as a vibrant destination for business, shopping, dining, and culture.

Note to Candidates

Downtown London BIA is a non-partisan organization. This document is intended to support informed dialogue and ensure downtown business priorities are part of the conversation.

Downtown London BIA Boundary and Impact

