

2026 Municipal Election Candidate Survey Results

Candidate responses are reproduced as submitted through the survey. All candidates who responded are included and organized by the office they are running for, beginning with Mayoral candidates and Ward 13 candidates, followed by candidates for Wards 1 through 14.

Mayoral Responses Bronagh Joyce Morgan Josh Morgan Susan Stevenson	Ward 13 Responses Andrew Crook David Ferreira Jari Spence Schelley Bisson Tony Biviano	
Ward 1 Responses Roger Caranci	Ward 2 Responses Shawn Lewis	Ward 3 Responses Zak Rahim
Ward 4 Responses Randi Prunner	Ward 5 Responses Corrine Rahman Mary Blake Rose	Ward 6 Responses Ian Sterling Leishman Sam Trosow Stephanie Marentette
Ward 7 Responses Dan Meinen German Gutierrez Sam Hajar	Ward 8 Responses Coralia Tudor	Ward 9 Responses Anna Hopkins
Ward 10 Responses Alex Moore Steven Edwards	Ward 11 Responses Harinder Kumar Skylar Franke	Ward 12 Responses Elizabeth Peloza
Ward 14 Responses Gurinder Singh Jason King		

Bronagh Joyce Morgan- Mayoral Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

The same ones I already do. Lead by example. Work, shop, play, support, every day I'm downtown anyway working at City Hall. Promote downtown without caveats. Work against the narrative downtown is not safe for people. As a female, I am statistically less safe in any closed space (like a home or a boardroom) than I am downtown.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Without question. Fantastic BIA people have been an absolute joy to work with at all interactions and contribute to a space we can all take pride in.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I am running on a system change platform that requires a zoomed out look at how the way we administer laws and make policy decisions involving social services, businesses, people, etc. supports these shared interests. We are making decisions in silos and based on election cycles and hot button issues. A logical, measured review of how City Hall operates is the only way to truly balance these interests.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Yes. The free parking, I use it ALL THE TIME. I love it. Extend it. Expand it. But also encourage walking, biking, etc. with more frequent flexing of Dundas for pedestrian use. I'll lead by example in this area too as long as I don't have a ton of art stuff to haul about.

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?

By listening to the experts on all sides and toning down the emotion in these conversations. These services are vital. They're also tough to administer. Let's have an open honest chat about what all the parties involved need and make it happen, rather than putting people against each other with a false either/or narrative.



If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

With an open door and an open mind. With the experience I have working downtown and across the City and informed by the voices of people who do not usually have seats at these tables.

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?

Yes. We made the Plan. Why not just implement it? We can have a quick review to see if there are updates that need to happen to the Plan, but obviously we put a lot of hard work into it, so why not? Otherwise, we have to be honest that these kind of Plans, declarations, policies, etc. are just exercises in electioneering by past councils. I'm all for saying it, then doing it.

Josh Morgan- Incumbent Mayor

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

My track record is very clear on this. I promised to work towards an additional 10,000 people moving to the downtown over the next decade. I created a new office to residential conversion program with CBRE credits as a driver of the decline in the office vacancy rate. We created a new CIP program that businesses are using to move to the downtown. Since this term started, there are more people, more housing, more investments, more incentives for businesses, more support for the BIA, more activations, more foot patrols (and a new downtown office for them), more investment in green spaces, and the vacancy rate has started to decline. I will keep this positive direction moving!

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes, I support the measures we've put in place and will continue our partnership with the BIA and downtown businesses.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

Balance is the key word. That means a combination of enforcement, intervention, support and referrals to service for those who need it. It also means being permissive on housing, converting office space to homes, attracting new businesses, keeping foot patrols going with integrated nurses and CMHA workers, and adjustments as we go. It also means advocacy to the province for the changes needed to regulations, the investment in treatment and recovery services, and continuing the push for them to locate more employees in the core.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Yes, and we need to move forward on a partnership for a downtown municipal parking garage. I included a renewal of the 2 hour free parking in the budget. I supported the additional investments we made in the core (included in my other answers).

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?

I agree with all of your statements and my actions, investments and approaches are aligned. I fully supported the downtown Councillor's approach on this and have used my office to support the lobby efforts with the Province and regulatory bodies. We have exhausted most municipal options and require Provincial support/intervention on dispensaries. I have invited Ministers on tours of our downtown and have clearly articulated the issues we have. I have also aligned with other Mayors to ensure our voice is magnified on the issues and needs we have in common. I meet regularly with the BIA to ensure we coordinate our efforts in full partnership. I have supported significant public safety and compassion interventions in our core area and will continue to do so.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

You know my record. I will continue meeting regularly with the BIA. Attend AGMs and speak or do question and answer sessions. I will keep meeting with individual BIA members about their need and concerns and commit to collective action. The downtown core is a major focus for myself and council next term.

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?

Yes. I was disappointed that my competition voted against the plan because we need to be moving though implementation and not starting the process over. We will resource the plan and dedicate staff to it. We will adjust and update regularly in consultation with the BIA and core area partners with a focus on outcomes and results.

Susan Stevenson- Mayoral Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I want downtown London to be a place where more people choose to work, live, invest, shop and spend time every day. That requires action on several fronts at the same time.

First, we need to make downtown a better place to do business. I will focus on safer and cleaner streets, affordable reservable parking, reliable transit and responsive City services. My platform includes a downtown parking strategy, a practical red-tape and services review with business owners, and a Roadwork Business Impact Protocol requiring early consultation, access and signage plans, and better coordination of construction around business needs.

Second, I support converting underused office buildings to residential where the building, economics and infrastructure make conversion practical. I would have City staff identify regulatory and approval barriers, establish a clear process for viable conversions and pursue provincial and federal programs where they can help projects proceed without placing an unreasonable burden on London taxpayers. Not every office building can or should be converted, and we still need quality employment space downtown.

Third, we need more reasons for people to come downtown throughout the day and evening. More residents will help support restaurants, retailers and services, but housing alone is not a downtown strategy. We also need employers, entertainment, arts and culture, events, welcoming public spaces and strong connections to destinations such as Covent Garden Market, Canada Life Place and the Grand Theatre.

Safety is fundamental to all of this. Employers will not locate downtown, residents will not choose to live there and customers will not return consistently if they do not feel comfortable using our streets and public spaces.

I would measure progress publicly: commercial and office vacancies, new businesses and employers, residential conversions, downtown population and other indicators of activity.

London has invested too much in our downtown to accept continued decline as inevitable. I will bring employers, property owners, businesses, residents and community partners to the table, remove barriers City Hall can control, and hold the City accountable for delivering visible results.

My call to Londoners is to be part of that recovery: invest in downtown, open a business, bring your employees and customers downtown, attend an event, support local restaurants and retailers, and tell us what is getting in your way.

City Hall has to do its part first — creating the conditions for people to return with confidence. Then we need to work together to make downtown a place Londoners once again choose to be.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes. A clean, well-maintained downtown is a basic municipal responsibility and an essential part of restoring confidence in the core.

I support ongoing funding for enhanced cleaning and maintenance, and I would consider increased funding where there is clear evidence that additional resources will produce better street-level conditions.

That means regular garbage removal, graffiti response, sidewalk and public-space cleaning, maintenance of boulevards and landscaping, attention to lighting and infrastructure, and rapid removal of needles and other hazards. When problems are reported repeatedly, there should be an identified owner and follow-up until they are resolved.

But increased funding must come with accountability. I would establish clear service standards and public reporting on response times, recurring problem locations and whether those standards are being met. Before adding permanent spending, I would also review how existing resources are deployed and whether responsibilities across City departments and downtown partners can be better coordinated.

Businesses, residents and visitors should be able to see the difference.

My commitment is straightforward: establish the standard, provide the resources necessary to meet it, measure the results and hold City Hall accountable when downtown conditions fall short.

A downtown that looks cared for sends an important message: London is open for business, people are welcome, and we take pride in our city.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I do not believe London has to choose between helping vulnerable people and protecting the safety and economic health of our downtown. We have to do both, and we have to be honest when our current approach is not producing the results residents, businesses or vulnerable people need.

I support social services that help people move toward housing, treatment, recovery and stability. But publicly funded programs should have clear objectives, measurable outcomes and accountability for their impact on the surrounding community.

My platform calls for Good Neighbour Agreements for City-funded homeless and housing services, with clear expectations for how providers operate and respond to neighbourhood concerns.

At the same time, laws, bylaws and public-space rules must be consistently enforced. Sidewalks, transit stops, parks and business entrances need to remain safe and accessible. Open drug use, criminal activity, blocked rights-of-way and persistent disorder cannot simply be accepted as inevitable.

I will also continue pressing the Province for the addiction treatment and recovery capacity London needs. Municipal government cannot substitute for a functioning healthcare system.



For downtown businesses, this is an economic issue as well as a public-safety issue. Customers and employees need to feel comfortable coming downtown, and employers need confidence that their investment is protected.

Compassion without accountability is not enough, and enforcement without pathways to recovery will not solve the underlying problem.

My approach is to set clear standards, fund services that demonstrate results, enforce the rules consistently, measure outcomes publicly and change approaches that are not working.

The goal is a downtown where people in crisis can get meaningful help, residents can safely enjoy their community, and businesses have the confidence to invest, hire and grow.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Parking is part of downtown's economic infrastructure. If we want people to shop, dine, attend events, visit services and invest downtown, getting there has to be convenient and affordable.

My platform specifically calls for a downtown parking strategy focused on adding the needed spaces, supporting businesses and reducing commercial vacancy.

I would start with a full review of City-controlled downtown parking: rates, hours, utilization, enforcement, special-event demand and whether existing programs are actually encouraging people to come downtown. I would also engage downtown businesses and property owners directly because they see every day where parking policies create barriers for customers and employees.

I support using targeted incentives, including short-term or validated parking, where the evidence shows they can increase visits and support local businesses. Parking policy should complement transit, cycling and walking without pretending that everyone has the same transportation options.

I would also examine how downtown parking revenues are used. Where legally and financially practical, I support directing an appropriate portion back into the district for improvements that make downtown more attractive and accessible, such as cleaning, maintenance, lighting, wayfinding and public spaces.

Success should be measured by results: parking utilization, downtown visits, business feedback and commercial vacancy.

My goal is not simply cheaper parking. It is a parking system that helps bring people downtown, supports businesses and contributes directly to a cleaner, safer and more economically successful core.

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?

Healthcare and addiction treatment are provincial responsibilities, and clinical decisions must be made by qualified health professionals. But the City has a responsibility to speak up when the way services are delivered creates significant impacts on surrounding neighbourhoods and public spaces.

As Mayor, I would advocate directly with the Province and work with local health partners to ensure addiction services focus on treatment, recovery and measurable improvements in people's lives.

Location must also be part of the discussion. Ontario already recognized that location mattered in addiction-service delivery, when they included restrictions on supervised consumption sites near schools and child-care facilities.

For programs involving medication dispensing for substance use, I would ask the Province and providers to consider surrounding residential and business uses, transit access, concentration of services, security, property management and the impact on nearby public spaces before locating or expanding a service.

I have been outspoken in my criticism of and concerns about the "safer" supply program that started in London in 2016 and where the detrimental impacts were soon seen and felt in Old East Village. Had our city leaders spoken up earlier, we might have avoided the expansion of that program and the serious public safety concerns surrounding at least 5 clinics from Downtown Place out to Argyle.

The City should monitor conditions around high-impact locations and bring documented problems to the Province and service providers rather than leaving residents and businesses to manage them alone.

My approach is not to interfere in individual medical care. It is to insist that governments and service providers consider both client outcomes and community impacts.

People seeking treatment deserve appropriate healthcare. Residents, employees and businesses deserve safe, well-managed streets and public spaces. Good policy has to deliver both.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I see the Downtown London BIA as an important partner in restoring confidence, attracting investment and making downtown a place where more people want to work, live, shop and visit.

As Mayor, I would maintain regular communication with the BIA and make sure its members have an opportunity to provide input before major City decisions affecting downtown businesses are made.

That includes decisions around parking, construction, safety, cleanliness, transit, development and public spaces. My Roadwork Business Impact Protocol, for example, would require earlier consultation with affected businesses and better planning around access, signage and construction impacts.

I would also work with the BIA and our economic-development partners to attract employers, reduce commercial vacancies, support existing businesses and identify barriers at City Hall that make investment more difficult.

Placemaking is another area where partnership matters. The City, BIA, businesses, cultural organizations and community partners all have a role in creating clean, welcoming public spaces and bringing more people downtown throughout the day and evening.

Most importantly, I want the relationship to be practical. The BIA hears directly from businesses every day. When they identify a problem City Hall can address, they should know who is responsible, receive a response and see follow-through.

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?

I will bring the Downtown Plan actions before the new Council including appropriate funding and resources where there is a clear case for investment.

London has spent significant time developing plans for downtown. The next Council needs to focus on implementation, measurable results and being accountable for delivering prosperity downtown.

My priorities would be actions that improve safety and cleanliness, support existing businesses, reduce commercial and office vacancies, attract employers and residents, improve public spaces and bring more people downtown throughout the day and evening.

However, supporting the Plan does not mean automatically approving every expenditure. Each significant investment should come to Council with clear information about its cost, expected results, operating implications and available funding from other governments or partners. We also need to ensure existing City resources are being used effectively before simply adding new spending.

I would work with the Downtown London BIA, businesses, property owners and community partners to identify the actions that can make the greatest immediate difference and build from there.

I support investing in downtown because a successful downtown matters to London's economy and our entire city.

The measure of success should not be how much we spend. City Hall must be accountable for results: a downtown that is safer, cleaner, busier and more economically successful.

Andrew Crook- Ward 13 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Downtown needs more people living, working and spending time there every day.

I would focus on three things.

First, make office-to-residential conversions easier where the building and economics make sense. That means clear rules, faster decisions and fewer unnecessary approval delays.

Second, make downtown a better place to operate a business. Employers need safety, reliable infrastructure, predictable permitting and confidence that the public realm is being managed well.

Third, measure what actually changes. I would want regular reporting on office vacancy, storefront occupancy, new housing units, business openings and closures, and downtown foot traffic.

I do not think City Hall can simply “create” employers. Its job is to remove friction, create a stable environment for investment and make downtown a place where people want to be.

If we do that well, employment, housing and daily activity should follow.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes. A clean, well-maintained downtown is basic civic infrastructure, and I support sustained municipal investment where the service is clearly defined and the results are visible.

I would also want strong coordination between the City and Downtown London BIA so we are not duplicating work or funding overlapping programs.

The standard should be simple: residents, businesses and visitors should be able to see the difference.

I would support funding tied to clear service levels and reporting on things like litter, graffiti, sidewalk conditions, response times and recurring problem areas.

Downtown cleanliness should not depend on short-term campaigns. It should be a consistent operating standard.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I do not believe London has to choose between helping vulnerable people and maintaining a safe, functional downtown. We need both.

I support investment in treatment, supportive housing, outreach and recovery services that actually help people stabilize and move forward. At the same time, sidewalks, transit stops, businesses and public spaces must remain clean, accessible and safe for everyone.

My approach would be to measure both sides of the system: Are fewer people sleeping rough? Are people getting into treatment and housing? Are emergency calls and repeat crises going down? And are residents and businesses seeing less disorder, obstruction and property damage?

Compassion without outcomes is not enough, and enforcement without a path to recovery is not enough either. The goal should be a downtown that is humane, safe and economically viable.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Parking needs to be treated as part of downtown accessibility, not as an isolated issue.

I support convenient, clearly signed and reasonably priced parking that makes it easy for people to visit downtown businesses, appointments, events and services.

I also think we should look for practical ways to reduce the friction of parking fees, especially on evenings, weekends and during major events. If the goal is to bring people downtown, we should not make the first interaction feel like a penalty.

Before assuming we need more parking, I would also want better use of what we already have through clearer wayfinding, easier payment, better information about available spaces, and clean, safe municipal lots and garages.

Where parking revenue is generated downtown, I support examining ways to reinvest a fair portion back into the district through public-realm improvements, maintenance and accessibility.

The goal is simple: make it easier for people to come downtown, stay longer and support local businesses.

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?

I believe harm reduction should be a pathway toward recovery, stability and greater personal agency. It should not become a permanent system for maintaining people in harmful conditions.

Too often, "harm reduction" is treated as if the phrase itself proves the policy is working. It does not. We should be asking harder questions: Are people moving toward treatment, housing, stability and recovery? Are public spaces becoming safer? Are neighbourhood impacts improving?

Council cannot regulate prescribing or pharmacy practice directly, but it can document street-level impacts, enforce municipal standards, review siting and land-use rules, and advocate to the Province and health partners for a model that connects people to recovery rather than simply managing crisis.

I also believe location matters. High-impact services should not be concentrated in downtown commercial corridors without regard for the surrounding community.

My standard would be simple: compassionate care for people in crisis, a real pathway toward recovery, and safe, accessible public spaces for residents, workers and businesses.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I would treat the Downtown London BIA as an important partner and source of street-level economic feedback.

My approach would be regular, practical communication: what are businesses seeing, where are City processes creating friction, what is working, and what is not?

I would support involving the BIA early in decisions that materially affect downtown businesses, public spaces and economic activity, rather than consulting only after a plan is largely complete.

At the same time, my responsibility would be to the whole ward. I would want the BIA at the table alongside residents, Community Associations, service providers and other affected groups.

Good partnership does not mean automatic agreement. It means open communication, clear expectations, measurable outcomes and a shared interest in making downtown safer, busier and easier to invest in.

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?

I support moving forward with the parts of the Downtown Plan that are practical, evidence-based and clearly improve downtown. I would not support treating the Plan as a blank cheque.

It contains many actions, priorities and measures, and I think Council has a responsibility to ask which ones are producing real street-level results, which need to be updated, and which may no longer deserve funding.

My approach would be to prioritize actions that improve safety, cleanliness, housing, business investment, public space and daily activity downtown, and tie funding to clear outcomes and regular public reporting.

I would also want stronger input from the people who actually live, work and operate businesses downtown as implementation moves forward.

A plan should be a tool for improving reality, not a substitute for observing it.

David Ferreira- Ward 13 Incumbent

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Downtown office vacancy remains one of the most serious economic challenges facing our core. The most recent CBRE data puts core office vacancy at approximately 29.6%, down from 31.5% in the previous quarter. That is movement in the right direction, but it remains far too high.

A strong downtown strengthens the entire city. It broadens the tax base, supports jobs and attracts investment. That stronger tax base helps support services across London, so successful investment in the core benefits people throughout the city.

Downtown is also London's flagship. It is where our cultural, historical and economic identities come together. It is our real public square and one of the places where London most clearly expresses who we are as a city.

My approach is to move on several fronts at the same time. We need to attract employers and bring more people downtown. We also need to grow the residential population and repurpose office space that is no longer competitive. I do not accept the argument that one issue has to be solved before we can work on another. Downtown has several urgent needs and they are all priorities.

To attract employers, I want the City to take a much more active role in identifying opportunities and working directly with employers, investors and property owners. We should be pursuing private-sector employers and government offices. We should also be looking for institutional and educational opportunities that bring employees and students into the core.

We also need continued investment in the incentive programs that are helping unlock private investment downtown. That includes tools supporting office-to-residential conversion, transit-oriented development, commercial fit-outs and heritage redevelopment. These programs should not be treated as permanent simply because they exist. We should continue investing in the ones that are producing results, adjust them where needed and look at new tools where gaps remain.

The goal should be to use relatively targeted public investment to unlock much larger private investment. If an incentive helps bring an empty building back into use, attracts an employer or makes a difficult redevelopment possible, that can produce benefits far beyond the initial City contribution.

A major part of this is the Downtown Office and concierge service proposed through the Downtown Plan. Businesses, property owners and investors should have a clear place to go when they are trying to move a project forward. The concierge service should help navigate City processes, connect people with the right staff and identify barriers early.

It should also help investors understand what tools are available and how the City can help move a viable project forward. Having incentive programs is important, but they are much more effective when they are connected to an active investment strategy.

We also need to identify the people already investing downtown and work with them closely. There are individuals and companies taking real risks to revitalize the core. The City should be prepared to work hand in hand with them on development opportunities and appropriate financing tools. We should also be looking together at where strategic investment can have the greatest impact.

The proposed Downtown Revitalization Authority can be another important tool. I envision an arm's-length entity that can identify strategic properties and acquire them where appropriate. It could assemble properties and partner with the private sector to unlock difficult projects.

That work needs to be strategic. Some underused properties have an impact far beyond the individual building. Bringing a key property back online can change an entire block and help create confidence for surrounding private investment.

Heritage needs to be part of this strategy as well. We need stronger investment in heritage incentives that make it financially possible to restore critical and keystone properties. Preserving heritage should not simply mean preventing demolition. We need realistic ways to bring these buildings back into productive use while protecting an important part of London's identity.

On office-to-residential conversions, I strongly support continuing to use this tool where it makes sense. Not every vacant office should become housing because downtown still needs employment and quality office inventory. Some older buildings, however, are no longer competitive as offices. Where conversion is physically and financially viable, there should be a clear path toward residential or mixed use.

Our existing office-to-residential incentives have already demonstrated private-sector interest. Continued investment in these tools, along with programs such as transit-oriented development incentives, can help close financing gaps and unlock significantly larger private investments.

More residents also create a stronger customer base for downtown businesses and bring activity outside traditional office hours. Residential growth does not replace employment. We need both.

To increase daily activity, we need more employees, residents and visitors in the core, but we also need to give them reasons to stay. One of downtown's biggest challenges is negative perception. Downtown has real issues and I will not minimize them, but that is not the whole story. People are investing here. More people are choosing to live here. We have great businesses and resilient owners who continue to believe in the future of downtown.

Culture and music need to be part of the economic strategy. Investing in downtown means investing in London's musicians, artists and cultural talent. It means creating the space for that talent to develop and providing places where it can be performed, exhibited and experienced. Our cultural identity should be part of the economic strategy for the core, not treated as something separate from it.

Events and downtown activations also need to be designed so local businesses benefit. If an activation is happening outside a business's door, that business should have an opportunity to participate and benefit from the people it brings downtown. Someone coming downtown for a concert, festival or event should have reasons to stay before and afterwards and support the businesses that are here year-round.

At the same time, downtown is a neighbourhood. We need to balance activity with livability for the people who call it home. A successful downtown should be active and vibrant while still being a good place to live.

We also need to make downtown easy to reach. Walking, cycling, public transit and driving all need to be practical options. Cycling infrastructure should connect people with active commercial areas, and transit should get people close to their destination. I address parking in more detail separately, but the broader principle is that however someone chooses to come downtown, we should make it easy for them to get here.

Public safety and the condition of our public spaces also affect employers, customers and daily activity. We need clean and well-maintained public spaces, appropriate enforcement, mechanisms of encouragement and better supports for

people who need housing or healthcare. I address those issues more fully in the questions dealing specifically with homelessness, addiction and public-space management.

I moved and worked to create the Downtown Plan because the landscape of downtown changed significantly after the pandemic and we needed a new roadmap. That work is now underway. The plan gives us the rudder we need for this big ship that is our downtown, and my focus is making sure we fully implement it.

Downtown is London's flagship and our real public square. Investing in it strengthens our economy and broadens our tax base. It also strengthens our culture, history and identity. That investment pays dividends for the entire city. This work is underway and everything matters to keep its momentum and accelerate it in the next term and after.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

I agree with this position. Yes, I support ongoing municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance and public realm services downtown, and I would support increased funding where there is a demonstrated need, which has already been consistently demonstrated. I have supported investment in these services in the past and will continue to do so next term.

A clean and well-maintained downtown is fundamental to revitalization. This is basic city-building. If we want people to live downtown, work downtown and invest downtown, the everyday condition of our streets and public spaces must be prioritized.

The City and the Downtown BIA should be working closely together on this. The BIA already provides enhanced services and has direct knowledge of the issues businesses are seeing on the ground. Municipal investment should complement that work rather than duplicate it. We need clear responsibilities, regular communication and the ability to respond quickly when problems are identified.

I would support continued investment in sidewalk and street cleaning, litter and waste removal, graffiti response and the maintenance of public spaces. We also need to look closely at whether there are enough public garbage and recycling receptacles in the core. They need to be in the right locations and emptied frequently enough for the level of activity downtown.

Commercial waste also needs better coordination. Businesses should have clear information about collection days, when garbage can be placed out and where it should be placed. We need to make it easy for businesses to understand what is expected of them and set them up for success. Garbage placed out too early, or left in front of another storefront, creates problems for neighbouring businesses and affects the appearance of the entire street. The City and BIA should work together on better communication and practical solutions so waste is not sitting unnecessarily in the public realm.

If I may further add, that I also believe downtown businesses need a practical recycling option. Businesses currently do not have access to municipal curbside recycling under the new provincial Blue Box system. Regardless of how we got here, that leaves a gap that should be addressed. I want the City to look at what options are available to provide or facilitate an accessible and practical recycling service for businesses, whether through a municipal solution, partnership or another workable model.

We also need to properly maintain the investments we have already made. It does not make sense to spend significant money improving infrastructure or public spaces and then allow their quality to decline because ongoing maintenance was not adequately funded.

Just as importantly, the Downtown Plan recognizes that improving our public spaces is a central part of revitalization. Cleaning should be the baseline, not the end goal. Our public spaces should look and feel like places people genuinely want to be.

That means more trees and a stronger tree canopy where conditions allow. It means planters, landscaping and greenery that bring life into our streets. It also means shade, comfortable seating and public spaces designed around the experience of the people actually using them.

These investments need to be maintained properly as well. Trees should be planted in conditions that allow them to survive and mature. Planters and landscaping should look cared for throughout the season. If we invest in creating a great public space, maintaining that quality needs to be part of the investment from the beginning.

This is not simply about appearance. The quality of a public space affects whether someone wants to sit there, meet someone there or spend another hour downtown. It affects how people feel about the core and whether they want to come back. The Downtown Plan gives us an opportunity to intentionally create more of these spaces and make the core somewhere people want to spend time.

I also want stronger coordination through the Downtown Office proposed in the Downtown Plan. That gives the City and BIA an opportunity to identify recurring problems together and determine who is responsible. It also helps make sure issues do not fall between different departments or organizations.

There also needs to be accountability for the money we are spending. I support sustained funding and increased investment where the need is demonstrated, but we should also be measuring whether service levels are improving and whether businesses and residents are seeing the results.

Downtown is London's flagship and our public square. Cleanliness, maintenance and the quality of the public realm are not secondary issues. They affect perceptions of downtown and the experience people have when they visit. They also affect the confidence businesses have in continuing to invest here. And taking care of the core means more than keeping it clean. It means implementing the Downtown Plan and creating public spaces that look cared for, feel inviting and give people a reason to stay. That is part of taking downtown revitalization seriously.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I agree with this position. I do not see investment in social supports and maintaining a safe, accessible and economically stable downtown as competing priorities. We need to do both at the same time. People deserve appropriate housing, healthcare and support, and the people who live, work, operate businesses and visit downtown deserve public spaces that are safe, accessible and welcoming.

A major part of this has to be prevention. We cannot focus only on homelessness after it happens. We need to pay much more attention to the upstream forces that are putting people at risk of losing their housing in the first place.

That includes affordability, eviction and the loss of existing rental housing. It also means looking carefully at redevelopment and planning applications that may result in existing tenants being displaced. When a proposal affects occupied rental housing, the potential impact on the people living there should be identified early and taken seriously. We should be using every municipal tool available to protect security of tenure, support tenants and reduce the risk of any redevelopment that may push someone from stable housing into homelessness.

I have consistently supported stronger protections against renovations for the same reason. Development and new housing are important, but we should not create new housing by unnecessarily destabilizing the people who are already housed. Prevention needs to be considered part of our housing and homelessness strategy, not something separate from it.

Keeping someone housed is better for the individual and better for the community than waiting until they are in crisis. We need housing stability supports and eviction prevention. We also need rent supports and evidence-based approaches that help people stay connected to housing and services during periods of instability.

Then we need a strong system for people who do lose their housing. Homelessness is not one experience or one type of person. Someone who has lost housing because of affordability may require a very different response than someone living with mental illness or substance use disorder.

Our system needs to be able to meet people wherever they are. Someone who primarily needs affordable housing should have a pathway back into housing. Someone who needs supportive or highly supportive housing should be able to access it. Someone dealing with addiction or serious mental-health challenges should have strong connections to healthcare and treatment alongside housing.

At the municipal level, I support continued investment in supportive and highly supportive housing. We also need deeply affordable housing and enough capacity so people are not simply moved from one temporary setting to another. That municipal investment needs to be matched by sufficient provincial and federal support. Municipalities cannot carry the cost of this system alone.

Our sidewalks, parks, storefront areas and other public spaces cannot become overflow spaces because the housing and healthcare systems do not have enough capacity. That is not fair to people experiencing homelessness. It is also not sustainable for the residents, businesses and employees who rely on downtown every day.

With addiction, we need to make sure every possible connection toward stability remains open. Housing needs to be connected with the supports that help someone become stable, and treatment needs to be available where it is needed. Outreach should connect people with healthcare, and recovery services need to be available when someone is ready to use them.

We should also be creating mechanisms that encourage people toward those services rather than simply waiting for someone in severe crisis to seek them out on their own. That means sustained outreach, care navigation and relationships that help someone move through the system instead of being handed a phone number or referral and expected to navigate everything themselves.

There needs to be a real pathway from the street toward stability. That can involve housing, healthcare and treatment. It can also involve stabilization and recovery. The exact pathway will be different for different people, but the connections between each part of the system need to be much stronger than they are today.

Municipalities cannot build the healthcare side of that system alone. I will continue advocating to the Province for greater mental-health and addiction treatment capacity, along with more stabilization and recovery services. The federal

and provincial governments also need to provide the funding and policy framework necessary for municipalities and community agencies to build the housing and support systems required.

London has researchers, practitioners, outreach organizations and community agencies doing this work every day. We should be listening to that expertise and investing in approaches that are producing results. I was also proud to help establish the Downtown Councillors Group because municipalities across Ontario are facing many of the same pressures. We need a stronger collective voice when advocating to the Province and federal government in this regard.

At the same time, we need appropriate enforcement and clear expectations for the use of public spaces. Businesses should not be expected to manage the consequences of homelessness, untreated mental illness or substance use disorder themselves. Enforcement is sometimes necessary when behaviour creates a genuine threat to safety or prevents others from safely using public space.

But enforcement cannot substitute for housing, healthcare and treatment. Simply moving someone from one street to another does not solve the underlying problem. If we are asking someone to leave a public space, there also has to be serious work happening to create appropriate places for people to go.

This is directly connected to the economic stability of downtown. Employers need confidence that their employees can come downtown comfortably. Businesses need customers to feel welcome, and residents need to be able to enjoy their neighbourhood. Allowing these conditions to deteriorate undermines the other investments we are making in downtown revitalization.

I also do not believe compassion means accepting that someone should remain indefinitely in crisis on a sidewalk. Compassion means doing the difficult work of preventing homelessness where we can and creating pathways out of it when it happens. It means helping people reach housing, stability, treatment and recovery while maintaining public spaces that everyone can safely use.

That is the balance I believe we need. Prevention upstream, strong housing and supports when homelessness occurs, better healthcare and treatment connections, and appropriate expectations for our public spaces. These things reinforce each other and can only be successful when all parts of the system are working together.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

I agree with this position. Yes, I support policies that improve parking access, affordability and reinvestment into the downtown. Parking needs to be easy to find, easy to understand and reasonably priced. If someone wants to visit a business, attend an appointment or come downtown for an event, the parking system itself should not become a barrier.

I have supported this directly through the two-hour on-street free parking initiative that I moved and Council supported. Giving people enough time to have lunch, visit a business or complete an appointment makes downtown more practical to use. We should continue looking at parking rates and time limits through the lens of supporting business activity rather than treating parking simply as a source of revenue.

I also strongly advocated for the City to proceed with the Downtown Parking Strategy Update when it came forward through the multi-year budget process. Council had previously directed that this work be undertaken, but the update ultimately was not funded. I opposed that decision because this is exactly the type of work we need. The pandemic

significantly changed office attendance, travel patterns and parking demand downtown. We could already have been much further along in understanding those changes and developing a modern strategy around them.

I want that work brought back. We need current information on where parking is actually being used, when demand is highest and where gaps exist. We also need to understand how private and municipal parking interact so future decisions are based on actual downtown conditions rather than assumptions.

The system itself also needs to be simple. People should clearly understand where they can park, what it costs and how long they can stay. They should be able to easily distinguish between public and private lots, understand the differences in rates and know where those lots are located. Where possible, we should also be providing real-time information about available spaces so people are not circling downtown looking for parking that may already be full.

That information should be accessible in more than one way. Technology can make parking more convenient, but it should never become a requirement. Payment and parking information need to work for someone whether they have a smartphone or not.

We also need better signage and wayfinding so people can actually find the parking that exists. Accessible parking needs to be located where people with mobility challenges can reasonably reach the businesses and destinations they are trying to access.

Bike parking needs to be considered part of our parking infrastructure as well. If we want more people cycling into the core, they need convenient and secure places to leave their bikes once they arrive. Bike parking should be located close to active commercial areas, businesses, workplaces and major destinations. We should also look at where additional racks, secure facilities and sheltered options are needed rather than treating bicycle storage as an afterthought.

I support reinvesting parking revenue into the district where it improves access and the overall downtown experience. That can include better parking infrastructure, maintenance and wayfinding. It can also support improvements that make the trip between someone's parking space and their destination safer and more welcoming.

The Downtown Plan also gives us an opportunity to think differently about surface parking lots. Parking is important to businesses and visitors, but large surface lots occupy valuable downtown land that could eventually support housing, employment and other active uses.

I do not believe the answer is simply eliminating parking. Where strategic surface lots are redeveloped, we should look at how parking can be incorporated into the redevelopment through structured, underground or other integrated solutions where feasible. That allows us to make better use of valuable downtown land without ignoring the very real parking needs of businesses, employees and visitors.

This is particularly important as we look at strategic properties through the Downtown Plan and the proposed Revitalization Authority. A surface parking lot today could eventually become housing, commercial space or another active use while still incorporating public parking. That is a much better long-term use of downtown land than forcing a choice between development and parking.

At the same time, vehicle parking cannot be the only way we think about access to downtown. Walking needs to be safe and comfortable. Cycling infrastructure should bring people safely into active commercial areas and connect them with convenient bike parking once they arrive. Public transit also needs to get people close to where they actually want to go.

The goal is not to make one mode compete against another. The goal is accessibility. Someone should be able to walk, bike, take transit or drive depending on what works for them, and the infrastructure at the end of that trip needs to support that choice.

A properly managed parking strategy is part of that. We need better data, a modern strategy that considers all modes of transportation, and systems that are affordable and easy to use. That includes vehicle parking, accessible parking and bicycle parking. We also need to be smart about how we use valuable downtown land over the long term.

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?

I have already been advocating directly to the Province, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the Ontario College of Pharmacists, other downtown councillors and local health partners for changes to how addiction medication and substance-use services are delivered, and I will continue doing so.

The City cannot directly regulate physicians, prescribing or pharmacies. These are primarily provincial responsibilities, while supervised consumption also operates within a federal framework. That means our primary tool is advocacy, and I have been using it. I requested a regulatory review of the high-volume prescribing and dispensing model operating in London, raised concerns about virtual prescribing, clinical oversight, continuity of care and the concentration of operations along Dundas Street, and brought the issue to Council, which supported calling for stronger provincial and regulatory oversight.

There has since been province-wide movement. CPSO now requires an in-person comprehensive assessment before safer supply is initiated, requires opioid agonist treatment to be offered first, and requires ongoing in-person reassessment. Those changes address several concerns I had raised, but I have remained in communication with regulators because there is still significant room for improvement, including around observed dosing, take-home carries, more frequent assessment where appropriate and what happens when OAT is declined.

On OAT, I do not believe simply offering it, receiving a “no” and moving on should end the clinical discussion. If there is a documented medical reason it is not appropriate, has failed or was not tolerated, that is different. Otherwise, the system should continue working through barriers and encouraging treatment as circumstances change. There is a significant difference between forced treatment and building encouragement toward treatment and recovery into the care pathway while respecting informed consent and individual rights.

That encouragement also needs real capacity behind it. I have personally helped individuals get into treatment only to see the program end while they still required treatment, recovery support, healthcare or housing. We were then left searching for another program that could be months away and sometimes far outside London, and in every case I have personally dealt with where that type of gap occurred it contributed to relapse. Comprehensive care means people should remain connected to the system rather than repeatedly falling between programs.

That is also my concern with high-volume addiction medication dispensing. Medication can be an important part of treatment, but it should not operate as a stand-alone transaction where someone receives medication and leaves with little else around them. If someone needs stabilization, treatment, primary or mental-health care, or supportive housing,

those connections need to exist and actually be available. I also believe the financial incentives within high-volume dispensing models need to be examined so the system is focused on patient outcomes rather than simply dispensing volume.

The HART Hub is an important part of the system, but it is not the entire system. It is an abstinence- and recovery-oriented model for people ready for that stage. We still need healthcare infrastructure for people who are actively using and are not yet ready for abstinence, so they remain connected to care and continue receiving encouragement and opportunities to move toward stabilization, treatment and recovery.

Location and concentration also need to be addressed. I do not believe high-volume addiction medication dispensing or services with significant street-level impacts should be concentrated downtown, in commercial districts or within BIA corridors. We need a mix of services distributed through appropriate healthcare settings across the city, along with more comprehensive facilities for people who require higher levels of support. I have also advocated for the cumulative impact of clustering these services to be considered, because several operations concentrated in one area can create a much larger downstream impact than any one location considered on its own.

I take the same approach to supervised consumption. Harm reduction can be part of the healthcare continuum, but it needs stronger connections to supportive housing, stabilization, treatment and recovery. Since Carepoint closed, I have heard from multiple people, including some who originally opposed supervised consumption sites, that public consumption and conditions in public spaces have worsened. Closing the supervised space did not eliminate the underlying need; much of that activity simply moved outside.

The City cannot solve addiction because we do not control the healthcare system. What I have done, what I am continuing to do now, and what I will continue doing if re-elected is advocate for stronger clinical oversight, comprehensive care, encouragement toward treatment, sufficient treatment and housing capacity, better consideration of location and concentration, and accountability for the downstream impacts these healthcare models can have on surrounding businesses, residents and public spaces.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London

BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

The Downtown London BIA needs to be a partner at the table, not simply an organization the City consults after decisions have already been made. I will continue working directly with the BIA on the issues that affect downtown businesses every day, and I believe they should be involved early when City decisions will directly affect their members, customers and the operation of the district.

The people operating businesses and working downtown have direct knowledge of what is happening on the ground, and City Hall needs that perspective. That means regular communication, sharing information and data where appropriate, identifying problems early and working together on practical solutions rather than waiting until a decision has already been made.

We also now have a Downtown Plan that was developed with significant community input and provides a clear path forward. The next step is implementation. I want the BIA working alongside the City, the Downtown Office and other partners to identify priorities, remove barriers and hold us accountable for following through on the work we have already identified. That partnership should extend across economic development, placemaking, public space, business retention and the broader work of making downtown a place where people want to live, work, visit and invest.



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?

100% I will. The plan gives us a clear path forward. The next step is implementation, and that requires funding, political will and follow-through. We have already identified what needs to change; now we need to commit the resources necessary to make it happen.

Jari Spence- Ward 13 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

To attract employers and new businesses to the downtown area, I would push for London to adopt a Housing First approach to homelessness. This works to get unhoused people off the street, creating a safer environment that is more appealing for new businesses. I believe we should take after the work done in St. Thomas but on a much greater scale. In addition, I will push for more public washrooms downtown. This will make it easier for young families to spend more time downtown and give unhoused people access to washrooms which keeps the streets cleaner and keeps the pressure off businesses to clean and police their own washrooms.

If elected, I will strongly push for increasing funding towards the Office-to-Residential CIP Incentive Program, as well as the Vacant Commercial Space Fit-Out Grant. I will push to mandate that developers seeking municipal funding must guarantee long-term, fixed-income affordable housing units within the building footprint. Additionally, I will work to speed up building permits and planning approvals whenever appropriate to increase housing supply and commercial property usage. These programs are vital to the growth of the downtown area as they boost property utilization and increase local populations.

Finally, I would like to have the city of London work more closely with the DLBA and Tourism London to increase foot traffic downtown. This could include more free events, or even a scavenger hunt to encourage people to explore more of the downtown area and explore local businesses they otherwise wouldn't know of.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes! Cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services are needed to attract people to the area. Keeping the streets clean and maintained fosters a safer environment for our elderly, children, and unhoused people. I would love to see a transition from grass lawns to native wildflowers, fruit trees in parks, and more public restrooms downtown. All of which would improve the quality of life and/or support biodiversity but need municipal funding reallocation to achieve.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I'd argue that social support and ensuring public safety are not mutually exclusive. To ensure public safety, people need adequate support to participate in a safer lifestyle. This is one of the main reasons London should take a Housing First approach, giving unhoused people access to the services they need not only reduces crime, but it gets people out of homelessness. This can be seen in St. Thomas, with a 14% decrease in police calls, drug-related calls, and theft after implementing this strategy. Most crimes committed in the downtown area are a result of a person's circumstances and a lack of social support. Over the past couple years our police have received a large budget increase that has not correlated to a decrease in crime. This is because police often act as a response to a crime that has already been committed rather than preventing crime in the first place.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

The city of London has rapidly expanded its BRT network, especially in the downtown area. I believe the downtown area should have multiple dedicated multi-story parking garages rather than an array of parking lots, so people can commute into the city and then take public transit once within the core. This works to reduce traffic, opens room for separated bike lanes, and promotes a safer downtown core. By creating central parking hubs, other unused lots can be developed into Housing First and rent-geared-to-income housing owned and operated by the city of London. I'm all for affordability and will support policies that work to make access to downtown more affordable, including making public transit either free or reduced in price.

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?

If elected, I would advocate for the return of supervised injection sites. These sites increase safety for everyone by allowing people who struggle with substance abuse to inject themselves or consume substances hygienically and dispose of needles safely. This works to keep the streets cleaner, prevent overdoses, and reduces the need and cost of emergency services. Multiple studies show that safe injection sites are a valid form of harm reduction, act as a pathway for rehabilitation, and reduce municipal spending. These sites would benefit from being easily accessible and placed near future Housing First areas.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

If elected, I would invite the Downtown London BIA to provide input during the early planning stages of municipal policy. I believe that open dialogue is extremely important within municipal politics as it allows politicians to best represent the public, especially with business improvement areas, tenant unions, mutual aid groups, and social services.

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?

I would support moving forward with the Downtown Plan. The 10-year plan aligns well with my own personal beliefs, morals, and values. I see this plan as a major benefit to the public, and something that all city councillors should be in support of. If elected, I would do everything in my power to support, develop, and streamline the actions outlined by the Downtown Plan.

Schelley Bisson- Ward 13 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I would focus on three things: more people working downtown, better use of empty buildings, and more everyday foot traffic — not just special events.

First, a coordinated plan to bring employers downtown. Name who London can actually recruit, name what stops them, and remove the City-owned barriers: faster approvals, construction that does not shut the block, safer and cleaner streets, reliable access, and real promotion of empty office space.

Second, office-to-residential conversions where the building and the numbers work. Not every office should convert. Where one can, make zoning, permits, and development charges clear instead of a maze.

Third, more daily activity: residents, workers, students, customers. Improve safety, cleanliness, lighting, construction management, and storefront occupancy. Support events, but the core has to work on a normal weekday too.

I want regular public reporting on office vacancy, storefront vacancy, conversions, and downtown jobs so Council and the public can see if it is working.

Make downtown easier to invest in, work in, live in, and visit.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes.

I live downtown. I see what is clean at 8 a.m. and what is still sitting on Dundas at 4. The BIA cannot keep carrying the City's share of that work.

I will support ongoing City money for extra cleaning, maintenance, and public-realm crews downtown, working with BIA teams — not replacing them, and not dumping City sidewalks, bins, and washrooms onto BIA members.

I will not vote a blank line.

If Council puts more money in, I want the work on the block: which streets, which hours, what got done. And I will ask the budget question in the open. What does it cost, and what gets pushed aside to pay for it.

A dirty core empties stores. A clean core is part of safety and business. Fund the crews. Check the work. Report back.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I do not think compassion and a safe, functioning downtown are opposites.

London should invest in treatment, recovery, supportive housing and better pathways into help. Public spaces also have to stay safe, accessible and usable for residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

That means a coordinated response: outreach and social supports for people in crisis, clear expectations around public behaviour, appropriate enforcement when public spaces become unsafe, and better follow-through so people are not

simply moved from one block to another.

Economic stability matters too. Businesses cannot be expected to absorb the cost of disorder, repeated property damage, blocked entrances, open drug use or constant disruption while the City points to long-term strategies.

If we are spending money on a response, the public should be able to see both sides: are more people actually reaching treatment, housing and recovery, and are downtown streets becoming safer, cleaner and more usable?

Check the work. Report back. Make ongoing changes as needed.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

I support parking policies that make downtown easier to access, more affordable to visit, and better for the businesses that depend on regular customer traffic.

Parking should be managed as part of the downtown economy, not treated only as a revenue source. I would support reviewing rates, time limits, evening and weekend access, validation or incentive programs, signage, payment systems, and how municipal parking assets are being used.

The City should also look at whether parking revenue can be more directly tied to improvements that support the district, including cleanliness, lighting, wayfinding, safety and streetscape maintenance.

At the same time, parking has to work alongside transit, cycling, walking and accessibility needs. The goal is not to force one way of getting downtown. The goal is to make it easier for more people to get there.

If parking policies are hurting access or creating unnecessary barriers for customers, workers or visitors, Council should fix them and look at whether the changes are actually helping bring more people downtown.

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?

I would advocate for a model that protects client care without asking one commercial district to absorb a disproportionate share of the street-level impacts.

The Province sets many of the rules around supervised consumption, medication dispensing and substance-use treatment. The City still has a job: document what is happening here, and say so clearly when those policies are creating problems downtown.

I would push for regular discussions with provincial officials, local health partners, service providers, police where appropriate, the BIA, and nearby residents and businesses. Decisions should look at client care, public safety, calls for service, congregation around sites, discarded drug equipment, blocked entrances, disorder, and the effect on surrounding businesses and public spaces.

Location matters. Services that create significant street-level impacts should not simply be stacked in the same downtown commercial corridors because that is where they have always been. Where possible, London should support a

more distributed approach that considers access to care, transit, surrounding land uses, and the cumulative impact on a neighbourhood.

The goal is both: people getting real treatment and support, and public spaces that stay safe, accessible and usable. If a program is not doing both, the City should be prepared to ask the Province and local partners what needs to change.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I would work with the Downtown London BIA as a regular partner, not only when a problem has already reached Council.

That means meeting with the BIA and downtown businesses consistently, hearing concerns before major decisions are made, and making sure the people operating in the core have a meaningful voice on issues such as construction, parking, safety, cleanliness, storefront vacancy, events, streetscape changes and economic development.

I would also want the City and BIA working from the same facts: office vacancy, storefront vacancy, business openings and closures, downtown employment, major construction impacts, and the condition of public space.

On placemaking, I support projects that make downtown more active, attractive and usable, but they should be practical and tied to how people actually move through and use the core.

The BIA should not be treated as an afterthought. It represents businesses that live with the consequences of downtown policy every day, and I would make sure that perspective is part of the discussion before decisions are finalized.

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?

I support moving forward with the Downtown Plan, but I do not think Council should treat any plan as a blank cheque.

If an action has a clear purpose, a realistic path to get it done, and a real benefit to downtown businesses, residents and public space, then I would support putting the resources behind it.

What I would not support is approving funding simply because an item appears in a plan. Council should know what the action is supposed to achieve, what it will cost, who is responsible for delivering it, and whether conditions in the core are actually improving.

The Downtown Plan should be a working roadmap, not a document that sits on a shelf. I would support implementation with clear priorities, proper funding where it is justified, and a public look at whether the work is showing up on the street.

Tony Biviano- Ward 13 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

A vibrant downtown needs people. I support creating more opportunities for residents and visitors to spend time downtown through festivals, community events, markets, entertainment, and culture. These events bring energy to the core, support local businesses, and help make downtown a place where people want to gather, connect, and spend their time.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes. Residents and business owners deserve a downtown that is clean, safe, and well-maintained. I support investing in these services so downtown is a place where people want to gather, rather than steer clear of.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

Compassion and community safety are not competing priorities. I support investments that help people access the services they need while ensuring downtown remains safe, accessible, and vibrant for residents, visitors, and businesses. The two can exist together.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Parking is critical. Without accessible and affordable parking people will avoid the downtown core and go to shopping malls instead.

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?

I would tell the province that our benefit as citizens is their benefit as a province. I would remind the Province that healthy communities benefit everyone. We need programs that help people get the support they need, but we also need to ensure our downtown remains safe, clean, and welcoming. That means working closely with health partners, listening to residents and businesses, and making practical decisions about where services are located and how they operate.



If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

As a life long resident of the downtown core, but someone who is new to this position, I would listen to the people of BIA and advocate on their behalf to ensure there is consistent collaboration for the betterment of downtown.

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?

I support any plans that genuinely have the downtown cores best interest at heart.

Roger Caranci- Ward 1 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Employers will not lease space on a street they do not feel is safe. Enforce the law, keep sidewalks usable, and stop City Hall from sitting on files that keep good buildings empty. 181 King Street is the example I keep pointing to. The building stays vacant while City Hall process does the damage. Office-to-residential conversion makes sense where the building will not lease as offices, the building is physically built in a manner that can be converted, and the conversion respects heritage and servicing. I have worked on vacant sites that came back to life when there was a real vision: the London Roundhouse, the old Bud Gowan building, and the hospital lands through Vision SoHo. Buyers and lenders need a path through planning that is predictable. Daily activity follows jobs, residents, and a street people will walk. Fill the buildings. Keep the street clean and lawful. The rest works better after that.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes for a clean downtown that is actually maintained. The City should keep paying its share of sidewalks, garbage, graffiti, needles, and snow. The BIA should not be left to mop up after municipal work that did not get done. I support coordinated City and BIA crews, with a public standard. How often the street is cleaned, what gets removed, and who is on the hook when it is not. New money has to show a result. I take the same view in Ward 1 on parks and Hamilton Road. If the downtown is filthy, businesses leave and the tax base shrinks. Cleaning is cheaper than that.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

Compassion without a boundary is not compassion. People who are addicted or unwell should be connected to help immediately. Recovery is the goal. Social programs should be judged by housing, sobriety, and safety outcomes, not by how much was spent. Taxpayer-funded shelters should not allow illegal drugs inside. If drugs are allowed in, they will be used, and that puts children, staff, and people trying to stay sober at risk. The downtown is a workplace and a public square. Open drug use, tent encampments, and repeat by-law breaches have to be enforced. What you permit, you promote. Police and by-law need to be able to act. A safe downtown is how you keep the shops open and the help available.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Treat it as part of the business, not as a problem to be designed out. I support a supply that is easy to find, fairly priced, and well run. On-street, lots, and garages. Revenue from City lots should go back into the district that generates it, including maintenance and safety. I would not remove convenient parking to make a point. The same logic applies on

Hamilton Road, where on-street parking supports shops and calms traffic. Accessible parking has to be real and close to the door. If people cannot park, they shop somewhere else.

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?

Stacking high-impact services on Dundas and the core is how you lose both client care and a functioning commercial street. Licensing and funding sit largely with the Province and health partners. Council still decides how the public realm is used and whether a location is compatible with a business district. I would tell Queen's Park and the health unit the same thing I tell residents. Do not concentrate services on BIA commercial corridors. Either an area is a BIA or it is not. Put services where they can be run with security, transit, and aftercare, and where the sidewalk in front of a shop is not the waiting room. I would work with police, public health, and the BIA on street-level impacts.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I have sat on the Hamilton Road BIA. I know the difference between a photo opportunity and a working partnership. Work with the BIA before a decision is made, not after the vote. Use their street-level knowledge on parking, events, and cleanliness. Disagree in the open when the City's duty to the whole city conflicts with a BIA ask. Agree in the open when the ask is just basic service. Downtown policy should not be written only by City Hall. The people who open the doors in the morning should be in the room.

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?

I will support the actions that make the core safer, cleaner, and easier to occupy. I will not treat the whole plan as a spending mandate. The Downtown Plan is a useful map. Implementation should follow the same test I use everywhere. Does this fill a building, clean a block, or move a person safely from the car or the bus to the door? Fund that. Hold the line on items that add process without a tenant or a customer. Accountability matters as much as the line item. Councillors should see where the money went. A plan that sits in a binder while storefronts stay dark has not been implemented.

Shawn Lewis- Ward 2 Incumbent

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

First and foremost I believe we need to build a properly located downtown parking garage with dedicated long term (ie: Monday-Friday day time reserved parking), to be able to offer parking for employees to new tenants. We cannot pretend that BRT is going to solve the need for parking, it is not.

As you know, our current council, including myself, have already implemented an Office to Residential Conversion Incentive program and I believe we need to ensure that remains in place for the the next term of Council.

I am also very open to the possibility of relocating City Hall to deeper into the downtown, if an appropriate property can be obtained at a fair price for the taxpayer.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

While I would support ongoing funding at current levels, I also think we need to put a renewed onus on property owners who are not maintaining their property. The City's role should be very specific to public realm with public dollars. I do appreciate the BIA does contribute as well and there absolutely needs to be coordination.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

We have to be realistic and I would encourage the BIA to circulate to all it's members the recent column by former MP and Foodbank Director Glen Pearson:

<https://lfpres.com/opinion/columnists/pearson-homelessness-is-a-queens-park-problem-not-londons>.

It cannot be reiterated enough, it is NOT the city's responsibility to invest in social supports with property tax dollars. That is not sustainable and frankly only drives up the BIA members tax rates. It is time for the BIA members to stand WITH Council and demand the provincial government (and to some extent the Federal government) deliver on their responsibilities instead of laying it at Council's door.

As a city councillor, I have been willing to do our part to try to address the mental health, addiction and homelessness challenges in ALL of London, this impacts my Ward as well, it is not unique to the downtown. The most important role the city has to play is on the affordable housing front and we have done considerable heavy lifting on that. Mental Health and Addiction MUST be addressed by the Provincial government, they have the constitutional responsibility for healthcare.

I encourage the BIA to further educate their members on where the actual responsibilities lay on this issue, where are our MPPS?

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

As in my first answer, I believe a P3 or publicly owned parking garage of sufficient size in a good location is critical. I will also NEVER remove a zoning extension for surface parking until we have such an option, despite the fact I would prefer surface parking lots be redeveloped for higher use.

I was also a key supporter in reinstating the 2hr CORE code for free parking via the Honk App for on street parking. I continue to believe that is an important offering to people who want to come downtown but will often chose free parking options in the suburbs instead.

I am strongly committed to addressing parking downtown!

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?

We have a Progressive Drug Mart in Ward 2 as well and it is just as big a problem as the one on Dundas Place. I support Councillor Ferreria's push on this issue, however I would also remind my colleagues we have no Government MPP in London and we need to be more diplomatic in some of our criticisms of the current government and focus on the 2 or 3 most important issues at any given time (and I would rate this as a very highly important issue).

I believe a province wide approach to very strict zoning limits in all municipalities is what is needed on this issue. A Ministerial Zoning Order approach would serve all municipalities best in my opinion.

In addition to that, much stricter action is required by the Minister of Health and the College of Pharmacists on the appropriate management of clients and the substances they are being administered.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

Discussions need to be ongoing, and as a Councillor I've always kept an open door for the Downtown BIA and that will continue.

The City has, and continues to support placemaking efforts and I will point to my own personal efforts to get staff, Tourism London, the London Knights, and Canada Life Place on board for back to back Memorial Cup viewing parties on Dundas Place outside the rink that brought hundreds downtown instead of staying at home to watch the game.

So this is important to me, I believe in the value of Downtown.

However, I think it is also only fair to share that policy has to be developed with the greater context of the whole city as well and that there are exceptions to policy. I would point to the recent discussion around Carfax. Would I prefer they found a location downtown, yes! Will I sacrifice 800 jobs to another city if they insist on another location/can't find a location downtown that meets their needs? No. I will as I always have take a pragmatic approach.

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?

I voted to accept the plan. As your preamble states, it offers a good roadmap. However, that does not mean every action is going to happen or having funding allocations made. We are going to have to make some decisions around what is a priority and what is not. Funding is not unlimited.

Parking garage, absolutely. Strategic property acquisitions, yes (again if it is a fair price with a legitimate value ROI for us. It is also dependent in some aspects for the private sector to play a role and partner, or fund some things identified. If the private sector doesn't come to the table the city cannot replace it with more public dollars. So pacing, prioritization, and pragmatic understanding of the order of operations on some of the items in the consultants report have to be kept in mind by both Council and the BIA.

Zak Rahim- Ward 3 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Downtown recovers when we have people living, working and playing there. Cutting municipal red tape that stands in the way of building is one of my core commitments, and downtown conversions are exactly the kind of projects that shouldn't get stuck behind a slow process. On employers, businesses locate where their employees want to be, so attracting employers, increasing residential and increasing foot traffic are the same problem: more residents downtown, safer and cleaner public space, and basic services that work, is what brings both people and payroll back.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes, this is worthwhile spending that pays for itself many times over if it keeps people using the core instead of avoiding it.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

These aren't in competition when both are done properly. London already spends roughly what comparable cities do on policing, and our own police board reported charges in only 37 of over 5,000 trespassing or drug-related calls last year. That gap needs fixing before it needs more money. I support a visible, needs-based police presence downtown, tracked against actual calls and incidents instead of just announced, paired with funding for the social supports proven to reduce repeat calls in the first place. Safety and social investment fail together when neither is measured, and succeed together when both are.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

The City's 2 hour free parking in the Core is a reasonable way to support businesses, and I'd leave it as a permanent fixture. On reinvestment, parking revenue raising downtown should stay working downtown, making downtown vibrant and providing improve that district actually needs, not just absorbed into general revenues.

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?

London is already mid-transition on this, and the City and health partners need to get the details right. I'd push Public Health and our HART hub partners for the same location standard I'd want for any service like this: sited with direct input from the businesses and residents around it, not decided in isolation and announced after the fact. Client care and a safe, functioning public realm aren't opposite goals, a service that isn't sited or managed well fails both the people using it and the block it's on.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

The BIA knows what's actually happening on the ground downtown before City Hall does, foot traffic patterns, vacancy trends, which storefronts are struggling and why. I'd treat that the same way I want every sector-specific board and commission treated: bring the people doing the work into the room before a policy decision gets made, not after it's already set. That means the BIA at the table on placemaking, public realm, and economic development files that affect downtown specifically, with a direct line to a councillor instead of working through layers of staff. Downtown London succeeds or struggles based on decisions made about it, so the people running it day to day should have a seat when those decisions get made.

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?

Council already endorsed the ten-year plan despite skepticism about the price tag, and that skepticism was fair, a plan is only as good as the budget behind it. I'd support funding the actions that have a clear cost and a measurable outcome attached, the quick-start initiatives already underway are a good test case, and push for the same discipline on the rest of the plan as it comes forward, rather than a blank commitment to fund an entire ten-year document all at once.

Randi Prunner- Ward 4 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

It's true that we need to fill office vacancy and increase downtown employment to improve the economic health, not just of downtown, but throughout London. The two biggest factors I've heard lots of feedback on that impact this are the unhoused and the public transportation available. I would specifically focus on helping our unhoused in order to create public spaces that people feel enticed to travel and engage in, as well as eliminating barriers to access public transit. We will need more buses in order to increase bus availability and services, as well as better supports for non-profits that provide care and facilities for the unhoused.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

I believe that supporting a clean and well-maintained downtown requires funding for maintenance and cleaning crews, which will help generate more local job opportunities. However, this in tandem with better supports for the unhoused will ultimately lead to an increase in more maintainable cleanliness in the downtown.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

There are sustainable investment options that we can municipally engage in that provide long-term, secure support for social services, through Community Land Trusts. These Land Trusts can also benefit the economic stability and accessibility for businesses in the downtown core.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

The municipal parking allocated downtown has proven to be more affordable and attainable for the average Londoner. Maintaining the free, 2-hour core parking promo code with the Honk parking app has also been met with positive feedback. However, at the present moment, downtown does not have the space available to increase affordable parking options, which would improve access. Instead the focus should shift to improving the public transit options, as these will be the more affordable option for a greater portion of London.

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?

The safe supply and supervised consumption sites aren't inherently bad or good, the disconnect in this chain of care comes from the Province not providing equal or expanded support for rehabilitation centres and facilities that safe supply and supervised consumption sites would be connected with. The proper setup with these sites is such that, when an individual feels ready to get sober, the staff can facilitate that transition. If there aren't enough beds or spots available at these facilities, there's only so much staff can do at the safe supply level. Locations should also consider the following factors: what is already local (ie. schools), but also ease of access and areas frequented by those most seeking these services.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

As a community member and small business in London, I have accessed the downtown BIA in the past for business supports. Expanded visibility of these services for downtown businesses, both new and old, would help feed a circular economic growth. As an elected councillor, taking part in regular (monthly) meetings to connect with BIAs across London and hear the feedback from both businesses and BIA members would be beneficial when making policy decisions.

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?

Yes, if elected I would support the actions of the Downtown Plan, and support allocating appropriate funding and resources where necessary, but not at the expense of the rest of the City. I believe a proper, balanced approach would be more beneficial for a larger portion of Londoners, so that no individual community or area of London feels ignored and underfunded.

Corrine Rahman- Ward 5 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I agree with Downtown London BIA's position that reducing vacancies is necessary to improve the health of the downtown. I believe Council should play a larger role in the Downtown Masterplan and Economic Development Strategy implementation in order to help strengthen the downtown. I have been supportive of the office-to-residential conversions and other investments in the downtown that spur economic activity in the longer term.

I'd continue to support residential growth in the core. I believe we need to look at process improvements at City Hall to make it easier to open a business- especially a new business concept or something unique to downtown. I've spoken to many business owners that have been caught up in red tape and technicalities that have prevented their businesses from opening on time or at all in some cases.

To attract employers we need a vibrant downtown and the downtown masterplan provides a roadmap to move us in the right direction. Most importantly though, we have to address the public safety, public health and open drug use issues in the downtown. Until we address these critical issue, we will continue to face attraction challenges.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

I do believe that cleaning and maintenance issues are a considerable challenge with considerable costs. I think we need to try to address the underline issues as well as the cleaning and maintenance concerns. I will await the business cases and weigh associated costs against other priorities. I understand that cleanliness is difficult to quantify and to establish benchmarks etc. but if there are other investments that might help to address the root cause of the issues, I may opt to support those options.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I support the position of the BIA and will use the values statement as a guidepost for making these decisions: "Our BIA believes that addressing mental health, addiction, and homelessness requires coordinated, compassionate responses that also ensure a safe and welcoming downtown." I read the communication shared from the BIA and its members as it relates to their lived experience, this helps to inform my understanding and is considered in my decision-making.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Yes, I am open to a parking strategy that addresses the high costs and predatory practices of privately owned lots. However, I do not think short term on-street only subsidized parking is the answer. Many of my residents have shared

with me that they don't go downtown because of the parking challenges and the on-street parking doesn't work for them due to the duration of time they'd like to spend in the downtown.

We have vacant municipal lots just outside of the core, I believe a pilot shuttle program on busy nights is one possible way to address parking woes.

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?

I appreciate the position the BIA has taken on this issue. I have supported the advocacy letters sent to the Province and will continue to support advocacy. In future years, I'd like the Downtown London BIA to consider attending the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference and delegating with the City of London on positions of interest to the Downtown.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I agree collaboration is important. Many years ago, I served on the Mainstreet board. I also got my start in Municipal politics serving as the youth representative for the City Centre Revitalization task force in Windsor Ontario, learning from Jim Yanchula. I've always believed that we do our best work when the lines of communication are open.

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?

I've been supportive of the Downtown Plan. I'm also supportive of the Big City Mayor's request for supports for our downtowns across the Country. I do believe that sequencing the plan and addressing the underline concerns and safety must be the starting point for action.

Mary Blake Rose- Ward 5 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Employers tend to be attracted to downtown areas where people already want to spend time, and one of the most important building blocks of a vibrant downtown is having people live there. This means supporting residential development in the downtown and the broader core area. I'm happy to support incentives and partnerships leading to office-to-residential conversion where it's appropriate. Another very important piece of the puzzle is to look at what sorts of activities bring people as visitors to downtown, and arts, culture, and entertainment are very significant draws for downtown visitors. Infrastructure, built form, and urban design are also key factors in drawing people downtown, to live and to visit. Creating spaces where people want to go means creating spaces where people are, and creating spaces where people are means creating spaces where businesses have a customer and client base.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

I'm generally in support of this, yes.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I think this is an area where listening to the experts is key. The current council has spent a non-trivial amount of time fighting with non-profit organizations who are on the front lines delivering the social supports mentioned here. I think that those arguments have been a waste of time, and frankly, a waste of taxpayer money. As far as social supports go, I believe in listening to the advice of people working in the field.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Well, there's a reason SimCity mostly doesn't have parking lots. They take up a lot of space, and they're not a particularly productive use of prime urban land.

London Ontario, however, does not exist inside of a computer game, and many areas of our city are not particularly well served by transit, so for a lot of Londoners, going downtown means driving downtown. I think that in general, we should be moving beyond having surface parking lots in the downtown core, but I'm much more interested in giving things than taking them away. We need a vibrant community of people who live in the downtown, a well-connected active transportation network, and frequent transit service. Ultimately, parking is transportation infrastructure. We need some parking, but we also need to work toward building transportation infrastructure that helps more Londoners get downtown while making better use of valuable space in our downtown core.

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?

I'm happy to work with the Ward Councillors representing the core area on this. I'm running in Ward 5. I could sit here in North London and say that I know exactly what needs to happen in our downtown, but I really think it's more helpful to work collaboratively with the councillors representing the areas where services are currently concentrated.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I'm not sure I fully understand the framing of this question, but I agree with your position on the value of strong collaboration between the municipality and BIAs.

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?

Yes, I'll support moving forward with the actions identified in the Downtown Plan. As a former core area resident and a trained musician, the big moves of elevating our key public spaces and leaning into being a City of Music speak to me in particular.

Ian Sterling Leishman- Ward 6 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

The City needs to listen closely to the Downtown London BIA and LEDC, while looking at data from other cities to identify proven ways to bring more people and employers downtown.

Office-to-residential conversion is key. The City currently offers eligible projects up to \$35,000 per residential unit as a forgivable loan, but that's not enough. We need stronger incentives, streamlined approvals and fewer barriers to make more conversions viable.

We also need to build on our strengths. Western and Fanshawe are producing talented, job-ready graduates, and we need to entice more of them to stay. At the same time, we need to actively attract businesses to move, invest and grow in London. Working with LEDC, we can leverage our skilled workforce and strengths in healthcare, education, manufacturing and growing digital technology sector to attract new employers and investment.

Above all, downtown needs to be clean, safe and welcoming. We also need accountability, setting measurable targets, tracking residential and business growth, occupancy and pedestrian activity, and adjusting our approach when the data tells us something isn't working.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

As President of the Old South Business Association, I understand firsthand the challenges facing small businesses in this economic climate. A clean, safe and welcoming environment where people want to shop, work and invest is absolutely essential.

I applaud the Downtown London BIA's work in beautification and improving the downtown, and I support continued municipal partnership in these efforts. As with any City investment, just as with any business or organization, I believe you need to understand exactly what you are investing in and what you expect that investment to accomplish before committing additional funding. I would be very open to reviewing the specific needs and investing where it makes sense.

We also need to address the root causes affecting our downtown. Homelessness, addiction and mental-health challenges have reached a crisis point, and I believe London should declare a state of emergency to bring governments and community partners together for an urgent, coordinated response.

A successful downtown requires both a well-maintained public realm and meaningful action on the serious issues affecting it.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

The answer is relatively simple. Delivering it is much harder because it requires all levels of government and community partners working together.

First, we need a compassionate approach that provides people experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and addiction with comprehensive wraparound supports: housing, food, mental health care, addiction treatment, and the support necessary to become healthy and stable. But municipalities cannot solve a healthcare crisis alone. This must be led by the Province, with federal support, rather than leaving London to continually manage the symptoms of the crisis.

Second, compassion and public safety are not mutually exclusive. Homelessness, mental illness, and addiction are not crimes. At the same time, people who repeatedly commit criminal offences need meaningful interventions and consequences. We need stronger action from our federal partners on repeat offenders and bail reform.

Finally, a safe and welcoming downtown creates the conditions for economic recovery. The City and Downtown London BIA are already investing in beautification, streetscapes, festivals and events, and attracting people downtown. Combined with more residential development and office-to-residential conversions, those investments can support businesses and create a more vibrant downtown.

We should not have to choose between helping vulnerable people and having a safe, economically successful downtown. We need to do both.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

I support continuing the two-hour free parking program through HONK and improving the accessibility, signage and management of the parking we already have.

London already reinvests parking revenues into parking infrastructure, but I would also be interested in looking at models such as Calgary's, where a portion of parking revenue is directed back to BIAs and communities for local improvements, and considering whether elements of that approach could benefit downtown London.

At the same time, our significant investment in rapid transit needs to translate into more reliable and convenient service that makes it easier for more people to get downtown and reduces pressure on parking.

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?

As I have said before, the starting point must be compassion. As Canadians, we help people who need it most. Right now, people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, and addiction are not receiving the wraparound supports they need. That is not compassionate, and it is not working for our downtown.

This crisis has developed over many years and successive provincial governments, but the current government is in charge and must act. I believe the situation warrants declaring a state of emergency and demanding provincial investment in housing, mental-health and addiction treatment, and comprehensive wraparound care.

London cannot do this alone. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Ontario's Big City Mayors should come together to demand a coordinated provincial response. Even in a difficult economy, we cannot afford not to do this. Imagine the return on that investment when downtowns across Ontario are thriving again with more businesses, more development, more jobs and ultimately significantly more tax revenue flowing back to the Province.

Compassion must also come with accountability. Open drug use, illegal activity, and repeat offending cannot become normalized, and services with significant street-level impacts should not be concentrated in downtown commercial corridors.

We need to help people who need help, enforce the law, and restore a safe, thriving downtown.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

Downtown London is our city's core, and its success must be a priority. If elected, I will have an open-door policy with the Downtown London BIA so concerns, ideas and opportunities can be raised directly and acted on quickly.

But partnership needs to go beyond being available. I want the BIA involved early in decisions that affect downtown, not after decisions have already been made. Other cities have shown the value of working directly with BIAs on economic development, streetscape improvements, placemaking and investment.

I will treat the Downtown London BIA as a genuine city-building partner, with regular communication, early consultation and a shared focus on getting results for our downtown.

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?

Yes. Downtown London must be a priority, and I support moving forward with the Downtown Plan and providing appropriate resources for its implementation.

This plan was a great collaborative effort, bringing together the Canadian Urban Institute and City staff, with important consultation and input from the Downtown London BIA, LEDC, businesses and community partners. The City has done a lot of listening through this process, and now we need to focus on delivering, moving key priorities from consultation and planning into action and measurable results.

That means addressing safety and cleanliness, vacant storefronts, business attraction and retention, housing, public spaces, and bringing more people and investment downtown. I will support responsible, targeted investments while insisting on clear priorities, measurable outcomes, accountability and value for taxpayers.

Revitalizing downtown will also require strong partnerships with businesses, property owners, developers and other levels of government. Our goal should be clear: a downtown that is safe, vibrant, welcoming and economically strong.

Sam Trosow- Ward 6 Incumbent

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Reducing the downtown office and storefront vacancy rate has been a priority for me, and I have frequently spoken about the need to improve the use of our various regulatory tools to lower the rate. I see it as a particular problem with category B and C buildings which are more often prone to property standard issues.

I have proposed using the vacant building registry to identify vacancies along with more frequent inspections and compliance activities. While the city lacks authority to enact a "vacancy tax" there are broad licensing provisions which could be used for enhanced inspections, compliance and reporting accompanied by a reasonable fee. Using this regulatory approach was incorporated into the final version of the Downtown Plan.

I have also opposed allowing large scale office developments outside of the core which is consistent with our current plan.

I would also advocate for increased support for the arts and culture sector, which I believe will be a key part of revitalizing downtown.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes, I support improving maintenance services in the downtown as well as in the parks, trails and other public spaces.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I will continue to support the efforts of front-line homeless service providers, including their outreach efforts, as well as continue to advocate senior levels of government to provide more affordable and supportive housing opportunities.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

We need to provide better and more reliable alternatives to single passenger motor vehicles coming to the downtown. While I am open to study expansion of municipal parking services, I have opposed the ongoing extension of "temporary" licenses for privately-owned surface lots. I would support the use of shuttle services throughout the core.

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?

I was not in favour of defunding safe-consumption sites as it was not in the interests of safety in the core area. The provincial government needs to provide more reliable and stable funding for programs that address addictions and recovery.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I will continue to support this collaboration and always value the participation and feedback from the various BIAs.

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?

Yes, the newly adopted downtown plan needs to be carefully implemented with adequate support and oversight. I see the expansion of the arts and culture sector as essential to downtown revitalization and regeneration.

Stephanie Marentette- Ward 6 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I would meet with commercial landlords and property owners in the downtown core to determine what support council can offer with respect to tackling vacancies and push for a strong partnership between the parties in order to reduce the number of vacant buildings and encourage businesses to locate downtown. Part of the conversation would involve a discussion about which low-occupancy or vacant buildings would be appropriate for a residential conversion.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I would encourage support for supportive housing providers such as Indwell and House of Hope as well as propose that the special constables pilot program utilize teams of social workers and RPNs to assist those experiencing homelessness due to mental illness and/or drug addiction and help them to enter stable, supportive housing. Employing these measures to help reduce the number of Londoners experiencing homelessness coupled with efforts to revitalize the downtown such as the Dundas flex street and working with property owners to address low-occupancy and vacant buildings would support efforts to invest in and bring people to London's downtown.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Absolutely. I support the 2 hour free parking initiative and would support programs to reduce fees charged in parking lots. London's downtown has wonderful restaurants and shopping as well as great festivals and events - exorbitant parking expenses are a huge barrier to Londoners enjoying these amenities, especially in the current economic climate. It is also highly detrimental to the the small businesses that have chosen the downtown core as their home.

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?

Safe consumption sites serve two functions - harm reduction in terms of providing a place to use substances in a controlled environment so that paraphernalia such as dirty needles do not end up on bus benches or in parks. The other

function is to cut down on overdoses and other health harms stemming from use such as the use of dirty needles. In order for such a site to work, I believe that those accessing the service must have contact with addictions professionals when using the site, controls should be in place to ensure that needles and other paraphernalia are not leaving the site to ensure they are disposed of properly and that the sites must be located in a place that allows those in need to access them without creating a health and safety risk to others. For example, locating a safe consumption site near a school would not be appropriate.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I would consult with key stakeholders and community partners in the downtown core such as the BIA to ensure that proposed policies are sound and likely to achieve the outcomes sought.

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?

Yes

Dan Meinen- Ward 7 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Downtown London's office vacancy has hit 31.5%, the highest of any major Canadian city, while our unemployment rate sits among the worst in the country. Those two facts are connected, and jobs come first.

Within my first six months, I'll bring forward a vacant commercial building bylaw, modelled on St. Catharines and Oshawa, with escalating annual fees so owners lease, sell, or redevelop instead of leaving floors empty. Cheaper, available space is what draws employers back. And I won't use zoning to trap companies downtown while it isn't a place people choose to be. The CARFAX fight shows that approach pushes 800 jobs toward neighbouring municipalities instead of keeping them in London.

The bylaw includes active-construction relief: owners converting empty offices to housing pay nothing while they build. Half the registry revenue would fund a program to buy distressed downtown buildings for non-profit housing, following Toronto's MURA model.

Residents in converted buildings mean lunchtime customers, evening foot traffic, and a workforce already downtown. Employers and workers avoid the core because of safety and cleanliness concerns, so I'll tie homelessness spending to quarterly targets, focusing on results not ambition.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes. Cleanliness and safety are the reasons employers, workers, and families avoid the core, and no zoning rule or marketing campaign fixes that. A downtown people choose to be in starts with a downtown that is clean and maintained.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

These goals aren't in competition. An unsafe, stalled downtown is what you get when social supports are funded on effort instead of results.

I will push for every homelessness budget line to carry a target and a quarterly public report:, and a active homeless list below 1,000.

That is how you protect the economy. Supportive housing in transit zones, a rent bank to prevent evictions, and vacant-building revenue redirected to housing and revitalization reduce the crisis on the street.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Downtown parking should be free. The core has the highest office vacancy rate in Canada and storefronts that sit empty year after year. When a district is already struggling, there is no need to make things more difficult with paid parking. We should be giving the downtown every advantage to flourish.

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?

Roughly half of what fills our encampments is provincial responsibility: mental health care, addictions treatment, and hospital discharge planning. I will push for written cost-sharing agreements whenever London carries provincial costs.

Locally, these programs should be delivered in supportive housing built in transit zones, not concentrated in one downtown block. People get care where they live; the core gets relief. I'll work with health partners to locate new services in neighbourhoods across London rather than stacking them all downtown, and I'll insist every program reports outcomes quarterly so Londoners can see whether it is working.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

Bring the BIA to the table before a decision is made, not after. Too often the people who run downtown businesses find out about a policy when they read it in the news. That is backwards.

I'll consult the BIA on every downtown-related motion I bring forward, starting with the vacant commercial building bylaw. They know which buildings sit empty, who owns them, and what would move them. They should help shape the fee schedule and where the revitalization revenue goes.

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?

I support the direction of Downtown Reimagined. A River District, better public spaces, and a downtown people choose to be in are worth funding. But 58 actions is a wish list, not a plan, until each one has a cost, a lead, and a target.

Staff report back this fall on which short-term actions fit existing budgets. Fund what we can afford now, prioritize what puts people and employers back downtown fastest, and defer the rest to the 2028 budget with honest price tags.

My vacant commercial building bylaw gives the plan a revenue source it currently lacks. Empty buildings should help pay for the public realm work, not the tax levy alone.

The downtown has been studied enough. Now it needs to be built, one funded action at a time.

German Gutierrez- Ward 7 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I will act on the three moves identified in the Downtown London Momentum Report / Economic Momentum Working Paper. Downtown office vacancy is suppressing weekday foot traffic. I will: 1) attract employers by enforcing London Plan Policy 799_14 to keep large office downtown, scaling flexible/co-working space, and improving the employee experience through coordinated safety foot patrols, lighting, cleaning, wayfinding, and piloting affordable parking plus employer incentives like Downtown Dollars; 2) support conversion where appropriate by maintaining and refining Community Improvement Plan incentives for office-to-residential and Class B/C modernization and fast-tracking approvals; and 3) increase daily activity by tying Downtown Trails, festivals, and anchor events like Western/Fanshawe Convocations to merchant activations, pop-ups, and institutional partnerships.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes.

Downtown London's Momentum Report identifies perceptions of safety as driven as much by cleanliness, lighting and programming as by crime metrics — and lists Public Realm & Placemaking as foundational to economic recovery.

The Working Paper calls for specific funded actions: "scale coordinated safety and outreach, set and publish cleanliness service level agreements, and expand lighting and wayfinding" and "deliver visible wins: lighting, cleaning standards, micro-amenities, and rapid non-art graffiti removal." I will support maintaining and increasing municipal funding for the Downtown Clean Team, enhanced maintenance, lighting, and public realm services, with quarterly reporting to show outcomes, not just inputs.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

Yes — I support a coordinated, dual-track approach from the Momentum Report. It frames economy and inclusion as inseparable and identifies a cross-sector safety ecosystem that needs sustained funding.

I will back the move to fund supportive housing and outreach with City, health and social agency partners; and simultaneously fund visible safety — foot patrols, Clean Team, lighting, cleanliness standards and rapid response — with transparent reporting to rebuild perceptions of safety that drive foot traffic and economic stability.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Yes. With vacancy still high, the Momentum Report notes parking costs and commute friction directly suppress daytime visits and office return.

I support: maintaining convenient on-street access including the 1-hour free model the BIA has advocated; piloting affordable options like employer/event validation and working with lot owners on pricing; improving wayfinding, lighting and construction comms; and ensuring revenue is reinvested into cleaning and preserving public realm in the district.

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?

I agree with the BIA that location matters for both care and community safety.

I will advocate to the Province for community safety plans, impact assessments, and clinical delivery models for dispensing and substance-use programs; and work with MLHU and local health partners to ensure services are not concentrated in BIA commercial corridors but distributed equitably with appropriate staffing and wraparound supports — supporting client care while protecting safe, well-managed public spaces in our most-visited district.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I will treat Downtown London as a formal partner in economic development. The Momentum Report was built as a shared roadmap for Council, and calls for co-design.

If elected, I will hold quarterly check-ins using the BIA's economic scorecards and foot-traffic data, co-deliver safety, cleaning and placemaking programs like the Clean Team, Super-Guides and Downtown Trails, and consult the BIA early on parking, office policy 799_14, and service locations — so policy reflects downtown impacts before it reaches Council.

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?

Yes — I will support moving forward with the actions in the Downtown Plan and allocating the funding and resources to implement them.

The Plan aligns directly with the Economic Momentum work the BIA led with City Planning, institutional partners and businesses — which already identifies specific, fundable actions: coordinated safety and cleanliness SLAs, lighting and wayfinding, affordable parking pilots, employer attraction, office-to-residential CIP incentives, and Downtown Trails activation.

Given that downtown is the city's most visited destination I will support budgeting for those actions, whenever possible, tracking them through public scorecards, and reporting quarterly with the BIA so residents see outcomes.

Sam Hajar- Ward 7 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I believe reducing office vacancy and increasing downtown employment must be treated as a priority for the development of the core. A healthy downtown cannot rely on residential growth alone. It needs people who live downtown, people who work downtown, and people who have reasons to visit throughout the day and evening. I would actively marketing available downtown space, identifying the barriers preventing employers from locating or expanding downtown, and looking at incentives that help businesses absorb the cost of fitting out older office and commercial space.

I support office-to-residential conversion where the building and market conditions make sense. As my time working in the City of London's Building Department I have recognized some older office buildings are no longer competitive as modern workplaces and may have a much stronger future as housing or mixed-use developments. In those cases, removing obsolete office inventory can simultaneously reduce vacancy, add residents and create customers for downtown businesses.

I would protect existing office space that is being utilized and the goal should be to remove functionally obsolete office buildings that are vacant by converting them to residential while improving and filling buildings that remain suitable for employment.

I would focus on increasing consistent daily activity rather than relying primarily on occasional events. That means increasing downtown employment and residential density, supporting ground-floor businesses, attracting services people use regularly, improving the cleanliness and appearance of the public realm, making downtown easy to access by transit, walking, cycling and vehicle, and ensuring people feel comfortable spending time there.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes Absolutely. A clean, safe, and well-maintained downtown is essential to supporting local businesses, attracting visitors, encouraging investment, and creating a welcoming environment for residents.

I would support continued municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public services downtown, and I would be open to increased funding where it is needed and a clear plan for how those resources will improve conditions. I also believe this work should be closely coordinated with the Downtown London BIA and other community partners to avoid duplication, identify priority areas, and ensure municipal resources are being used effectively.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

We should not choose between compassion for vulnerable Londoners and a downtown that is safe, accessible, and economically healthy. A successful outcome would be to accomplish both.

I support continued investment in supportive housing, mental health and addiction services, outreach, and programs that help people move from homelessness into long-term stability. Simply moving people from one street or

neighbourhood to another does not solve the underlying problem. We need coordinated services that connect people to housing, health care, treatment, and other supports, with clear expectations and measurable outcomes.

I would also ensure that downtown businesses have a meaningful voice in the City Hall Council decisions. City investments in homelessness and social supports should therefore be accompanied by continued investment in cleanliness, public-space maintenance, lighting, safety initiatives, downtown response services, economic development, and efforts to attract residents, businesses, events, and visitors to the core.

A healthy downtown should be both compassionate and functional. Protecting vulnerable people and protecting the vitality of our downtown are not opposing goals; effective municipal leadership has to deliver both.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

I completely agree that accessible, convenient, and well-managed parking is an important part of supporting a successful downtown. I have heard from many residents and visitors that they have avoided the downtown solely because of the lack of parking cost and availability, and intern the downtown businesses, restaurants, services, and events suffer the consequences.

I would ensure that downtown parking policy is practical, affordable, and responsive to the needs of businesses, residents, employees, and visitors. I would support reviewing opportunities to improve the availability and affordability, and ensure that parking rates and enforcement practices do not unnecessarily discourage people from coming downtown.

At the same time, parking needs to be managed effectively. The goal should not simply be to provide the lowest possible rates, but to encourage and ensure that people can reliably find parking when they need it.

I would support policies that treat parking as part of a broader downtown economic-development strategy. That means working closely with the Downtown London BIA and local businesses.

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?

I believe we need to support access to health care and addiction services while also recognizing that the way those services are located and delivered can have significant impacts on the surrounding community.

If elected, I would advocate to the Province for a more coordinated approach to programs involving supervised consumption, medication dispensing, and safe supply. Municipalities, local public health, health-care providers, BIAs, neighbourhood organizations, police where appropriate, and other affected stakeholders should have a meaningful role in identifying and addressing the community impacts associated with these programs.

Location should be part of that discussion. Services that generate significant street-level activity should not automatically be concentrated within a small number of downtown commercial areas simply because those areas already contain other social and health services. Decisions about new or expanded services should consider proximity to existing programs, residential areas, businesses, transit, public spaces, schools and other sensitive uses.

These discussions should be driven by evidence and measurable outcomes. We should be looking at whether programs

are improving health outcomes for the people using them.

I would work with the Province and our local health partners, with greater accountability, better coordination and a more thoughtful approach to where services are located.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

A successful downtown requires a strong and consistent working relationship between the City and the Downtown London BIA. The BIA and its members are directly connected to the businesses, employees, residents, customers, and visitors who experience downtown every day, and that perspective should be incorporated into decisions that affect the area.

I would support regular, meaningful consultation with the Downtown London BIA, particularly before major policy, infrastructure, transportation, and public-space affecting downtown are finalized.

I would also work with the BIA to identify practical opportunities to strengthen the downtown economy, attract and retain businesses, encourage investment, improve storefront occupancy, support events and programming, and create public spaces that people want to visit and spend time in

The BIA should have a meaningful seat at the table. My goal would be a relationship in which Downtown London is treated not simply as a stakeholder to be consulted, but as an active partner in building a safer, more vibrant, economically sustainable downtown.

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?

I support moving forward with the actions identified in the Downtown Plan and believe a strong, safe, and economically vibrant downtown is important to the success of London as a whole.

Having said that, implementation must be accompanied by clear priorities, measurable outcomes, and ongoing accountability for how municipal resources are being used. Supporting the Downtown Plan should not simply mean approving spending without evaluating whether individual initiatives are producing meaningful results.

If elected, I would support allocating appropriate funding and municipal resources to advance the Plan, while working with the Downtown London BIA, downtown businesses, residents, community organizations, and other stakeholders to identify the actions that will have the greatest impact. I would also expect regular reporting on progress, costs, and outcomes so Council and the public can assess what is working and make adjustments where necessary.

Coralie Tudor- Ward 8 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

My goal is to bring more business to London. Many years ago we were the sector leaders for insurance, banking, oil and gas, manufacturing, and intermediaries. It's time we reprise that role of being sector leaders, whether that is in graphic design and game development, technology, health care, or environmental technologies. I plan to set out to find new and upcoming businesses and bring them to London. By working with landlords I hope to be able to create a program that supports new businesses and ends our downtown vacancies.

To address empty properties, I will work with developers to either convert their properties into housing, or to offices that they are renting. To do that I will use the available tools, as well as out of the box ideas that go beyond grants but include looking at the city as being an investor, creating an asbestos abatement team, evaluating zoning, and if necessary punitive measures like vacancy tax.

To draw more people to downtown we have to make people feel safe. It needs to be clean and beautiful. We need to give people a reason. I am a big supporter of the Arts and Culture, and we need to continue to create events, and venues that draw people to downtown and our city.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes, I will support ongoing funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance of public realm services and increased funding if appropriate.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

To address those dealing with homelessness and mental health, I want to re-evaluate our current social services and look at what is being offered and where the gaps and inefficiencies are. Ideally we need to have an emergency response center, a long-term housing option that allows individuals to live with dignity in the life style they choose, and a rehabilitation style shelter where they are helped to reintegrate into society with job skills, life and financial skills, as well as mental health and addiction recovery services.

Addressing the unhoused in our community is not the only matter, we need to address the distribution of illegal substances on our streets and need to have better presence of, and more local police. While special constables are an idea, they lack the authority required to address the issues. Enforcing a strong no tolerance of illegal activity in the downtown and our city, makes businesses feel that downtown is a safe place for their business and their employees. Additionally, we need better bus routes and dedicated special buses to community located 'park and ride' locations to increase accessibility to downtown for both those who work, or are coming to enjoy concerts and events. Furthermore, more parking downtown that is low cost. London is not Toronto, and should not be charging \$20 or \$30 to park

downtown for events or even the day. There needs to be a recognition that downtown is competing with the malls and shopping centers that are only 10 minutes away and have free parking.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Yes, I will support policies and reinvestment into the downtown. We need more parking garages instead of parking lots, and to work with landowners to create deals for the lots to be used by employees and tenants at low fees. Furthermore, there needs to be a recognition that downtown is competing with the malls and shopping centers that are only 10 minutes away and have free parking. London is not Toronto, and should not be charging \$20 or \$30 to park downtown for events, or the day.

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?

I am opposed to safe supply sites and feel that they do not help, but rather promote the continued use of illegal substances. If we are to maintain a program I would mandate that users may not leave the site until they are no longer intoxicated and that the province and dispensing health providers are responsible for the cost of all distribution, supervision and street response units to deal with those who are intoxicated. I would mandate that they must host multiple narcotics anonymous meetings daily in a separate space near the facility to provide higher level council support. I would locate the site in an isolated remote location away from the downtown businesses and residential areas.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I would maintain open dialogue and invite the BIA to participate with input in planning and policies which have a direct impact on the downtown. I would weigh the BIA's input as well as that of the general public and the city as a whole and move forward with the best decision for the city

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?

I believe that I can support the downtown plan both through resource allocation and funding. The downtown is the heart of a city and it needs to be repaired and brought back.

Anna Hopkins- Ward 9 Incumbent

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Supporting London's Core Area Initiatives, Economic Prosperity Plan as well as the 10year Downtown Plan reimagining a new way of moving forward. Supporting CIPs. We have seen some success on office-to residential conversations and we must continue to find ways of getting eyes on the street. I will continue to encourage my residents to support our downtown businesses and events. We must continue supporting downtown investments and build on the investments that we have already made example-Dundas Flex Street. Downtown investments do give our city the biggest return.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

Advocating with the Provincial government must continue in investing in mental health, addictions and supportive housing as municipalities can't do it alone. If not, the Province must change its formula with municipalities. As well as these investments, the city must work/listen/collaborate with all agencies and stakeholders in the community.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Where it makes sense, we should not be renewing 3-year temporary parking leases. Encouraging owners to build or put up parking garages should be encouraged.

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?

Yes

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

All Councillors must be invested and partner with our Downtown BIA. Downtown is the heart of a city and must be supported especially as we now have come out of the pandemic and need to reinvent and invest in our downtown.

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?

Yes

Alex Moore- Ward 10 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

We should continue to fund office to residential incentives like forgivable loans. These programs are already in place. I would like to see a much lower vacancy rate in these buildings

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Absolutely, yes. It will be incumbent upon this next city council to work on increasing city revenue and broaden the tax base to pay for this maintenance.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

One councillor can't do this. This will take the entire city council to work together and bring the provincial and federal governments in to fix it together.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Yes. I believe we need to have more city run parking and make it profitable and affordable. Citizens get a \$75 parking ticket from a private parking company don't come downtown any more.

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?

I will work with city council to build on the work that London has already done. The provincial and federal governments are short paying their due. We can and will do much better.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

In sat that I can. I've been in business my entire career.



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?

I will my part to further actions that are working and need support.

Steven Edwards- Ward 10 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

Work closely alongside the Federal and Provincial government to ensure that grants are being used in the appropriate manner to encourage the development of vacant buildings.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

I support more responsible spending to keep our downtown safe, beautiful and welcoming.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

This is a very large issue in our city. City Hall funds need to be responsibly allocated to ensure the safety of our downtown space for all.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Absolutely. Parking should be readily available and affordable for all patrons that wish to visit the downtown core.

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?

Location is key. People need to feel safe when frequenting the downtown core. I will work alongside my fellow councillors to ensure that all decisions are made with the residents of London that visit downtown as well as the downtown businesses support and involvement.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I will encourage adequate and supportive involvement with the BIA when making decisions at City Hall that directly affect the downtown core.



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?

I will review the Downtown Plan once elected and will then be able to further comment on my position.

Harinder Kumar- Ward 11 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I would focus on three practical steps.

First, I would work with economic development partners to actively recruit employers to downtown London, especially professional services, technology, health, education and growing small businesses. The City should make it easier to open or expand a business by reducing unnecessary delays and providing a clear point of contact for major investments.

Second, I would support office-to-residential conversions where the building is suitable and the project is financially and structurally realistic. That means reviewing zoning, permitting timelines, development charges and other municipal barriers that can prevent viable conversions.

Third, downtown needs more people there every day—not only during festivals. More residents, employees, students, shops, restaurants and services create activity and customers. I would support mixed-use development, safer and cleaner streets, improved public spaces and better connections to transit so downtown becomes a place people choose to live, work, visit and invest in.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes. I would support continued municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance and public-realm services downtown, provided the spending is measurable and focused on visible results.

A successful downtown must feel clean, safe and welcoming to residents, visitors, employees and businesses. That includes regular litter and graffiti removal, sidewalk and streetscape maintenance, better lighting, upkeep of public spaces and faster response when problems are reported.

I would also expect clear performance standards and public reporting so taxpayers can see what is being delivered for the money spent. If existing funding is not producing acceptable results, I would first look at how services are being managed before simply increasing the budget.

My goal is a downtown that is better maintained, more attractive to investment and comfortable for people to use every day.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I believe we need both compassion and accountability. Investing in housing, mental-health care, addiction treatment and outreach is important because leaving people in crisis on the street does not help them or the broader community.

At the same time, residents, businesses, employees and visitors must be able to use downtown safely and confidently. I would support clear enforcement against violence, threatening behaviour, vandalism, open drug activity and obstruction of sidewalks or business entrances, while ensuring vulnerable individuals are connected to appropriate services.

I would also prioritize accessibility, lighting, cleanliness, reliable transit and support for local businesses.

The goal should be a downtown where people experiencing hardship can access real help, while everyone else can safely live, work, shop and visit. Social supports should improve public safety and stability, not replace expectations for responsible behaviour.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

My approach is to make downtown easier and more affordable to access while using parking policy to support, not discourage, downtown activity.

I would support reviewing parking rates, time limits and validation programs to ensure short-term parking remains convenient for customers, visitors and people accessing services. I would also support better signage, clearer information about available parking, improved accessibility spaces and safer connections between parking areas and businesses.

Where appropriate, I would support reinvesting a portion of downtown parking revenue back into the district for improvements such as cleaning, lighting, streetscape maintenance and public safety.

At the same time, downtown access must include reliable transit, cycling and pedestrian connections. The goal should be choice: people should be able to reach downtown conveniently whether they drive, take transit, walk or cycle.

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?

I would advocate for a balanced approach that protects access to health care while also recognizing the impact that program location and operation can have on surrounding residents, businesses and public spaces.

I would work with the Province, Middlesex-London health partners, service providers, police, downtown businesses and residents to establish clear expectations around site selection, security, cleanliness, hours of operation, client management and neighbourhood impacts.

Location should be considered carefully, including proximity to schools, residential buildings, businesses, transit and other existing services. I would also support regular evaluation of outcomes, complaint data and community impacts so programs can be adjusted when necessary.

People struggling with addiction deserve effective treatment and dignity. At the same time, the public deserves safe, accessible and well-managed streets. Good policy must achieve both.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I would work with the Downtown London BIA as a regular partner in economic development, placemaking and policy decisions that directly affect downtown businesses and residents.

That means involving the BIA early when the City is considering changes related to parking, streetscapes, construction, events, public safety, zoning or business-support programs—not after decisions have already been made.

I would support regular meetings with the BIA, City staff and other downtown partners to identify problems, set priorities and track results. I would also advocate for better coordination during major construction projects so businesses receive clear timelines, access planning and communication.

The BIA has direct knowledge of what downtown businesses are experiencing every day. Council should use that experience to make better decisions while still balancing the needs of residents, visitors and the wider city.

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?

Yes. I support moving forward with the Downtown Plan and providing the resources needed to implement the actions that can deliver meaningful results for downtown.

However, funding should be tied to clear priorities, timelines and measurable outcomes. I would focus first on actions that improve safety, cleanliness, accessibility, business activity, housing opportunities and the overall experience of people who live, work and visit downtown.

I would also expect regular public reporting on what has been completed, what remains outstanding and whether the investment is producing results.

A plan is only useful if it leads to visible improvement. I would work with City staff, the Downtown London BIA, residents, businesses and community partners to ensure implementation is practical, coordinated and accountable to taxpayers.

Skylar Franke- Ward 11 Incumbent

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

I would continue to support infill projects to ensure more people live downtown - so that increases the clientele and feet on the street. I'm supportive of mixed use housing as well, with commercial on the bottom and housing above.

I'd continue to support the OTR CIP as long as we have funding for it.

I'd support the efforts of Downtown London and LEDC to attract businesses downtown - if I'm needed in a pitch session I'm happy to attend.

I've been supportive of increased transit service, including later in the evenings.

I have been supportive of the increased cleaning funding we've provided Downtown London, among other funding opportunities to animate the space.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

The City needs to address the causes of homelessness and poverty while also making sure downtown is welcoming for residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

I believe the solution to homelessness is housing. I also believe preventative solutions like housing, healthcare, food and education prevent crime, and are cheaper than emergency or punitive solutions. However, the municipal government is not responsible for most of those service areas. I would continue to support a housing first approach, with housing that has wrap-around services. I'd continue advocating for an increase in the social assistance rates, proper funding to our educational partners, and proper funding for our healthcare system. Homelessness is a systemic failure - not a personal one - that needs to be resolved by the system.

I am supportive of the nurse / police team and the COAST team - who intervene before situations escalate, while maintaining appropriate emergency and enforcement responses when there is an immediate threat to safety. I've been supportive of more public washrooms as well, and the CIR team.

People want to go downtown and enjoy themselves, including myself. The main way to provide a downtown where people feel safe and want to spend money is to address the homelessness crisis - by providing housing with the correct support. I believe once we do that - people will feel safer and spend more time downtown.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

I would not support building more downtown parking as the default solution. Downtown land is too valuable to dedicate to storing cars, especially when we need more housing, businesses and public spaces. My approach would be to make better use of the parking we already have while investing in the alternatives that make downtown more accessible.

Downtown street parking and parking lots exist - people can use them. I have never struggled to find parking downtown. It's everywhere. And if large businesses want more parking, they can build parking garages. I'd encourage Farhi to solve his own parking dilemmas, just as commercial strip plazas build and maintain their own parking lots.

Instead I would focus on making downtown easier to reach without a car. I'd expand reliable transit, improve walking and cycling connections, and make downtown streets safer for pedestrians. I want downtown to be accessible, but accessibility doesn't have to mean driving and parking.

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?

I'd work with the downtown councillor to address this, and take their lead on the correct approach. I've supported advocacy to the province and federal governments on this matter and would continue to.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

My door is always open! I would be collaborative and listen to DLBIA's ideas on policy, placemaking and ecdev. I enjoy chats with Downtown London BIA staff and am an active customer to many downtown businesses. I want downtown to succeed.

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?

Yes - however I would need to see what is outlined in the budget business case before agreeing to the amounts.

Elizabeth Pelosa- Ward 12 Incumbent

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

A strong downtown needs to be a vibrant place where people live, work and play. It needs to be bustling throughout the day and evening with employees, residents, students, entrepreneurs, visitors and families. Working with economic development partners, post-secondary institutions, employers and the Downtown London BIA to attract and retain businesses and talent is paramount to making this happen..

Downtowns are changing. The office-to-residential program is a great approach to reducing office vacancy, has some uptake with developers and is of value to continue funding where they are financially and technically feasible .

I would also continue to support investment in the things that make employers and employees want to be downtown: safe and attractive public spaces, reliable transportation, active mobility, culture, restaurants, events and amenities. Dundas Street programming and activations are a great example as are investments in upgrading city owned assets such as Canada Life Place.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes. A clean, well-maintained downtown is fundamental to public confidence, business success and the experience of everyone who lives, works and visits there. I support sustained municipal investment in core cleaning, maintenance and public realm services, while continuing to work closely with BIA-led initiatives so that City resources complement, not duplicate, local efforts.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

I believe we can be compassionate while setting clear expectations for safety, accessibility and respectful use of shared spaces. Businesses and the BIA are active partners in identifying challenges and evaluating whether interventions are working.

I support a coordinated approach involving municipal government, health and social-service providers, enforcement and the other levels of government. Municipalities do not have the resources or funding to address the root causes of homelessness and addiction. We need provincial and federal partners to address access to health care, addiction treatments, and supportive housing.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

I support a balanced downtown mobility strategy that includes well-managed parking, short-term access for customers and visitors, accessible parking, secure bike parking, adequate sidewalk illumination and clear information about parking

locations and time of use regulations. I am also open to policies that improve affordability and convenience where there is a demonstrated benefit to downtown activity, such as reduced parking fees in designated areas through the HONK Ap. While London continues to improve public transit and other transportation options, parking remains an important part of downtown accessibility, particularly. Maintaining municipal parking lots is one tool to ensure reasonable parking fees. Developers including underground 'public parking' in their builds also serve to offer parking throughout the core while maintaining an active streetscape.

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?

Thank you for acknowledging the important distinction between "perceptions of safety" and actual safety. One might feel uncomfortable witnessing our unhoused neighbours suffering, (as you should) But feeling uncomfortable does not necessarily mean that you, yourself, are unsafe.

Client care and public safety should not be treated as competing objectives; effective services must do both. Provincial health policies and provincially regulated services must include meaningful local consultation, appropriate operational standards and sufficient resources to support the communities where services are located.

I would work with local health partners, service providers, businesses and residents to understand the street-level impacts of medication dispensing and substance-use services.

Location matters. Services with significant street-level impacts should be planned with careful consideration of surrounding uses, pedestrian activity, schools, businesses, residential neighbourhoods and clients' access and safety. I do not believe municipalities should simply be expected to manage unintended impacts without having meaningful input into planning and implementation.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

I see the Downtown London BIA as an essential partner in the future of downtown.

I have valued my opportunities to meet with the BIA to discuss the Downtown Master Plan, CIR, budget business cases, public infrastructure and services. I have supported city directed financial investments into downtown economic and tourism drivers such as Canada Life Place, Museum London, the Grand Theater and others.

Walking alongside staff and representatives of the BIA through the streets of downtown seeing first hand the issues and decision making impacts have been impactful. The BIA brings direct, day-to-day knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing businesses, property owners and employees. I remain committed to discussions on policies, development, transportation, public spaces and projects that materially affect downtown.

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?

Yes. I support moving forward with the Downtown Plan and believe that a plan is only valuable if it is followed by implementation, accountability and measurable progress.

We need a phased approach that considers priorities, costs, available resources and partnerships that is adaptable to strategic planning, budget cases, and leverages provincial and federal funding when possible.

Downtown is London's cultural, civic and economic heart, and strengthening it requires a long-term commitment from Council and strong partnerships throughout the community. Council should continue to receive regular public reporting on progress so that businesses, residents and partners can see what has been accomplished and where additional attention is needed.

Gurinder Singh- Ward 14 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

More Police Patrol presence Walking or on bicycles. Special Promotion or Sale on the merchandise or products by Business owners

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

Yes if it is used properly on a special project that help to reduce drug addicts or transfer them into a special shelter out of downtown.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

That is the most important question. To ensure safety more walking Police Patrol & little more strict laws are needed that give more power to Police officers.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Definitely yes.

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?

Yes I agree that safe well managed public spaces are needed with the cooperation of Provincial Govt. & with proper consideration of location away from downtown.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

Arranging meetings with BIA & discussing or taking views of BIA in making proper decisions which are good for City Council & BIA both for the development of London.



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?

Sure, as long as they are within the Budget.

Jason King- Ward 14 Candidate

What specific actions will you take to attract employers, support office-to-residential conversions where appropriate, and increase daily activity in the downtown?

In my canvassing efforts of Ward 14, the residents have been very clear to me that they do not want to go downtown London. They do not feel safe and they do not want to be around the homeless and addicts that occupy our downtown areas. It is clear to me that before any effort is made to bring back a healthy environment downtown for businesses to thrive and citizens to want to be there, the absolute first step is to remove the homeless and addicts from the downtown entirely. I will support successful and measurable efforts and actions that aim to achieve this goal that have minimal and acceptable costs to the tax payors. I believe that once we create the conditions for citizens to return to the downtown with confidence and security, businesses will follow suit.

Will you support ongoing or increased municipal funding for enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm services in the downtown?

We need to be realistic of the causation of the need for enhanced cleaning and maintenance in the downtown core. I would much rather see targeted strategies aiming to reduce the need for additional services and expenses in the downtown core rather than commit to more band aids and treatments to the symptoms of the problems. If we can devise successful and measurable projects to reducing the need for enhanced services, I would then be interested in looking at supplemental and temporary increases to cleaning and maintenance funding.

How will you balance investment in social supports with ensuring safety, accessibility, and economic stability in the downtown?

We cannot have extra funding for social supports without a viable downtown economy. The priority must be on the safety, accessibility, stability and desirability of the downtown environment for businesses and visitors if we are to provide supports for the homeless. We need to be pragmatic and realistic about the truths and facts if we are to be compassionate and helpful.

What is your approach to parking in the downtown, and will you support policies that improve access, affordability, and reinvestment into the district?

Parking has been a huge issue for the downtown for as long as I have resided here. The downtown would benefit immensely with a centralized, core parking tower with smaller, more strategically targeted ground level lots around the periphery of the core. Parking rates should be regulated and controlled to ensure that access to the downtown is viable and encouraged. I will support meaningful parking policies and actions that stimulates the downtown economy rather than stifles it.

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?

I am against harm reduction policies and will use every opportunity to pressure and drive the province to move toward a recovery and treatment program. I believe a consolidated and unified voice from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario that we want Ontario to drop harm reduction and develop a strong rehabilitation and recover model such as the Alberta Model would help in that goal. We need to make this issue as well as reopening psychiatric hospitals in Ontario election issues for the province.

If elected, how will you work with the Downtown London BIA as a partner in economic development, placemaking, and policy decisions that impact downtown?

A core tenant of my platform is the restoration, development and diversification of business, manufacturing, industrial and commercial ventures across the city. The downtown should be a part of that initiative and my door will be open to great ideas and plans that meet my goal of a thriving city with diversity in opportunity for jobs, business and leisure activity.

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?

My findings from canvassing ward 14 is that there is no appetite by the residents for supporting yet another downtown revitalization project. It would fall into the category of "nice to have" not necessary at this point. Residents of Ward 14 are concerned with the city's delivery of basic services such as beautification of their neighbourhoods, security and safety of their streets, roads and parks, upkeep of sidewalks and snow removal, garbage collection and illegal dumping and the rat infestation. Nobody has brought to my attention that the revitalization of the downtown is a primary concern for them. Having said that, I do think the plan has very valuable elements. I very much like the idea of embracing a waterfront scene that maximizes the forks as a major destination zone for visitors and residents alike. I don't think we should consider the downtown as the "primary destination" for the city though. I think that leads to a weakness in harnessing our cities assets elsewhere. We need a diversity plan of destination areas making the downtown just one of many amazing places to go in London with its unique and distinctive offerings. First, we need to do better on the basic services across the city before we specialize on the downtown. In the meantime, we also need to fix the source problem of why nobody wants to go downtown anyway. We need to solve the homeless and addict problem before a revitalization plan will even be fruitful. Pretending otherwise is not wise. People will not be fooled or tricked into coming downtown until it is cleaned up. I propose that we shelve the downtown plan for a couple years, work on improving our basic city services and beautification of the whole city while getting our fiscal picture under control by bolstering our industrial, manufacturing and commercial sectors. I will take my direction from what the residents of Ward 14 have told me at the doors.