

2023 Questionnaire

Toronto Mayoral Candidates

The Catholic Church considers that elected democratic office is a position of immense responsibility, to be held in high trust and exercised with great humility, wisdom, and respect, in the interest of the common good. Our leaders are meant to help gather us in a spirit of mutual cooperation and support, setting for us an example of listening and collaboration as together citizens seek common ground for authentic growth as human beings. This applies fully to municipal offices, including that of Mayor. Cities are homes to the majority of citizens, and are often the first recourse of new citizens for safety, housing, and well-being.

The 10 open-ended questions below are meant to allow you to share, in your own words, your plans for working toward the true welfare of all Torontonians.

Please start by confirming your name and preferred contact information:

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YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS MAYOR

Your Political Vocation

Q. 1. What draws you to the vocation of service as Mayor of Toronto, a city of nearly 3 million people?

I want to make changes to the city. There are certain things I do not like. The city is no longer affordable. It needs to be cleaner and safer. I tried talking to Politicians at different levels of government about my concerns in particular about mortgages and the marijuana issue but I really did not get anywhere with them so I feel that my next step is to try to become Mayor (politician) and see if I can have any influence that way.

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Q. 2. What experience do you have that qualifies you to serve as Mayor? (Please feel free to point to an online or attached CV if desired)

I have been a Real estate salesman for over 30 years so I have had alot of experience at dealing with people from all walks of life and seeing the issues that face them. I am also serving on the Board of directors of my condominium building. It has almost 400 units. I was on the Board from 2008 to 2014 and again from 2021 to the present. Again as a Board member I and the other members have faced alot of issues that have come up and have tried to make the best decision taking into consideration that we are representing all those unit owners when we make such decisions. We have discussed the Budget, the Reserve fund and things like maintenance fees have to be taken into consideration.

I have alot of volunteer experience with various organizations, Toronto Humane Society, Distress Centre of Greater Toronto, coaching ice hockey for many years (including coaching a Deaf team). I have a Bachelor of arts Degree in Sociology and I took a course in Broadcasting. I broadcasted many hockey games on the radio. I also have done alot of work with the Deaf community. I studied sign language interpreting in Community College.

I also have almost 50 years experience at dealing with mentally ill people. I have a family member who is very sick. I feel that staying in good physical condition is important in performing any job. I run every day outside to stay in shape.

Q.3. What are the most important things you hope to accomplish as Mayor?

Get the cost of living down. Clean up the city and make it safer. we have to do something about mentally ill people. They are running around off their medication and causing harm to other people. This is not their fault if they are off their medication, but something needs to be done.

Life & Human Dignity

Q.4. Catholics believe that we are all lost children of God, and that the purpose of this life is to find our way home to God – most importantly, by ensuring that our neighbours are enabled and encouraged to search for truth as well. What is your understanding of the purpose of life, and how does that inform your proposed policies?

We are here to be completely unselfish and take care of each other. We need to think about what we can do for the next person. If we concentrate on giving to other people it will all come back in the end. If you want something in life then you must be willing to give up something.

Q.5. Many Torontonians are rightly concerned with making diversity, equity, and inclusion a reality within our city. True efforts in such direction will not neglect those challenged by mental or physical disabilities. What is your plan for making Toronto truly accessible to all?

We need more Townhall meetings, more parades or Marches demonstrating inclusion. We need to learn and understand each others cultures by visiting various places of worship or cultural centres and observe what goes on in other cultures. We can learn from each other and we need to teach each other.

Q.6. Prominent current issues facing Toronto include homelessness and access to affordable housing. What can or should the City of Toronto do about housing? Are there others – other levels of government, charitable agencies, for example – that might be supported, called upon, and encouraged to help in such work? How should any such organizations cooperate?

Other levels of Government must establish policies regarding affordable housing. To have a Borrower stay with a B or Alternative Lendor year after year just will not work. This is not affordable housing. Lending criteria needs to be based more on past covenant rather than credit score or income. Someone's credit score or income are private information and should be treated as such. The Lendor needs to look at the Borrowers ability to pay back a mortgage over a period of time. If their past history of making payments on time on a regular basis is good then they should be moved to an A bank for financing.

Q.7. The news suggests that anxiety and mental health are also among the important issues facing Toronto – incidents, including violent attacks, on the TTC, for example. What can or should the City of Toronto do about to address mental health and safety on the sidewalk? Are there others – other levels of government, charitable agencies, for example – that might be supported, called upon, and encouraged to help in such work?

Answer: Any organization that works directly or indirectly with mentally ill people or their family need to be more sensitive to the mentally ill person and their family. What we are seeing in some cases is Police are picking up a mentally ill person on the direction of a Form 2 and taking the mentally ill person to the hospital. The doctor looks at and analyzes the mentally ill person and in some cases the doctor decides to release the patient to the outside world way too soon even against the advice of their family (the mentally ill person's family). This has to stop!!! If they are released too soon it may result in severe consequences such as the mentally ill person injuring or even killing someone. The doctors need further training in this area. The patient should not be released right away from the hospital but should be gradually assimilated back into society with the aid of a Social Worker. Lawyers who deal with mentally ill people and other organizations such as The Public Guardian and Trustee need to be less robotic and understanding of the pain and suffering that Mentally ill people and their families go through. I understand that the Public Guardian and trustee are only their to handle the Mentally ill person's finances but I do not think it is fair for them to ignore the pain the entire family have gone through and in some cases they have gone through it for many many years.

Care for the Environment

Q.8. The City of Toronto has long been engaged with care for the environment. Yet it can do more, particularly as awareness grows of the urgent nature of climate crises. Catholic teaching recognizes that what happens with the environment affects every aspect of our lives, everywhere on the planet. Pope Francis, like many faith leaders before him, has called on us to “work together” to ensure God’s creation is protected for future generations. How do you intend to promote collaborative and effective approaches to municipal climate change commitments, such as the TransformTO Net Zero strategy, to ensure care for the environment is consistently and urgently prioritized?

We need to keep our properties and streets clean and protect our environment. There is too much pollution, too many cars on the road and not enough ride share programs. Too often we are seeing one person in the car., several people can fit in one car. This would save gas and keep our environment cleaner. I need to research climate control a little more.

An Economy to Serve People

Q.9. Among the greatest challenges faced by Toronto is affordable, accessible, and timely public transportation, particularly as an alternative to the use of personal vehicles. Vehicle congestion aggravates not only health concerns, but difficulties faced by Torontonians in maintaining dignified and fulfilling work. What are your plans for effectively addressing this problem? What approach would you take to expanding public transit, improved access for pedestrians and cyclists, and rejuvenation of infrastructure to make it easier for people in Toronto to access all the opportunities Toronto has to offer?

As particular examples:

- How do you propose to address highway congestion, including for example on the 401, 427, Gardiner, and DVP highways?
- In view of its success, do you support rapid expansion of the King Street Pilot Project to other streetcar lines?
- Do you support expansion of the streetcar system?
- Do you support expansion of the bike lanes system?
- Do you support installation of overhead electrical charging for the electric buses the TTC proposes to buy?

What I am seeing is sometimes a TTC bus will come by or a group of buses will come at the same time. I understand that everything is on a schedule but it really concerns me especially in the winter time when its cold out. Winter is the time where the buses need to be spread out so that people are not waiting too long at the Bus stop. We need more expanded subways to the suburbs like Scarborough. We need a subway line that goes into Durham Region and Peel Region.

I support the expansion of the Street car System, Bike lanes and Overhead electrical charging. I think by having bike lanes it forces drivers to drive a little slower and there would be less chance of an accident.,yes I would think we could expand on the King street Pilot project. It seems to be working.

Our highways are too congested. We need to put restrictions and more rewards for people who ride share. Also we need more varying shifts at work. We need staggered starting times at work with some people starting at 9am some at 10am some at 11am. This will help ease the traffic congestion on the highways.

Order & Public Safety

Q.10. As noted above, anxiety and mental health issues arising from the pandemic seem to be the cause of an alarming number of violent assaults in Toronto, including on the TTC, with many people - including those suffering mental illness - becoming victims. Street racing remains a hazardous and potentially lethal pastime among young Torontonians. What steps would you take to both reduce the threat of these and other hazards, and to address their underlying causes?

I have answered some of this in question 7. I am hoping we are through the worst of the Pandemic. Street racing is inexcusable. If you street race you should have your licence taken away from you for a minimum of 6 months. Also we are too easy when it comes to someone getting their Driver's licence. There should be a course that you take for 6 months before the Ministry gives you your licence and we need to raise the minimum age to 19 for driving a car.