

2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

Regional Councillor – Ward 3 & 4

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1. What new measures would you bring forth to insure that Halton Hills is an open for business minded community?

I would be truly surprised to discover Halton Hills was not open for business! In order to not rehash already tried / implemented programs, I would advocate building on those measures that have yielded positive results targeting the type of businesses we wish to attract. A key component is the Transportation Master Plan to ensure affordable, adaptable options for moving residents within Halton Hills now and into the future.

2. How can we attract employers that offer full-time, non-retail jobs to our community?

Again, knowing what's worked should be the first step. Second, survey existing businesses re their pros / cons of operating in Halton Hills, then identify the types of businesses we wish to attract . Third, target those businesses to find out what infrastructure & employee types they require then build a business case for locating here. Lastly, along with an efficient transportation system, push for a range of more modestly priced housing so that those full time workers can actually afford to buy or rent in Halton Hills.

3. Please name the most important step the next Town Council can take to support economic growth in Halton Hills.

In addition to # 2 above: Implement a Halton Hills wide transportation system ASAP. Get busy building truly affordable housing. With an efficient Halton Hills transit system, employers will be able to attract employees from a wider geographic area and workers will have access to more job opportunities. As employers compete for workers, wages will increase to retain the better employees. Higher wages and affordable housing will enable people to spend more locally which will boost the local economy.

4. What would you do to control the municipal budget and if you plan any cuts where would they be?

Budget cuts should be thoughtfully weighed & implemented, not the result of an impulsive election promise. We are currently witnessing the mayhem caused by doing the latter. Taxpayers expect that our new Council will spend tax dollars wisely with an eye to maximizing value. If one doesn't already exist, I'd suggest an incentive program to engage all Town Staff by offering a cash bonus of 10% to 20% of the 1st & 2nd year savings realized from their suggestions for cutting costs or enhancing efficiencies.

5. What are your views on "Places to grow" give us your opinion on what issues good and bad may arise with this type of growth and how would you approach these issues?

The Vision Georgetown is our first step in accommodating the Provincially mandated 18,000 new residents. The Transportation Master Plan starts addressing how Halton Hills residents are to get around Town. To move forward we must keep an open mind to evolving transportation and building technologies. Just because we haven't done it here before should not be a barrier to progress and innovation.

6. Some of our members are struggling to get both entry level and skilled workers. How would you attract and retain a strong and vibrant workforce in Halton Hills?

This ties in to Question # 2 & 3 above. "If we build it they will come!" The "it" is a community with adequate affordable housing for all income levels, good job prospects, convenient affordable means of getting around Town and easily accessible amenities that appeal to many. Respecting & preserving our past should not prevent us from embracing the future.
