

## 2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

### Local Councillor – Ward 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?

My recommendations would be to cut back on the bureaucratic red tape around building permits, reduce the costs of application fees, put tighter timelines on processing applications, and offer deferred payment plans for development fees. To support and encourage new businesses, I would build an entrepreneurial culture and approach when supporting all businesses in Halton Hills. One idea, would be to position a dedicated business coach/consultant on staff to mentor business owners through the end-to-end processes, overcome obstacles and offer advice through the business start-up journey to success.

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

I would push for an improved promotional campaign of “Doing Business in Halton Hills”. In addition, expedite the approval process, explore upfront incentive programs, and build on and support existing businesses in our community to cultivate that entrepreneurial mindset and business vibrancy. Any incentive program costs would be offset through an increased property and business tax base.

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

The most important step to improve our economic growth is to lower business taxes and development fees. Bringing down these barriers to entry and operation have proven time and again to incentivize new growth and help the already existing businesses to thrive.

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

Provide strict budget guidelines to each department and ensure they are met. Any cost variances must be justified and include a cost recovery strategy. In terms of budget cuts, it really comes down to a prioritized ranking of deliverables. I would ensure a balanced approach, look for inefficiencies and areas to streamline, but always be mindful of the citizen impacts and the community at large.

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?

My view is positive if planned and executed properly. The province mandated plan promotes an approach to build compact, thriving and affordable communities across Ontario.

Benefits: lower municipal infrastructure costs while accommodating more people on less land. Negatives: whether our existing infrastructure can support the anticipated growth (e.g. roads, hospitals, fire services, police, transportation etc).

Vision Georgetown is a good example of where the future needs to go by interconnecting both residential growth and employment (1,700 new jobs), as well as providing affordable housing.

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?

The hiring landscape is changing and putting increased pressure on smaller companies to adapt. In fact, building a millennial-friendly work culture is one of the top small business trends for 2018 to attract employees. Businesses should consider offering flexible work schedules, foster social connections, community events and offer purpose-driven work. I would support by establishing “how to” work-shops around culture, host an info gather session with local job seekers, and promote jobs fairs. I would also advocate for improved transportation to major work areas.

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