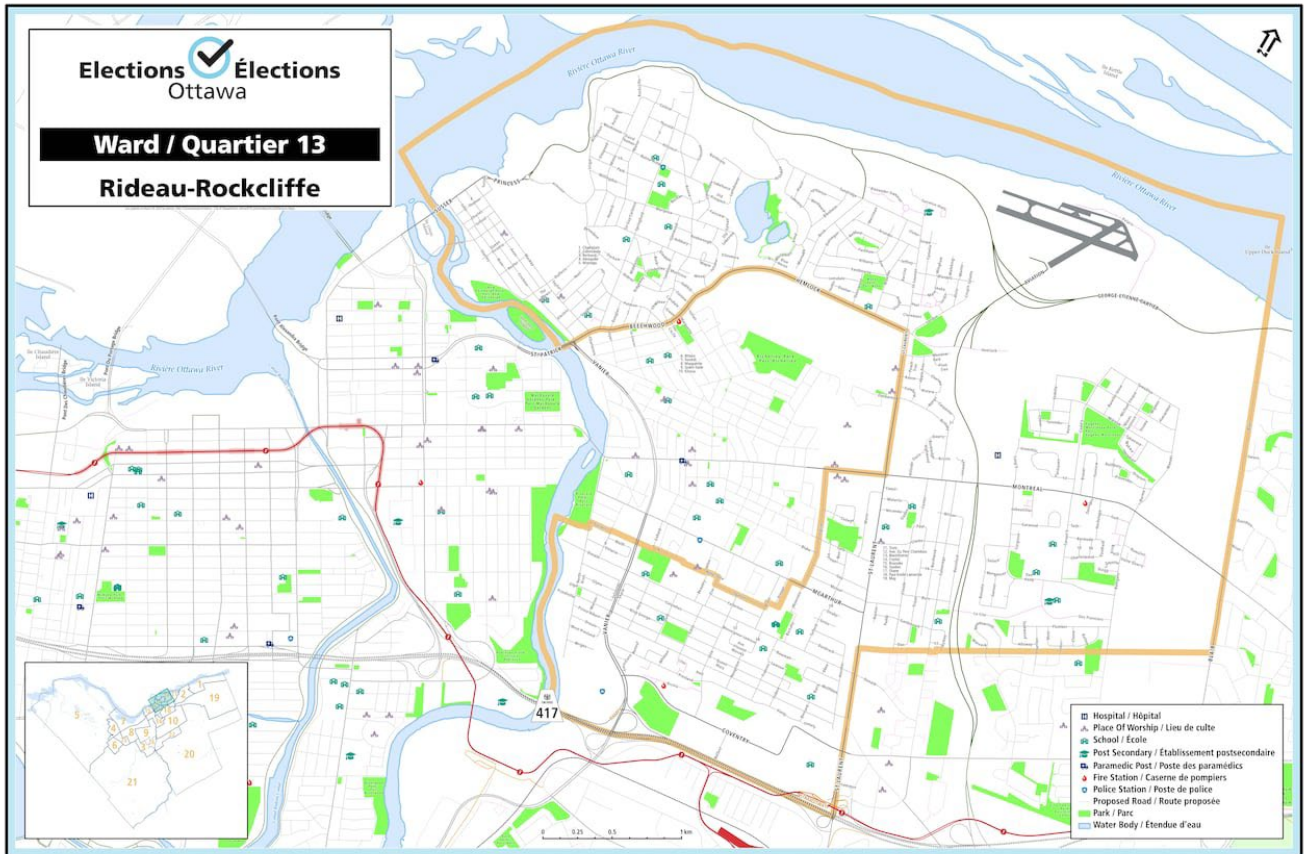


WARD 15

Kitchissippi



4 candidate(s)



Joanne Chianello

Candidate for City Council • Ward 15 — Kitchissippi

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Did not respond to survey.



Subhir Uppal

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- 1) What role can the City play to push back against antisemitism and violent forms of antizionism so Jewish residents can live safely and openly in Ottawa?*

Jewish residents must be able to practice their faith, express their identity and participate fully in Ottawa's civic life without fear. I unequivocally condemn antisemitism, including threats and violence directed at Jewish people under the banner of opposition to Israel or Zionism. International conflict never excuses targeting our neighbours or holding them collectively responsible for another government's decisions.

I would advocate for a coordinated municipal response that includes antisemitism training, clear reporting pathways, prompt removal of hate graffiti after evidence is preserved, and safety planning with Jewish institutions. I would also work with Council and the Ottawa Police Services Board to support appropriate resources for hate-crime investigations and victim assistance.

City leadership must speak clearly when antisemitism occurs and follow those statements with action. Jewish residents should have meaningful opportunities to shape municipal programs and decisions. Protecting lawful political debate must go hand in hand with confronting threats, harassment and discrimination.

- 2) What steps should the City take when events on public property cross the line into intimidation, hate, support for terrorism or threats to public safety?*

I condemn the October 7 terrorist attacks and any celebration of violence against civilians. When demonstrations involve threats, violence or suspected criminal conduct, the response must be prompt, coordinated and proportionate.

The City should work with police and event organizers on safety planning, maintain emergency access, enforce applicable bylaws and promptly refer suspected offences to police. Where an event breaches lawful municipal facility-booking conditions, I would support suspension or cancellation based on documented conduct and legal advice.

Suspected hate, propaganda, threats, counselling of terrorism and other offences must be assessed against the applicable criminal law. Peaceful protest is protected; threats and acts of violence are not protected by protest activity.

As a councillor, I would advocate for adequate resources, consistent enforcement and public accountability while respecting police independence in individual investigations and operational decisions. The Police Services Board's role is oversight, rather than directing specific police operations.

3) Will you work with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to better equip municipal agencies, programs and civic institutions to recognize, prevent and respond effectively to antisemitism?

Yes. I will seek a sustained working relationship with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, beginning with a meeting early in my term to identify priorities and agree on practical next steps.

I would pursue four measures:

Seek Council support for training developed with the Federation and qualified antisemitism educators for municipal staff, particularly those handling public complaints, recreation programs and facility bookings.

Advocate for designated municipal contact and clear procedures for escalating incidents, supporting affected residents and coordinating with police where appropriate.

Encourage municipal agencies and civic institutions to review their practices for preventing antisemitic harassment and exclusion.

Establish regular check-ins with the Federation and request public reporting on training completion and municipal responses, while protecting personal information.

I would support using Canada's handbook on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism as an educational resource. The handbook helps identify antisemitism; it does not replace existing law or Charter protections.

4) Will you oppose efforts to bring international political campaigns, including BDS measures targeting Israel, into city politics?

Yes. I will oppose efforts to incorporate Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaigns targeting Israel into municipal policy, including through Council resolutions, procurement rules or municipal grant programs.

City decisions should serve Ottawa residents and follow consistent, lawful standards for public value, service delivery and human rights. I would oppose political conditions that require Jewish residents or organizations to disavow Israel or Zionism to access municipal programs, partnerships or civic participation.

Residents remain free to express lawful political views. My responsibility as a councillor would be to ensure that municipal institutions treat people fairly and remain accessible to everyone. Ottawa's Jewish community must be able to participate openly and equally in the life of our city.



Brian Innes

Candidate for City Council • Ward 15 — Kitchissippi

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1) What role can the City play to push back against antisemitism and the violent forms of antizionism so Jewish residents can live safely and openly in Ottawa?

My approach to dealing with the issue of hate and antisemitism is to ensure that there is leadership at City Hall that promotes and fosters a culture of respect and inclusion, including our city's Jewish community. We must denounce hate wherever it appears and recognize that the distinct nature of antisemitism calls for a specific approach. All citizens have a right to feel safe, and all elected officials must be held accountable.

This is also why I support the diligent enforcement of the Safe Access to Social Infrastructure Bylaw which took effect August 1, 2026, meant to ensure that synagogues are places where the Jewish community can congregate and practice their faith free from fear and harassment, ensuring that all Ottawa residents can feel safe and secure.

2) Ottawa has seen violent demonstrations where participants have expressed support for terrorist organizations and celebrated the October 7 attacks. What steps should the City take when events on public property cross the line into intimidation, hate, support for terrorism or threats to public safety?

Elected leaders must encourage safe and respectful environments and they should identify unacceptable words, behaviours and actions perpetrated by anyone, including protestors, and promptly denounce them.

Police must enforce existing laws and public safety standards to ensure that intimidation and hate do not flourish. We have seen how rhetoric and behaviour can lead to the proliferation of violence and terrorism and we must vigilantly ensure that free expression is balanced appropriately with community and individual safety.

3) Will you work with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to better equip municipal agencies, programs and civic institutions to recognize, prevent and respond effectively to antisemitism? Please share how you will accomplish this.

I would be grateful for any guidance offered by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. I would value their suggestions on how to combat antisemitism and hate in our communities, including how I, in my capacity as city councillor, would be able to help all Ottawa communities feel heard. If elected, I commit to regular meetings and dialogue with representatives of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Since October 7, hostility toward Israel has increasingly affected Jewish residents here at home, including efforts to exclude or marginalize Jews based on their real or perceived connection to Israel.

4) Will you oppose efforts to bring international political campaigns, including BDS measures targeting Israel, into city politics?

I support an inclusive and respectful culture in Ottawa for people of all nationalities, religions and ethnicities. I also support the desire of the Jewish community to practice its culture and beliefs in peace and security. It is my belief that wading into international conflicts is not the mandate of a city councillor, nor is it why city councillors are elected. If elected, I would oppose all attempts to marginalize the Jewish community and efforts to ostracize people or businesses based on ethnicity or nationality.

A city councillor's role is to fight at the local level for the people of Ottawa and help to ensure a diverse and inclusive environment within city limits. International affairs is the purview of the federal government and if elected, I would oppose BDS measures for the City of Ottawa, fight for the core priorities of my constituents at the local level and protect the ability of all Ottawa communities to express their identities freely and respectfully, without impeding the ability of others to do the same.



Xavier Commerford

Candidate for City Council • Ward 15 — Kitchissippi

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City Hall must provide clear, uncompromising leadership to ensure Jewish residents feel safe, protected, and fully included in civic life. The City's role starts with zero tolerance for hate and proactive support for Jewish institutions across our neighborhoods:

- **Confronting Bad-Faith Opposition to Jewish Spaces:** City Council must actively push back against veiled, NIMBY opposition targeting Jewish community projects—such as the Chabad on Huron Ave North. We must ensure zoning, planning, and municipal approval processes are never weaponized to delay, block, or marginalize Jewish spaces seeking a home in our ward.
- **Security Infrastructure & Police Collaboration:** Support municipal partnerships and matching grant programs to enhance street lighting, security camera integration, and physical safety measures around synagogues, schools, and community centers, while ensuring dedicated Ottawa Police liaison coverage during high-risk periods.

Effectively countering antisemitism requires direct, ongoing partnership with those who understand its impact best. If elected, I will accomplish this through four key actions:

1. **Mandatory Staff & First-Responder Training:** Partner with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (JFO) to develop and implement anti-antisemitism training modules for front-line city staff, Ottawa Bylaw Services, paramedic teams, and public-facing municipal workers.
2. **Institutional & Planning Defense:** Work alongside JFO and local leaders to audit municipal processes, ensuring religious institutions—like Chabad on Huron Ave North—are protected from discriminatory delays, procedural bias, and bad-faith zoning challenges.
3. **Direct Civic Advisory Channel:** Establish a regular liaison schedule between the Ward Councilor's office, Ottawa Police division commanders, and JFO leadership to evaluate neighborhood safety, identify emerging threats, and streamline emergency communications.
4. **Community Security Support:** Collaborate with JFO to assist local Jewish institutions in accessing municipal, provincial, and federal security infrastructure grants to upgrade physical defenses and monitor threat environments effectively.