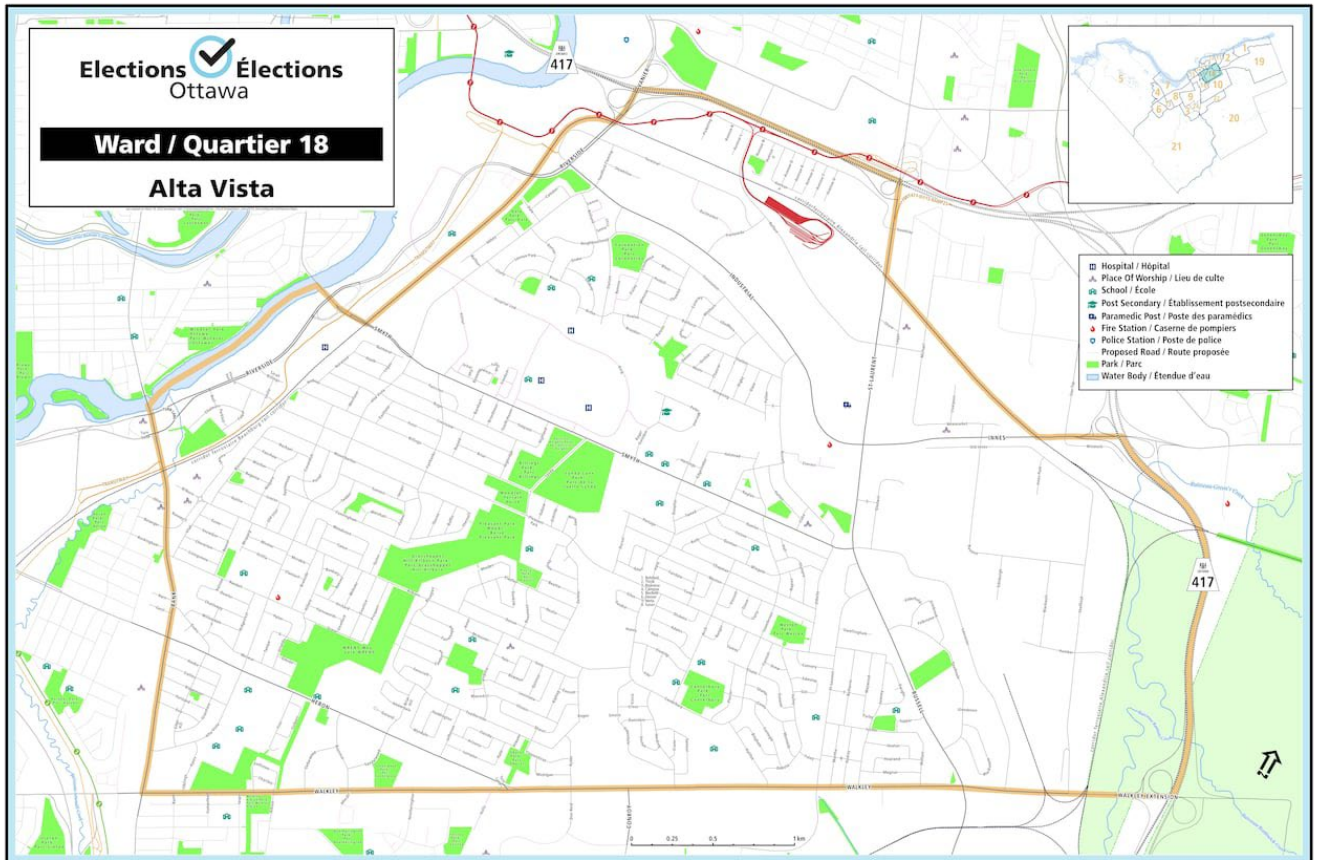


WARD 18

Alta Vista



5 candidate(s)



Tressy El-Hawi

Candidate for City Council • Ward 18 — Alta Vista

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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?

I believe every resident of Ottawa deserves to live in safety, dignity and peace, regardless of their religion, culture or background. Our Jewish community must feel safe, respected and welcome in every part of our city.

I recognize that antisemitism presents particular challenges for Jewish residents, including harassment, threats and concerns about being able to openly express their Jewish identity or participate safely in public life. These concerns deserve to be heard and addressed directly.

Antisemitism, intimidation, threats and violence have no place in Ottawa. I believe the City has an important responsibility to protect access to public spaces and services, support community safety and work with the appropriate authorities to address threats and unlawful conduct.

I would support working with Jewish community organizations and the appropriate municipal authorities to identify specific safety concerns affecting Jewish residents and determine what practical action the City can take within its responsibilities.

I also believe that lasting understanding begins with dialogue. We need to listen to one another, respect our differences and create opportunities for communities to come together rather than become further divided.

As a City Councillor, I would listen to Jewish residents, bring their concerns forward and support practical measures that promote safety, understanding and mutual respect.

I want Ottawa to be an example of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, where everyone can live openly and without fear.

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?

I strongly believe in freedom of expression and the right to peaceful demonstrations. These are important Canadian values that we must respect and protect.

However, there is a clear distinction between peaceful expression and threats, intimidation, violence or unlawful conduct. No resident should feel unsafe or threatened because of their religion, background or beliefs.

I recognize the particular fear that antisemitic threats, harassment or intimidation can create for Jewish residents, especially when incidents occur near Jewish institutions, community facilities or public gatherings.

When demonstrations cross that line, the appropriate authorities must be able to respond in accordance with Canadian law. I would support cooperation between the City, Ottawa Police Service and community organizations to address public safety concerns while respecting everyone's legal rights.

I would also support reviewing how safety concerns are communicated and addressed when demonstrations affect access to municipal facilities or create specific risks for Jewish residents. Any response must distinguish lawful peaceful protest from threats, violence and other unlawful conduct.

At the same time, I believe we must encourage respectful dialogue, even when people have deeply different views. Our city should be a place where disagreements can be expressed peacefully without creating fear or hostility between communities.

As a Councillor, I would work to promote that balance between public safety, freedom of expression and mutual respect.

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.

Yes. I believe that listening and working together are essential to building a safe and inclusive city.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, hear directly about the concerns facing Jewish residents and maintain an open dialogue.

I recognize that antisemitism can take different forms, including harassment, threats, exclusion and discrimination based on a person's Jewish identity or perceived connection to Israel. Municipal institutions should be able to recognize these concerns and respond appropriately.

I would bring relevant concerns forward to the appropriate City departments and committees and support reviewing existing municipal policies, training and procedures

to identify where improvements may be needed to recognize, prevent and respond to antisemitism.

I would also support consulting Jewish community organizations when reviewing relevant municipal training and procedures, so that the experiences and concerns of Jewish residents are properly understood.

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

I believe strongly in dialogue, mutual respect and finding ways to bring people together, even when we disagree.

I do not believe that our first response to disagreements should be to boycott or exclude others. We should first make every effort to listen, understand different perspectives and seek peaceful solutions through open and respectful dialogue.

I recognize the Federation's concerns that international political disagreements can sometimes result in Jewish residents feeling excluded or targeted because of their identity or their real or perceived connection to Israel. I believe such discrimination has no place in Ottawa.

I want Ottawa to be an example of tolerance, understanding and respect for people of all backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. As a City Councillor, I would work to promote these values and help build bridges between communities rather than create further divisions.

I believe City Hall should lead by example, encouraging open dialogue while standing firmly against antisemitism, discrimination, intimidation and violence in all forms.

I also believe that criticism of government policies and peaceful political expression must be distinguished from discrimination against individuals or communities. Both public safety and fundamental freedoms deserve respect.

International political disputes are primarily matters for the federal government. My responsibility as a Councillor would be to represent all residents of Ward 18 fairly and help ensure that Ottawa remains a city where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected.



Marty Carr • INCUMBENT

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PUBLIC RECORD HIGHLIGHTS

Bubble bylaw vote (2026): [Voted in favour of the April 22, 2026 Council motion](#) approving the Safe Access to Social Infrastructure By-law.

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?

As the Vice-Chair of the Ottawa Police Service Board, I have been part of several actions to address antisemitism within the City and have previously met with JFO regarding their concerns. Following the Inspectorate of Policing's recently released Notice of Issue identifying actions for police services and boards to fortify their response to rising antisemitic and hate motivated incidents, the Board directed the Chief to submit a report through the Policy and Governance Committee on the Hate and Bias Crime Unit's mandate, capacity, operations, current service practices tied to the seven actions in the Notice of Issue, and future planned actions. In addition, the Executive Director was directed to review Board Policies LE-007 (Hate/Bias Motivated Crime) and LE-008 (Hate Propaganda) by the end of June 2027 under the guidance of the Policy and Governance Committee, and it was moved that consultations for the 2027 Strategic Plan must explicitly address hate-motivated crimes and antisemitism, incorporating perspectives from affected Jewish and local communities. If re-elected and nominated to the Police Service Board again, I will continue to work on this.

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?

I supported the Safe Access Bylaw, and elected officials will need to ensure there is adequate funding to support its enforcement. The City can also ensure that we have up to date reports on incidents on public property. Too often, there is not enough data sharing between OPS and the City to provide a true picture, however, we can request data from both organizations to ensure that we are aware of the scope and how this is being managed to inform future policy development as recognizing it is not enough.

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 will participate in sessions by JFO on antisemitism and continue to work with them in the context of my role (s).

City officials and elected officials can participate in sessions on antisemitism such as organized and amplify the message in their community through their communications. They also need to call out the occurrences as they occur.

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

The City of Ottawa has as its primary order of business the responsibility to deal with municipal affairs. We do, however, sometimes need to show support for events that are important internationally. There has on occasion been some discussion of international political campaigns, such as support for Ukraine, that I will support. In addition, city councillors attend events such as the Remembering October 7, and I will continue to support events such as these that support individuals in our community that have been impacted by international events.

The topic of BDS measures has not been brought to City Council nor do I anticipate it will be.



Derek McSweeney

Candidate for City Council • Ward 18 — Alta Vista

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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?

The City of Ottawa must take a firm stand against all antisemitic activity. We must properly fund our police to be able to properly investigate acts of antisemitism in our communities. We as politicians must call out and condemn all hate speech and acts of violence against the Jewish community.

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?

We must give the police the tools that they need to respond to and investigate hate crimes against Jews in their homes, businesses and places of worship. We must encourage provincial and federal governments to have laws in place that will properly punish those that engage hate. Public protest is a time honoured tradition in our democracy but when these demonstrations cross the line from free speech to hate speech people need to be arrested and charges need to be laid.

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.

Absolutely. I will always be willing to stand with the Jewish community and speak the truth. I will attend your community events and celebrations and promote them through the many communication tools at my disposal. I will meet regularly with the JFO and the local Rabbi in Alta Vista to make sure I'm kept aware of any issues affecting the Jewish community.

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

These movements such as BDS and other organizations that spread hate and lies about the Jewish people must be called out and discredited for their views. They are often paid for by anti Jewish organizations looking to spread lies about the Jewish people and their faith.



Muhyadin Omar Barkhat

Candidate for City Council • Ward 18 — Alta Vista

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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?

I believe Jewish residents should be able to live openly, worship freely, and participate in Ottawa's civic life without fear of antisemitism, harassment, or intimidation. The City has a responsibility to take hate seriously, support community safety, and make sure municipal services respond effectively when Jewish residents are targeted. I would support stronger training for City staff, better coordination with Ottawa Police and Jewish community organizations, and clear reporting and response procedures. At the

same time, we must protect lawful political expression. Criticism of a government or political ideology is different from targeting Jewish people because they are Jewish.

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?

People have the right to peaceful protest and political expression, but that right does not include violence, threats, intimidation, or criminal conduct. When an event on public property crosses that line, the City should work closely with Ottawa Police and other agencies to protect residents, businesses, emergency services, and people attending the event. Laws should be enforced consistently, regardless of the political cause or group involved. Ottawa Police already identifies maintaining public order, protecting public safety, and investigating offences as key responsibilities during demonstrations.

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.

Yes. I would work with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and other community organizations to strengthen the City's ability to recognize and respond to antisemitism. That means regular training for frontline City staff, libraries, recreation facilities and other civic institutions, clear procedures for reporting incidents, and better communication between the City, police and community organizations. Ottawa Police reported 113 incidents involving the Jewish community in 2024, so this is an issue that deserves serious attention. I want every resident to know that City services are available to them and that hate will be taken seriously.

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

Yes. I believe Ottawa municipal government should focus on municipal responsibilities—roads, transit, housing, public safety, recreation, infrastructure and services—not become a battleground for international political conflicts. I would oppose using City policy or procurement as a vehicle for political campaigns targeting a particular country or community. Municipal procurement should remain open, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory, based on City rules, value, legal requirements and legitimate municipal objectives. Ottawa's current procurement framework already emphasizes open, transparent and fair competition and equitable treatment of suppliers.

At the same time, residents have the right to express their political views peacefully. My role as councillor would be to make sure City Hall treats people fairly and keeps its focus on serving Ottawa residents.

My position is simple: Jewish residents deserve to feel safe and fully included in Ottawa, just like every other resident, and City Hall should fight hate while protecting lawful freedom of expression.

I will support and love Jewish community they are very nice people.



Elsa Niyongabo

Candidate for City Council • Ward 18 — Alta Vista

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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?

Every Jewish family in Ottawa should feel safe sending their children to school, attending synagogue, and living openly as who they are. Antisemitism has no place in our city. The City can lead by naming antisemitism clearly when it happens, supporting Ottawa Police in protecting schools, synagogues and community spaces, investing in anti-hate education and training for City staff, and making sure Jewish residents are represented on advisory committees and consulted on decisions that affect them.

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?

Peaceful protest is a protected right in Canada, but intimidation, hate, threats and the glorification of terrorism are not. When events on public property cross that line, the City must act: enforce existing bylaws consistently, work closely with Ottawa Police so that criminal behaviour is addressed quickly, protect access to places of worship, schools and community centres, and review event permits for groups that have previously promoted hate or violence. Residents must be able to rely on the City to keep public spaces safe for everyone.

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.

If elected, I will meet with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa early in my mandate to understand the community's priorities. I will support training for City staff and agencies on recognizing and responding to antisemitism, push for clear reporting and follow-up when incidents happen in City facilities or programs, and work to ensure Jewish voices are included in the City's anti-racism and community safety work. Throughout my career, I have seen that real progress comes from partnership, and I would welcome the Federation as a partner.

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

City Council's role is to deliver services and build a safe, inclusive city for all residents, not to take positions on international conflicts. The Council should focus on local priorities and on bringing Ottawa's diverse communities together.