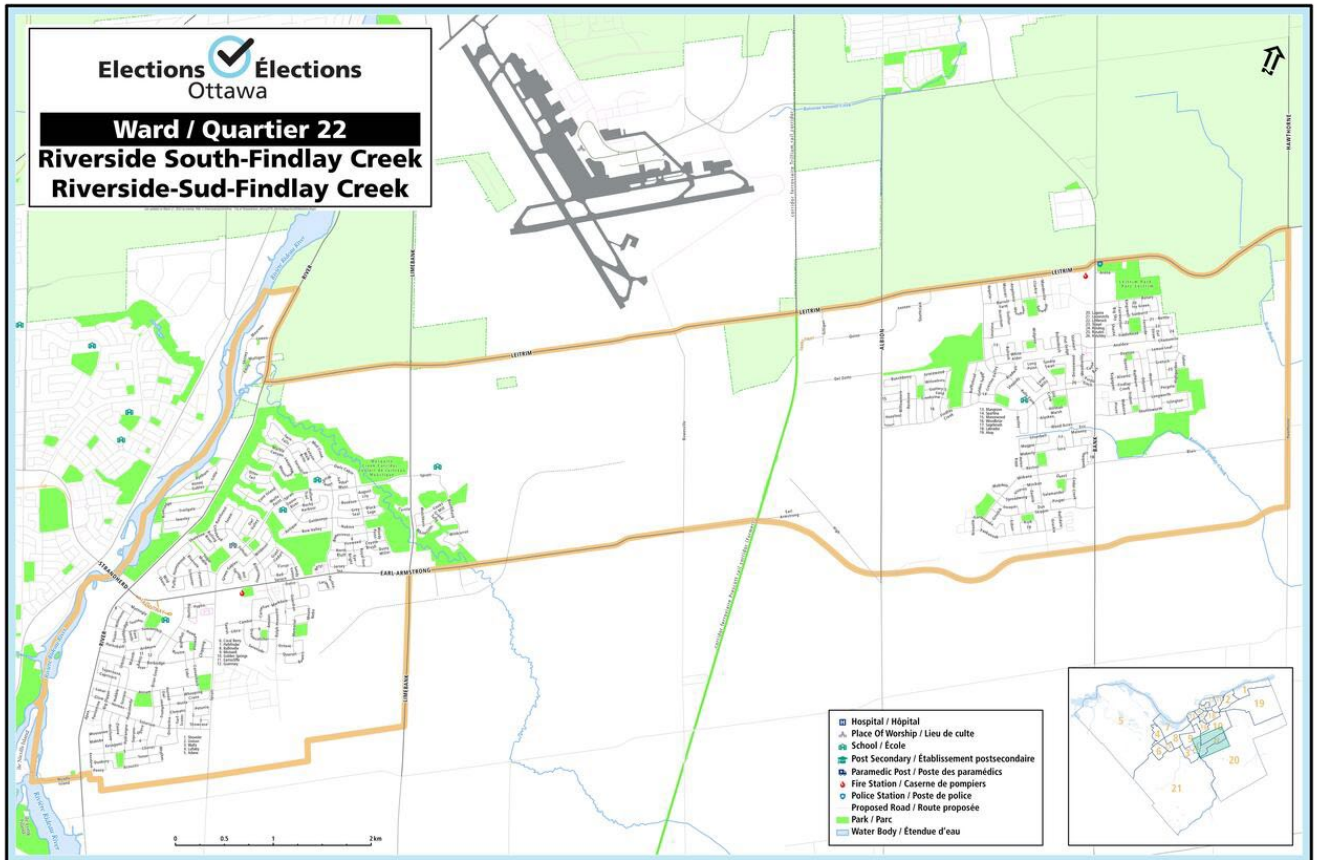


WARD 22

Riverside South-Findlay Creek



2 candidate(s)



Muyiwa Ojo

Candidate for City Council • Ward 22 — Riverside South-Findlay Creek

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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 has a responsibility to ensure that Jewish residents can live, worship, work and participate fully in civic life without fear of harassment, intimidation or violence.

As a councillor, I would support practical measures that strengthen community safety, improve reporting and response to hate incidents, and ensure municipal staff and agencies understand how antisemitism manifests in our community. I would also maintain direct dialogue with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and other community organizations so that concerns are heard and acted upon.

At the same time, Ottawa must protect lawful freedom of expression and peaceful political protest. Criticism of the government of Israel or Zionism is not automatically antisemitic. However, when political activity becomes hatred directed at Jewish people, intimidation, threats, violence or other unlawful conduct, it must be addressed.

Jewish residents should never have to choose between expressing their identity and feeling safe in their own city.

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?

The City should apply the law consistently, regardless of the political cause involved.

Peaceful protest and political expression are protected in Canada. But those protections do not extend to violence, credible threats, intimidation, criminal harassment, incitement to hatred or other criminal conduct. Canada's Criminal Code contains offences relating to the public incitement and wilful promotion of hatred, including specific provisions concerning antisemitism and certain terrorism-related symbols.

Where conduct crosses those lines, the City should work closely with Ottawa Police and other appropriate authorities, enforce applicable bylaws and conditions of public-space use, protect access to public and community facilities, and ensure that people who are targeted or threatened can safely access those spaces.

The standard should be consistent: peaceful disagreement is part of democracy; intimidation, violence and criminal conduct are not.

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 relevant community partners to strengthen municipal understanding and response to antisemitism.

The Federation already has established relationships with the Mayor, City Council, municipal staff and Ottawa Police Services, and has experience providing education and training on antisemitism.

I would support a practical approach that includes appropriate antisemitism-awareness training for relevant municipal staff and frontline personnel; clear procedures for reporting and escalating incidents; regular consultation with Jewish community representatives; and periodic reviews of whether existing policies and programs are working.

I would also encourage stronger coordination between municipal agencies, Ottawa Police and community organizations so that an incident does not fall through the cracks between institutions.

The goal should be straightforward: recognize antisemitism early, respond consistently, support those affected and build a civic culture where Jewish residents know they belong.

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

Municipal government should remain focused on the responsibilities that Ottawa residents elect councillors to address: public safety, housing, infrastructure, transportation, affordability, parks, recreation and essential services.

I would be cautious about importing international political conflicts into municipal decision-making where they do not fall within the City's responsibilities. Ottawa should not use municipal policy as a vehicle for taking sides in international disputes that are properly addressed at the federal or international level.

At the same time, municipal decisions should be based on consistent, lawful and non-discriminatory principles. I would oppose any municipal measure that discriminates against people because of their Jewish identity, nationality, religion or perceived political association.

Ottawa should be a city where residents can disagree strongly about international affairs while still treating one another with dignity and respect.



Steve Desroches • 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 anti-zionism so Jewish residents can live safely and openly in Ottawa?

The City, along with our federal and provincial partners, has a responsibility to ensure that every Ottawa resident can live, work, worship, and participate in community life without fear of intimidation, harassment, or violence. That means taking a firm stand against antisemitism, racism, hate and all forms of discrimination, while ensuring that public spaces remain welcoming and safe for everyone.

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?

Public spaces belong to everyone, and the right to peaceful expression must be balanced with the right of residents to feel safe. I supported the Ottawa Police Services Budget to hire more police officers and bring greater enforcement. This allows for demonstrations that cross the line and involve threats, violence and criminal activity to be appropriately addressed.

I also supported Ottawa's Safe Access By-law (the Bubble By-Law) because everyone should be able to practice their religion and access essential community services without fear of intimidation, harassment, or obstruction. Places of worship should be safe and welcoming spaces, and residents should be able to enter and leave them safely. At the same time, we can protect these rights while respecting the right to peaceful expression and protest.

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 support the City maintaining strong relationships with organizations representing Ottawa's diverse communities, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, to better understand the challenges residents are experiencing and ensure municipal services respond effectively.

This can include staff education and training, stronger relationships between community organizations and municipal agencies, improved reporting and referral processes, and regular dialogue with community leaders. These efforts should form part of a broader approach to combating hate and discrimination across Ottawa. Every resident should know that their concerns will be heard and that they have a place in the civic life of our city.

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

Ottawa's municipal government should remain focused on the issues that directly affect residents' everyday lives. That is what I have focused on throughout this campaign: delivering reliable municipal services, supporting affordable housing, investing in infrastructure and transportation, and building strong, connected neighbourhoods.