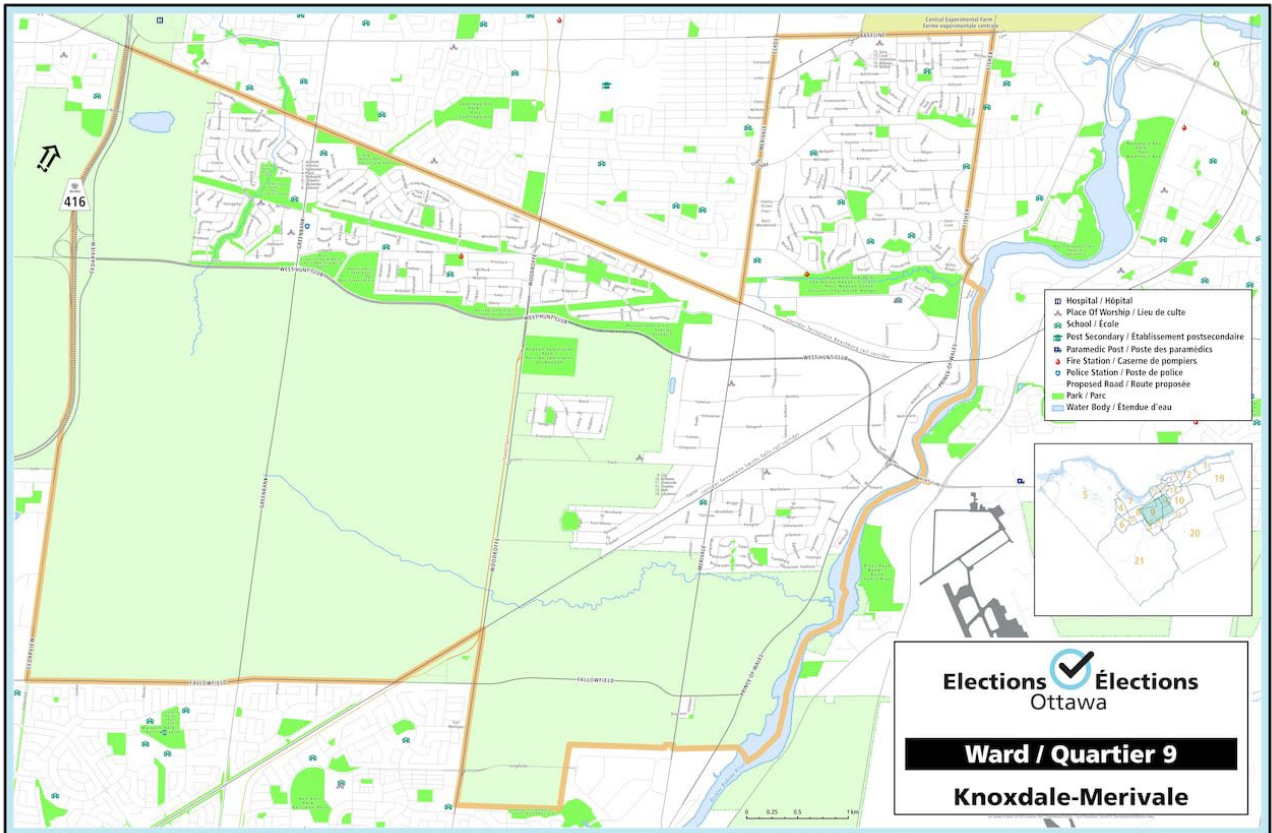


WARD 9

Knoxdale-Merivale



4 candidates



Cole Fraser Jones

Candidate for City Council • Ward 9 — Knoxdale-Merivale

Email: cole@colefraserjones.ca

Website: <https://colefraserjones.ca>

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 resident of Ottawa is entitled to live, worship, and send their children to school without fear. That is not a special protection. It is the basic obligation a city owes to everyone who lives in it, and when any community is targeted, the City has failed in that obligation. The City's role is practical; Council oversees policing through the Police Services Board, controls the use of City property and facilities, and sets by-law enforcement priorities. I will insist that existing laws are enforced consistently and without hesitation, regardless of who is doing the intimidating or who is being targeted. Criminality isn't defeated by statements from City Hall. It's defeated when people see that the law applies to everyone, every time, with the same jurisprudence.

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?*

Peaceful protest is a right, and it must be protected, but intimidation, threats, and support for terrorist organizations are not protest. They are offences under the Criminal Code, and the City should be treating them that way. Council should ensure the Ottawa Police Service has clear direction and adequate resources to enforce the law at demonstrations, and that permits and use of City property carry conditions that are actually enforced. The standard must be the same for every group and every cause. Selective enforcement erodes public trust faster than anything else.

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 work with any community organization that brings forward concerns about the safety of its members. The most effective approach is to ensure City staff, facility operators, and police feel empowered to respond appropriately and feel comfortable that the City will back them in the course of doing their duties. We must also ensure that criminal incidents are reported and tracked so Council can see whether the response is working. I would welcome the Federation's input on that work and would expect it to be measured and reported publicly.

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

Absolutely, emphatically, yes. City Council has no mandate in foreign policy, and international political campaigns have no place in municipal decision-making. Residents elect councillors to manage roads, water, policing, and taxes, not to take positions on overseas conflicts. I would oppose any motion, procurement policy, or use of City resources that brings an international dispute into City Hall, from any side. Importing those conflicts divides neighbours here at home and accomplishes nothing abroad.

Brandon Ly

Candidate for City Council • Ward 9 — Knoxdale-Merivale

Email: contact@brandonly.ca

Website: <https://brandonly.ca>

CANDIDACY SUSPENDED



Anna Ielo Tal

Candidate for City Council • Ward 9 — Knoxdale-Merivale

Email: anna4council@gmail.com

Website: <https://anna4council.ca/>

- 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?**

Antisemitism has no place in Ottawa. Jewish residents should be able to wear a Star of David, attend synagogue, send their children to school, operate a business or participate in civic life without fear, intimidation or harassment. The City has a responsibility to protect public safety, enforce its bylaws consistently, support Ottawa Police in responding to threats and hate-motivated incidents, and ensure municipal facilities and programs remain welcoming and safe.

We must also listen directly to Ottawa's Jewish community. When residents tell us they no longer feel safe, City Hall cannot dismiss or minimize those concerns. I will advocate for practical action, strong partnerships and consistent enforcement so Jewish residents know their city stands with them against antisemitism and hate.

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 support the BUBBLE LAW and every opportunity I get at the doors I tell people how the current councillor voted against this.

Peaceful protest is a democratic right. Threats, violence, intimidation and unlawful conduct are not.

When demonstrations cross that line, the City must work closely with Ottawa Police and other appropriate authorities and use the municipal tools available to it, including enforcement of bylaws and rules governing municipal property.

Public spaces belong to everyone. No resident should feel intimidated or unsafe using a street, park, library or other City facility because of their identity.

I support clear, consistent and viewpoint-neutral enforcement of the law. Public safety must come before politics.

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 will work directly with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and other community partners to ensure the City understands how antisemitism manifests and how it affects Jewish residents in their everyday lives.

That means improving education and awareness where appropriate, strengthening communication between community organizations, City staff, bylaw services and Ottawa Police, and establishing clear channels for raising emerging safety concerns.

Most importantly, consultation must lead to action. I want the Jewish community to have an ongoing relationship with City Hall, not simply be contacted after a serious incident has already occurred.

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

Yes.

Municipal government should focus on the responsibilities residents elect us to deliver: safe communities, roads, transit, infrastructure, housing, recreation and reliable municipal services.

I would oppose efforts to turn Ottawa City Council into a forum for international political campaigns, including BDS measures targeting Israel.

I am also concerned when political campaigns result in Jewish residents being excluded, singled out or treated differently because of their real or perceived connection to Israel or Zionism.

City Hall should bring residents together around the work of building a safe, inclusive and well-run Ottawa. There is no place for antisemitism, intimidation or discrimination in our city.



Sean Devine

• INCUMBENT

Candidate for City Council • Ward 9 — Knoxdale-Merivale

Email: seandevine2026@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.seandevine2026.ca/>

Current City profile: [Ottawa.ca](https://ottawa.ca)

PUBLIC RECORD HIGHLIGHTS

Antisemitism / Jewish community (2025): After a 2025 hate-motivated stabbing of a Jewish resident, [Devine said he had reached out to the Jewish Federation and the victim's synagogue](#) and expressed heartbreak over antisemitism.

Previous Federation survey (2022): [In the 2022 Jewish Federation questionnaire](#), Devine said he would publicly oppose hate crimes and wanted to be seen as a close ally and supporter of Ottawa's Jewish community.

Bubble bylaw vote (2026): [Voted against the April 22, 2026 Council motion](#) for 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?

While combatting anti-semitism is a massive challenge and one of the worst scourges of human history, I do believe that the City can play a role in "pushing back" against it. And while the City's impacts may only make a small dent against such a global concern, I'd rather be making that dent than being complacent against it. And with recent horrific event in Belleville and the rise of the Dominion Society of Canada, it's an increasingly dangerous time for Jewish communities in the face of many forms of hatred, including the extreme threat posed by organized white nationalists.

Last week New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani released that city's first-ever anti-semitism strategy. For a Muslim Mayor (and one that would likely be described by some as anti-zionist) to bring forward such a robust and well-invested program to combat anti-semitism was a strong example that this is a battle that all of us need to invest in, and that we all do what we can to prevent further escalations of anti-semitism.

To that, I look for the City of Ottawa to advance two forms of solution:

A) Increased protective / enforcement measures: This can take many forms:

- funding and resources made available to increase permanent security / surveillance measures at significant locations (i.e. synagogues, JCC, Holocaust memorial)
- police or security guards present at strategic locations during high holidays
- increased funding to the investigative wing of the City's and Ottawa Police's Hate Crime Unit
- ongoing advocacy for tough penalties for hate crime

B) Increased education / community engagement / relationship building: This is where I believe that progress can be made by bringing together disparate groups and letting them engage constructively with each other. Recently, as I was working on the initiative to address youth crime / violence in Craig Henry, I'd started meeting with Beit Tikvah to invite them into the Craig Henry / Manordale Community Safety Stakeholder Committee, where I am also hoping to engage local Muslim leaders. I had a great meeting with a woman named Dr. Aisha Sherazi who has collaborated with Rabbi Mendel Blum in a way that I found inspiring. You can read about their collaboration here: <https://www.ottawajewishbulletin.com/voices/rabbi-menachem-blum-and-dr-aisha-sherazi-fight-against-hatred-and-racism>

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?*

With the recent passing of the Safe Access to Social Infrastructure By-Law, eligible groups may apply for certain places to be designated "safe access zones", which would prohibit any forms of concerning behavior from taking place within a safe distance of those locations. As for any demonstrations or protests that were to take place in other public spaces, if and when the activity of those involved in those events crosses the line into illegal actions such as harassment, intimidation, threats, or any other such acts which are covered by the Criminal Code (as well as new federal hate legislation), then the City should insist that Ottawa Police Services have the direction they require to properly apply the laws that exist.

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'm open to all conversations this effect and welcome any attempt to advance strategies and measures that can readily be embraced by most peace-loving residents of the City of Ottawa. Without knowing more about what your specific objectives might be, I think the best answer that I can provide is to meet for a discussion.

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

While I'm not an expert on it at all, my understanding is that anti-semitism and anti-zionism are two distinct things, even though there are obviously elements where they overlap. Generally I prefer to not bring international politics into City Hall, but there have been numerous times when City Hall has taken positions on international matters. I don't know enough about the nature of this question to provide a substantive answer.