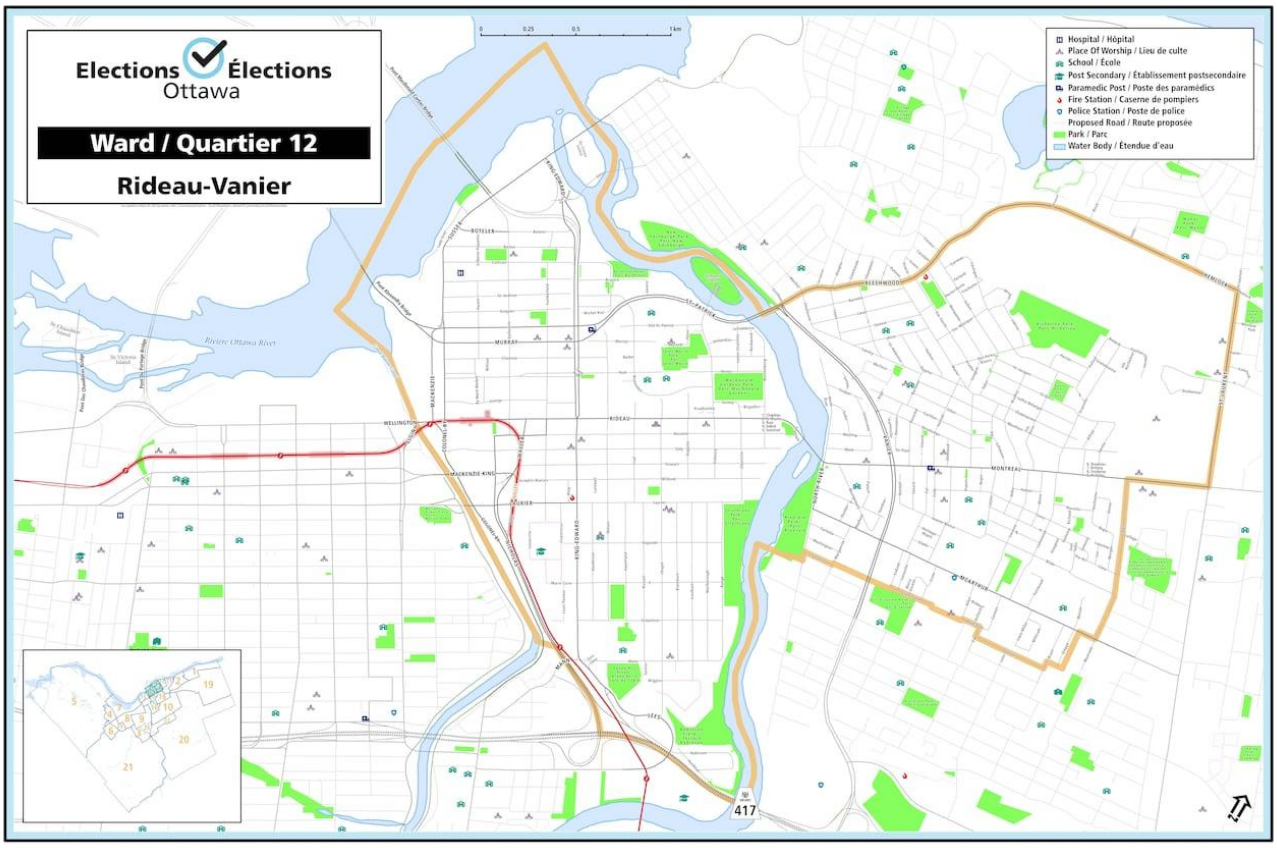
WARD 12
Rideau-Vanier



6 candidates



Lyra Evans

Candidate for City Council • Ward 12 — Rideau-Vanier
Email: lyra.evans.ott@gmail.com
Website: https://lyra2026.ca/en/

Did not reply to survey.

PUBLIC RECORD HIGHLIGHTS

In a 2022 survey from the Canadian BDS Coalition, Evans expressed support for characterizing Israel as an “apartheid state” and designating the school board an “apartheid-free zone,” which would seek to exclude connections to Israel. Evans also expressed opposition to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.



Stéphanie Plante • INCUMBENT

Candidate for City Council • Ward 12 — Rideau-Vanier
Email: steph@sp2026.ca
Website: https://stephanieplante.ca
Current City profile: Ottawa.ca

PUBLIC RECORD HIGHLIGHTS

Previous Federation survey (2022): In the 2022 Jewish Federation questionnaire, Plante said she would support including antisemitism in municipal anti-racism training, supported paid-duty officers for Jewish security needs, and said the Hate Crimes Unit should be included in OPS training priorities.
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?***

Jewish residents should be able to wear a kippah, attend synagogue, send their children to school and participate in public life without fear. The City has a responsibility to help make that possible through clear leadership, prevention and a coordinated response to threats.

I support practical measures developed with the Jewish community, including security assessments around community institutions, staff training, accessible reporting tools and better coordination between municipal services and police. Council must also speak clearly when antisemitism occurs, and I also think we need to do a better job as a city to tell the story of amazing jewish leaders like Lilian Frieman, Jacob Minsky, Lorry Greenberg etc.

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 must protect peaceful protest while responding firmly to intimidation, violence and threats. Celebrating the murder of civilians on October 7 is reprehensible, and municipal leaders should say so plainly on their platforms (traditional and social media, for ex).

I would push for clear protocols between City staff, bylaw services and police so that organizers understand their responsibilities and officials act promptly when public safety is threatened. This includes protecting access to community institutions, documenting incidents, enforcing applicable rules consistently and referring suspected criminal activity to police. Where warranted and legally available, the City should impose conditions on municipal bookings or terminate events that breach those conditions.

Police must make independent investigative and enforcement decisions. As a councillor, I will press for adequate resources, clear accountability and a coordinated response. Residents deserve to know that reports of threats will be taken seriously and followed up.

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 to develop practical training so municipal staff can recognize antisemitism, respond appropriately and support residents who report it. This should include clear reporting procedures, an identified municipal contact and regular meetings with the Federation to review concerns and ensure follow-through.

The City should also do a better job of celebrating Ottawa's Jewish community and its contributions. Commemorative naming, plaques and public education can help

residents discover the people who shaped our city and understand that Jewish history is part of Ottawa's history.

This term, I recognized Mary Papatsie and Herbert and Estelle Brown through commemorative naming. I would like to build on that work by helping tell the stories of Jewish community leaders such as Lillian Freiman, Lorry Greenberg and Jacob Mirsky, working with the Federation, families and local historians. Addressing antisemitism means responding to hate and ensuring Jewish residents see their history, leadership and contributions recognized in our public spaces.

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

Yes. I will oppose bringing BDS measures targeting Israel into municipal policy, procurement or City partnerships.

Council's responsibility is to deliver services, build a more affordable city and ensure residents can participate safely and equally in community life. I do not support using municipal institutions to advance international boycott campaigns that can deepen divisions here at home.

Jewish residents, businesses and community organizations must be able to participate in civic life without political litmus tests about Israel or Zionism. I will support fair, transparent municipal decisions and oppose attempts to exclude people because of their Jewish identity or their real or perceived connection to Israel.

Eric Smith

Candidate for City Council • Ward 12 — Rideau-Vanier
Email: Not provided
Website: Not provided

Did not reply to survey.



Brian Paquette

Candidate for City Council • Ward 12 — Rideau-Vanier
Email: the9thpaquette@gmail.com
Website: https://www.coach-brian.com/brianpaquette

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 a coach, community leader and candidate, I have always believed that everyone deserves to feel safe in their own neighbourhood and to be able to live openly without fear because of who they are.

I am both English and French, and I understand how important culture, language and identity are to people and families. Ottawa is a diverse city and that diversity should be protected.

There is a difference between legitimate criticism of any government, including the Israeli government, and targeting Jewish residents because of their faith, culture or connection to Israel. Antisemitism, threats and intimidation have no place in Ottawa.

The City needs to work with police, schools, community organizations and Jewish community leaders to identify hate, improve reporting and make sure threats are taken seriously. Jewish residents should never have to hide their identity or wonder whether their children are safe in our 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?***

Freedom of expression and peaceful protest are fundamental rights in Canada, and I will always respect those rights. But those rights do not give anyone permission to threaten people, intimidate communities, promote violence or create unsafe public spaces.

As a coach, I teach people that rights also come with responsibilities.

When demonstrations cross the line into violence, credible threats, criminal hate or other unlawful behaviour, the City and Ottawa Police need to respond consistently and according to Canadian law. The rules should apply equally regardless of the political cause involved.

Public spaces belong to everyone. Jewish families, residents, businesses and visitors should not have to avoid parts of their own city because they are afraid of being targeted.

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 strongly in working directly with communities rather than making decisions about them without listening to them.

I would be willing to meet regularly with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and other Jewish community organizations to hear directly about what residents are experiencing and where the City is falling short.

I would support practical education and training for appropriate City staff so they can better recognize antisemitism and understand how it can appear in different forms. I would also want clear communication between community organizations, City departments and Ottawa Police when there are legitimate safety concerns.

Being bilingual English/French has also taught me the importance of making civic institutions accessible and welcoming to people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Every community should know that City Hall is prepared to listen when they feel threatened or excluded.

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

Yes. My focus as a municipal councillor would be Ottawa.

City Council has enormous responsibilities already: public safety, housing, homelessness, addiction, roads, transit, infrastructure, recreation, small businesses and keeping taxes and City spending under control.

I do not believe Ottawa City Council should become a battleground for international political conflicts that are outside municipal jurisdiction.

People have every right to hold different opinions about Israel, Palestine or any international issue. But City Hall should not adopt policies that unfairly target or exclude Ottawa residents, organizations or businesses because of their Jewish identity or their real or perceived connection to Israel.

My job as a councillor would be to bring people together where possible, protect people's rights and safety, and concentrate on the issues Ottawa residents elected us to solve.

Michael Karl Sewanaku

Candidate for City Council • Ward 12 — Rideau-Vanier
Email: mikesforrideau@gmail.com
Website: https://mikesforrideau.com



Did not reply to survey.

Julie Fiala Chartrand

Candidate for City Council • Ward 12 — Rideau-Vanier
Email: juliefialachartrand@gmail.com
Website: https://www.juliefialachartrand.ca



Did not reply to survey.