

OCTOBER 24, 2022

# OTTAWA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ISSUES GUIDE

Highlighting  
the concerns  
of Ottawa's  
Jewish community

Prepared by  
the Jewish Federation of Ottawa



## ELECTION DAY

Oct. 24, 2022

Ottawans are going to the polls on **October 24, 2022** to choose our local representatives, including a new mayor, at least **11** new councillors, as well as school trustees.

Elections present an opportunity for our community to engage with the political sector and highlight our priorities.

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa, representing approximately 15,000 Jews in our nation's capital, is pleased to provide this document to highlight some of the issues of importance to our community. The information that follows is meant to help people engage meaningfully with candidates and includes questions you can pose to those seeking public office.



## HATE CRIMES

Jews are the most targeted minority group for hate crimes in Canada, with a 700% rise in violent incidents from 2020 – 2021, with many more cases unreported. **While Jews represent approximately only 1% of Canada's population, 62% of all hate crimes against a religious group were perpetrated against Jewish people** revealing how disproportionately the community is targeted.

Sadly, this is not unique to Canada. Jewish houses of worship, schools, childcare facilities, and community centres have been vandalized or attacked around the globe, often with deadly consequences. **In Ottawa, security personnel guard the doors during Jewish holidays and lifecycle events. Worshippers and celebrants learn to plan toward which exit they will run, or where they will hide, if an attacker enters the sanctuary.** Ensuring safety in the face of hatred is not a responsibility that should be borne by communities alone. It requires support from our government.



## QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

**What do you believe the city can and should be doing to push back against antisemitism?**

**Through consultation with the Jewish community, how will you ensure that a specific focus and education on antisemitism is included (along with other forms of hatred and oppression) in all resources and training, as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?**

**Will you continue to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, including use of municipal facilities (as last year's lighting up of City Hall)? Will you promote use of libraries for Holocaust education displays?**





**Ottawa police have been an incredible support to the Jewish community. Will you support the use of paid police protection for synagogues and other Jewish institutions, especially at holidays?**

**Will you support enhanced training and resources to improve the capacity of Ottawa police, to identify and respond to antisemitism, to address the unique features of hate-motivated crime and extremism?**

**Would you recommend increased training and continued funding for the hate crimes unit?**

**The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Would you consider doing so as well?**

**Groups that promote hate and terrorism should not be given municipal space to promote themselves. Last year, a group named Samidoun, with well-documented links to terror and hate groups was allowed to hold events in Ottawa, including on municipal property.**

**Will you enact a policy that bars access to organizations linked to terror or hate groups from municipally owned or managed properties, or from being granted event/protest permits?**

## **SOCIAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Tamir is a non-profit dedicated to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and autism, and a major, long-time contributor to Ottawa's social services. Plans for upgraded facilities, to expand services, housing, and to serve more people, stalled due to COVID.**

**Will you actively engage all levels of government to renew funding for Tamir's upgraded facilities?**

**Will you support municipal funding for these critically necessary facilities through the Rapid Housing Initiative?  
Will you support permits for new construction of these facilities on the Soloway JCC campus in Bay Ward?**

**Poverty in the Jewish community has been on the rise in Ontario for decades. One of the most concerning trends is food insecurity amongst Jewish seniors in Ontario who are unable to access affordable kosher food.**

**How will you support city ethnocultural meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for the most vulnerable?**



## **QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES**

## ISRAEL

The previous city administration sponsored and supported a program that included the raising of the Israeli flag at City Hall for 24 hours to help celebrate Israel's Independence Day.

This has always been very significant for the Jewish community.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

Will your administration continue with this important community tradition?

