

City of Guelph Ward 4 Candidates*

*Responses from additional Ward 4 candidates were not received, including: Mike Salisbury, Gary Walton, Greg Roffey, Mark Briestensky, Scott Tracey, Greg Schirk, Christine Billings



Rob Dunn-Dufault



Laurie Garbutt

SECTION 1: AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

1. What measures would you support and promote to ensure that individuals and families living in poverty have a safe and affordable place to live?

I believe a safe home for all people is a right not a privilege. Our 3 levels of government need to ensure the protection and effective implementation of this right. We also need to eliminate the root causes of poverty and homelessness.

I would like to work with the Poverty Elimination Taskforce to support all efforts in providing increased low income housing. I have publicly stated that I want the Baker Street Rejuvenation project to include housing of support agencies, rather than displacing the many organizations that currently assist our neediest citizens.

2. Do you agree to make annual contributions to an affordable housing reserve fund and strategically partner with key stakeholders to utilize the fund as needed?

<p>Yes. I would be willing to give a significant portion of my councillor earnings to help eliminate poverty and homelessness. The decision on providing city funds should be posed to the people of Guelph.</p>	<p>Yes. I like this idea. I wish to research more and meet with those dedicated to this strategy.</p>
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3. Would you support waiving development charges and other municipal fees for affordable housing geared towards low-income renters?

<p>Yes. Though I am more in favour of incentivizing developers to include low income units in their development plans. I believe in an integrated society.</p>	<p>Yes. This is an excellent idea. I'm not entirely sure that this would encourage development, however. This needs to be a motion on the floor and a commitment to addressing the need for more affordable housing opportunities.</p>
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SECTION 2: INCOME INEQUALITY

1. What role can the municipality play in reducing income inequality and income insecurity?

<p>Provide spaces for forums on social change. Help engage citizens in awareness of issues to generate more grassroots solutions. We need to solve the causes of poverty in our society.</p>	<p>As a candidate who endorses the 'We Are Guelph 2014' platform, I will advocate for living wages, and decent working conditions. I believe the municipality would play lobbying role, seeking greater assistance from the provincial and federal governments.</p>
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2. Would you support and promote a living wage for the City of Guelph (paying all municipal staff a living wage and promoting the living wage among employers)?

<p>Yes. I am surprised to hear that municipal staff is not being paid a living wage. I am not sure what pull council would have with other employers since we have no control over this. The best the city could do would be to help attract the kind of employers who care about their staff quality of life.</p>	<p>Yes. I believe Guelph strives to provide a living wage for City of Guelph staff. We need to work with all of our businesses to ensure that living wages are provided. I have strongly opposed large American companies that refuse to provide a living wage, while gathering the greatest profits in North America.</p>
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SECTION 3: FOOD INSECURITY

1. What municipal food related policies and programs would you support to ensure that people living on low-income have access to healthy and affordable food?	
We should be growing more nutritious food in the city.	I recently answered these questions on the Food and Farming survey. I support their initiatives and I am researching the Guelph-Wellington Food Round Table and Sustain Ontario so that I can discern the ways in which I can support these outstanding initiatives.
2. Would you commit financial and resource support for improved coordination of emergency food delivery by supporting the Seed Community Food Hub?	
Yes. I think this is an excellent effort that deserves help from the city.	Yes. I would be disappointed in any councillor who would not support such an initiative. We need to care for our own.
3. Would you support additional funding for local food-based initiatives that increase access to healthy food for those that cannot afford it?	
Yes. Good quality local food is as good as food gets. Education was key to my getting out of poverty, and good health is critical to a prepared mind.	Yes.
SECTION 4: HEALTH INEQUITIES	
1. What programs and policies would you support to increase health and well-being among low-income communities?	
Our city has many great locations to help people stay healthy, but many are unable to take advantage of it.	Guelph Wellbeing initiatives and recommendations outlined on the 'We Are Guelph 2014' platform.
2. Do you support the use of municipal funds to ensure that individuals and families living at or below the living wage would have access to subsidies for recreation and cultural events?	
Yes. These would be limited to city controlled assets and services.	Absolutely! A key component of my platform is to make recreational activities more accessible to ALL of our citizens, regardless of income. I feel municipally funded facilities should not be charging entry fees that limit the accessibility. It is also very degrading to ask any citizen to provide proof of the need for subsidy. I have first hand understanding of this obstacle, as I cannot always afford to take my son and his friends for an hour long swim, despite making a comfortable income. If companies such as Tim Horton's sees the need to subsidize swimming and skating, then we are failing our community. I will delve into ways of addressing recreational

obstacles. I have also heard from the electorate that we need to provide more accessible playing fields and arenas to support tournaments that would bring added revenue to the city. Currently, it is cost prohibitive. Thank you for the opportunity to address these issues that are key to my platform.