

City of Guelph Ward 6 Candidates*

*Responses from additional Ward 6 candidates were not received, including: Todd J. Dennis and Glen Tolhurst



Keith Poore



Karl Wettstein



Mark MacKinnon

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 would support an annual contribution from the budget to an affordable housing reserve, promote a living wage, advocate to federal and provincial government on issue such as food, income and housing, and support the implementation of a 10 year housing and homelessness plan.

Our Community Well Being Initiative, Our Grants programs, Our Affordable Housing Reserve, Lobby other levels of Government

We need to ensure Guelph is on board with co-operating with all levels of government and paying our share of affordable housing initiatives, and provide incentives to developers for low-income housing.

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? Please

explain.		
Yes.	Yes. Essentially covered in answer to question #1	No. There are many reserve fund initiatives that need to be understood and explored before I can give a qualified answer regarding this. Guelph must work with all government levels to provide funds towards housing issues, but I am not as of yet fully cognisant of how we can best fit our role.

3. Would you support waiving development charges and other municipal fees for affordable housing geared towards low-income renters? Please explain.

Yes. We need to make development of affordable housing affordable to developers as well.	This is not a yes no issue. There are circumstance where elements of this can be considered.	Yes. Whether it's reducing/waiving development charges or providing some sort of grant structure, I believe Guelph must encourage the development of affordable rental housing.
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SECTION 2: INCOME INEQUALITY

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

Adopt an internal living wage policy within the municipality, Champion and promote the living wage among local employers, Offer recreation, cultural and transportation subsidies for individuals with income at or below the living wage, Support the development of affordable housing for low-	Again the Well Being Initiative is key. We also have a variety of subsidized services designed to help such as our sports fees and transit rates. Our bus pass program is an extension of this. However, Income inequality and insecurity are primarily the jurisdiction of the Provincial and Federal Governments	We should work with business sector to help connect employers to employees to help combat poverty. We should also further reduce the costs of the affordable bus pass to expand its appeal even further and help more families.
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income renters, Advocate to federal and provincial governments on issues related to income, housing, food insecurity and health,	where meaningful impact can really occur.	
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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)? Please explain.

Yes.	Our salary and benefit package is well above the many living wage formulae that people throw around. As to other employers that is absolutely a Provincial or Federal issue.	Yes. Full-time city positions should provide living wages within the confines of the collective bargaining agreement. Contracted private companies may be encouraged but not required to do so as well.
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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?

Support improved coordination of emergency food system, Provide financial and resource support to local innovative food programs and initiatives, Invest in local transportation solutions and offer fee subsidies for transportation, recreation and access to cultural events, Advocate for change on federal and provincial policies related to income, housing and homelessness, health and food insecurity, Take a leadership position by naming poverty as an issue, keeping it on the		Guelph should promote and assist, where possible, food-based organisations like the food banks and Farm-to-Fork initiatives. We can reduce or eliminate fees associated with the use the city's spaces for charitable/non-profit events.
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public agenda, and developing public/private partnerships, Convene stakeholders – develop ongoing relationships that build capacity, Engage people with lived experience of poverty in decision-making		
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2. Would you commit financial and resource support for improved coordination of emergency food delivery by supporting the Seed Community Food Hub? Please explain.

Yes. Provided that the city can afford such a fund, I think this should be high in priority.	Here again is where our Community Well Being Initiative comes into play. It focuses on the collaboration of a wide range of community groups.	I do not have sufficient information to make an informed response regarding this question, but I do support the idea of the city contributing to food security in meaningful ways.
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3. Would you support additional funding for local food-based initiatives that increase access to healthy food for those that cannot afford it?

Yes.		Yes. Of course, healthy food is the ideal but in emergency situations the mere availability of food takes priority.
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SECTION 4: HEALTH INEQUITIES

1. What programs and policies would you support to increase health and well-being among low-income communities?

Provide additional recreational opportunities in targeted neighbourhoods, Advocate to federal and provincial governments on issues related to income, housing, food insecurity and health, Provide information and data to help	Community Well Being Initiative, Grants, etc.	Guelph needs to make the affordable bus pass even more affordable. Additionally, we need to provide greater rec discounts under the FAIR programme. We can also improve transit as a whole, helping all residents better access work
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stimulate new thinking and ideas for eliminating poverty		and play spaces.
<p>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? Please explain.</p>		
Yes.	Yes. We do this now.	Yes. The FAIR programme is great but the city can expand discounts for some rec programmes even further. Also, we should work with local non-profits/charities to reduce user fees associated with public spaces to help foster community events.