

# Councillor Candidates in Mapleton

**Marlene Ottens**  
**Ward 3**

## Section 1 – Affordable Housing & Homelessness

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

I would support affordable housing for all ages and life stages. I'm concerned that much is made of affordable housing for seniors, with more and more starter housing and rental units being "seniors only" or "55+" or variations thereof. Young singles, families, and middle-aged people need affordable housing too, and not everyone can or wants to buy.

**2. Do you support increasing the annual budget contribution for the affordable housing reserve fund and strategically partnering with key stakeholders to utilize the fund as needed?**

I would need more information first as to where those funds go and how they are used. If it's all being used in Guelph, then Mapleton taxpayers don't need to be contributing to an increase.

**3. Do you support waiving development charges and other municipal fees for affordable housing geared toward low-income renters?**

As mentioned above, there seems to be a dearth of affordable renting units in general, esp. accessible ones.

## Section 2 – Income Inequality

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

Minimum wage is set by the province. My concern about increasing it is that goods and services will also increase in price as business owners have to find the funds to pay it, reducing the effect. Not sure how to end that cycle.

**2. Will you support and promote a living wage within your town/township (paying all municipal staff a living wage and promoting the living wage among employers)?**

Not that I don't support it, but our municipality already pays its staff a good wage. I don't think it's the role of municipal council to tell business owners how much to pay their employees.

**3. Will you commit to providing financial and resource support for rural transportation for low-income residents?**

I would be in favour of some sort of transportation service to doctor appointments and the grocery store, if the budget allows.

## Section 3 – Food Insecurity

**1. What municipal food related policies and programs would you support to ensure that low-income individuals and families have access to healthy and affordable food?**

We have good grocery stores stocked with all kinds of fresh produce, meat and other groceries, with great sales every week on different things, as long as people can get to them, access to healthy food is not an issue. We also have a food bank in Mapleton.

**2. Do you support the use of municipal funds to assist local food based initiatives that promote access to healthy and affordable food for people living on a fixed or limited income?**

I would need more information. As mentioned, we already have grocery stores, fully stocked. There seems to be the notion that "healthy" food is only available at farmers markets or organic stands.

## **Section 4 – Health Inequities**

### **1. What programs and policies would you support and advocate for in order to increase health and well-being among low-income communities?**

Access to subsidized dental care and prescription medications would help, but there are already programs for that.

### **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?**

I do think the cost of some activities keeps kids from participating, but many organizations already have built-in subsidies for low income registrants. Plus, there are many free recreational activities at churches, libraries and schools.