

VOTE COMPASS Questions.

A short-written response for each question is also possible

Your response

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

Neutral

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

1. Hamilton has a responsibility to combat climate change, even if it leads to higher costs for residents.

Strongly agree

Polarizing questions on any subject are a disservice to the community and undermine constructive dialogue. Failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change will increase costs to residents in the long run. I support the recent creation of a funded Climate Change Office and investment in both climate change adaptation and mitigation which will reduce future impact, anticipate the opportunities of 'green' jobs and the 'green' economy, and build a more comfortable and climate-resilient future.

2. Hamilton should try to keep property taxes low, even if it means fewer services for residents.

Somewhat Disagree

We must spend our tax dollars wisely and efficiently so that residents get the services they require (first responders, libraries, community programming, etc.) from a reasonable level of taxation. Keeping taxes as low as possible and providing meaningful services are not mutually exclusive.

3. Police should remove homeless encampments from Hamilton's public parks.

Somewhat Disagree

Forced removal of encampments is not a permanent solution. The city and the broader community need to work together to address the causes of houselessness. We have both a housing crisis and a public health crisis. Agencies that support residents in precarious housing and those with addictions and mental health issues must be well funded in order to address the core issues, and be enabled to develop and implement durable, responsive solutions.

4. In general, Hamilton's city workers are paid too much.

Neutral

A meaningful, supportable response is not possible without comparative data. The City is a party to its collective agreements with unionized employees, and all the associated terms and conditions of employment were negotiated by the parties.

5. How much should City Council do to address systemic racism in Hamilton?

Strongly agree

Achieving and inspiring cultural change and creating an inclusive community begins with leadership from city council. The city should avail itself of the expertise of existing community partners such as HARRC (Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource and HCCI (Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion) in informing the way forward to address racism.

6. Hamilton should keep historic street names and statues, even if they commemorate people who would be considered racist by today's standards.

Somewhat Disagree

Hamilton needs to be an inclusive city, attuned to the diverse communities that live here. Complete and genuine knowledge of our history and traditions is more than street names and statues. It is possible to retain our history and educate ourselves about historical figures without streets or institutions named after individuals, or statues in public places. The community needs to have a say in these matters.

7. City councillors should be fined for missing council meetings.

Somewhat Disagree

Councillors should be expected to attend meetings. On occasion, there may be a legitimate reason for an absence. Public attendance records would create transparency, and will hold councillors accountable.

8. Hamilton should allow high-density residences (e.g., condominiums, town houses) in neighbourhoods that are currently made up of single-family homes.

Neutral

The bulk of new housing will be built where zoning for it already exists: along the LRT corridor. High-density residences should not be built in low-density neighbourhoods. To address the housing crisis, Council recently adopted gentle-density alternatives without resorting to highrise construction: low- and middle-density options such as townhouses, duplexes or

triplexes. Any such conversion would be required to conform to the city's official plan and to the community's secondary plan.

9. There should be a limit on how tall buildings can be in Hamilton's downtown core.

Somewhat Agree

The limit should be determined by the needs of and in consultation with the community, the impact on the residents and infrastructure, and the overall costs and benefits of the development.

10. Hamilton's speed limit should be lowered to 30 km/h on residential streets.

Somewhat Agree

The increase in pedestrian, cyclist, and driver injuries and fatalities have made it clear that excessive speed and careless driving are serious problems throughout the city. Posted speed limits must be supported by appropriate and thoughtful traffic-calming mechanisms in order to ease traffic and create safe neighbourhoods. Approaches should be the product of area traffic audits, enabling responsive, tailored solutions based on data.

11. Hamilton should allow a casino as part of the downtown entertainment district.

Neutral

Such a far-reaching and consequential decision is dependent on a wide range of factors requiring significant further research and community input.

12. Property values in any given neighbourhood should never be allowed to rise so much that current residents can no longer afford to live there.

Neutral

Property values are a product of the market, and are beyond the scope of municipal government. As it relates to the question of affordability, municipal government can require the inclusion of affordable housing and family-friendly choices in housing development proposals.

13. Hamilton should build more bike lanes, even if it results in fewer lanes for cars.

Strongly agree

According to research by the Bay Area Climate Change Council, 60% of the city's population describe themselves as 'interested but concerned' cyclists who will not cycle within the current infrastructure. Additional bike lanes enable increased cycling, and alleviate vehicular traffic for all road users, and can be an important feature of a broader strategy to facilitate

travel within the city, including improved public transit. Within such an approach, fewer lanes may be necessary for cars.

14. There should be a limit as to how much landlords can increase the rent they charge tenants.

Strongly agree

There is a housing crisis, and affordability and supply are the key drivers. Ensuring that everyone in Hamilton has a home must be a priority for the next council. As illustrated in other Ontario municipalities, regulating rent increases can be an effective tool. Other tools to help keep rents affordable include the new Vacant Home Tax, the Landlord Licensing pilot project currently running in wards 1, 8 and 14, and licensing requirements for short-term rentals like Air BnBs.

15. Hamilton should have more traffic enforcement officers, even if this means an increase to the city's policing budget.

Neutral

Traffic enforcement is an important factor in creating safer streets and complements effective road design. Determining whether additional officers would be an effective use of tax dollars requires the input of the city's police services.

16. Hamilton should increase funding for its DARTS accessible transit service.

Neutral

DARTS is an important service in our community. Funding decisions must be made through a careful review of users' experiences with the service, an examination of community needs, and an assessment of the impact of additional spending as compared with other options.

17. How much should Hamilton spend on its police services?

No change

Funding decisions require a review of relevant data, an examination of community needs, and an assessment of the impact of additional spending. In its absence, a meaningful response to the question is not possible. Chief Frank Bergen has said that many calls to police relate to mental health matters, and I support the Rapid Intervention Support Team (RIST) established in April to divert non-crisis mental health, addiction and homelessness calls, and alleviate the demand on policing resources.

18. Hamilton should seek approval from local Indigenous groups before proceeding with its plan to clean up the sewage spill in Chedoke Creek

Strongly agree

Indigenous groups are stakeholders in this process, and need to be consulted.

19. New housing developments in Hamilton should stay within current urban boundaries, even if it means more people live in condos and townhouses rather than single-family homes.

Strongly agree

The question presupposes that a firm boundary preordains inadequate single-family choices. That is not its effect. Hamilton has an abundance of single-family homes. The city's housing strategy must be comprehensive, and responsive to the needs of residents of all stages of life and budgets, and of the growing population. Condos and townhomes are an important addition to the housing stock, can provide more affordable homes and lifestyle options and create vibrant, healthy, walkable communities

20. Traffic congestion is best addressed by improving public transit rather than accommodating more cars on city roads.

Strongly agree

After knocking on more than 4,000 doors, I know that traffic volume is a top concern in ward 12. Drivers benefit and traffic congestion is eased through a comprehensive public transit system, and well-planned cycling infrastructure

21. There should be a dedicated bus lane along Main Street while the LRT is being built, even if it means there is only one lane for cars.

Neutral

Such a determination requires an examination of all pertinent factors, including the impact on cars, buses, cyclists, and pedestrians along this route, the anticipated change in traffic and user-behaviour (e.g., diversion of traffic to other routes), and its impacts on local businesses.

22. Hamilton should install more automated speed enforcement cameras in residential neighbourhoods.

Neutral

All traffic-calming mechanisms must be reviewed and compared to determine the most cost-effective and responsive option in order to achieve the desired outcome. There are many traffic-calming options in use across the city, including speed-humps, painted surfaces, medians, road width, on-street parking, etc.

23. There should be more homeless shelters all across Hamilton, even if local residents don't want them in their neighbourhood.

Somewhat Agree

Irrespective of the particular issue, any councillor can expect that there may be residents who are resistant to a proposed change that they believe affects their neighbourhood. Councillors must listen to and engage with them in order to address their concerns and find broadly acceptable solutions.

24. Private contractors are more efficient than city workers at delivering municipal services.

Neutral

Municipal services are provided in a range of settings and sectors. An informed assessment of the accuracy of such a statement must be situationally specific and evidence-based.

25. Hamilton's crime prevention strategy should focus on improving social services rather than increased policing.

Strongly agree

The city must ensure that police are able to fulfill their mandate and that police services receive the required funding to do so. Effective, purposeful social services can complement and support the city's crime prevention strategy and the efforts of its police services

26. There should be employment opportunities within the City of Hamilton that prioritize people from minority groups.

Somewhat Agree

The city's resources are optimized and the delivery of municipal services is enhanced when its staffing seeks and reflects the breadth and depth of skill and talent represented across our community.

27. Hamilton should cover the cost of programs for low-income residents, even if doing so comes at the expense of the city's other residents.

Strongly agree

It is divisive to frame a question that effectively positions one group of residents as being in competition with another. Responsible budgetary decisions benefit more than those to whom a particular expenditure appears to be directed. As all social programs are paid for with tax dollars, the question that must be answered is which programs are most effective at assisting low-income residents and helping them become self-sufficient? Such programs will provide a net benefit to the City

28. Construction of the Hamilton light-rail transit (LRT) line should go ahead as planned.

Strongly agree

The LRT (B-line) is an important first step in creating the BLAST network and establishing comprehensive public transit across the city, including terminus points in the Ancaster Business Park and the Meadowlands. The B-line, running from University Plaza to Eastgate Square, will also accelerate densification along its route, increasing tax revenues to the benefit of all residents.

29. New condo developments in Hamilton should have to reserve a certain number of units for low-income tenants, even if doing so increases condo fees for the other tenants.

Strongly agree

The question presupposes that increased condominium fees are the only solution to create affordable housing. Increasing the supply of affordable units needs to be a priority for council, and examining the various options to realize this goal is an important next step.

30. The City of Hamilton should clear snow from all city sidewalks, even if it costs residents more in property taxes.

Somewhat Agree

All budgetary decisions require exhaustive analysis, and must be considered in their entirety. A safe and accessible city for every resident must always be a priority.