

Donna Puddu Ward 6 905-516-2241
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Candidate Survey for City Councillor or Mayor
Local 5167

Date: September 3, 2022
Name: Donna Puddu
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Seeking Ward/Mayor election: Ward 6 Candidate

Municipal Party: Independent
or Independent
Union Affiliation (if any): Local, I am not affiliated with a Union

Do you give permission for the CUPE Local 5167 to contact your Union leadership?

If yes, name of Union president and phone number:

Personal or Professional Experience:

1. Have you worked in or with a unionized environment?
No I have not, my husband however was a member of Liuna Local 837
2. If you were to pick 3 words to describe the labour movement generally, what would they be:
Protection, Safety, Security
3. What area of Hamilton do you live in?
Hamilton Mountain Ward 6, and have for 30 years
4. What are your favourite places to spend time in Hamilton?
Walking trails, and Albion Falls
5. Have you worked in a municipal environment?
No
6. Do you have experience working with policy and legislation?
Yes
7. Do you have experience in reviewing and approving budgets on an organizational level?
Yes

8. What motivates you to seek election?

I have worked and volunteered to make a difference; I want to make a difference at city hall. We need change, we need council to work together, we need accountability and transparency, that is why I am stepping up. Hamilton is an amazing city with wonderful people, we need our council to work for Hamilton as a whole city, for everyone.

Hamilton:

9. What changes do you hope to implement as new City Councillor or New Term? Term Limits, Housing affordability, Accountability, Transparency, Value for our tax dollars, fix our roads and infrastructure.

10. What do you think the critical issues are facing the City of Hamilton? Infrastructure, housing affordability, Value for our tax dollars

11. Do you think there needs to be any changes to taxes?

Hamiltonian's pay some of the highest residential property taxes in the country. We need greater efficiency, increase dwelling density, encourage commercial growth in the city, and grow the tax base.

If YES, under what circumstances and why and what rate?

If NO, why?

12. Do you have any ideas on new revenue streams for the City of Hamilton and what are they?

Greater regular direct financial support from the Federal Government

13. What part of Hamilton do you think requires the most attention and why?

Our downtown needs a great deal of attention, we should all be able to enjoy a vibrant downtown with dwellings, theatres, shops, restaurants. It is the heart of our City which at one time was where people wanted to be and needs to be again.

14. What part of Hamilton do you think requires the least amount of attention and why?

It would be difficult to pick one area, Hamilton has many areas that need attention but for different reasons, of course it is important to priorities depending on urgency.

15. Do you plan on addressing the City's aging infrastructure? Do you support keeping this work in house with the Public Works' Department?

Our public works department should be addressing the infrastructure needs, the only reason to go outside our own department is for work that they are not able to perform. Our infrastructure has been ignored, or put off for so long, we are now in a serious situation. City staff recently advised council they can no longer put off some of these projects, but they voted again not to deal with it.

16. Do you support the LRT?

Yes I do, and I support continued investments in the BLAST network. I support progress and growth for our city



17. How would you support a vibrant economy with consideration to the environment? Economic growth is not necessarily at odds with the environment, there are opportunities to lead in new environmental technologies. I would like to see Hamilton at the forefront to support and promote green innovations.

18. What opportunities do you identify for “green jobs” in the region?
Support the City of Hamilton's Clean and Green strategy Continue to support AMD's goal to lower their carbon footprint, Support the bay area climate change goals, and support climate change initiatives.

19. What assessment and accountability measures will you implement to ensure that council's policies produce measurable outcomes?
Seek feedback from partners and organizations working for and with the city, communication and dialogue will promote better efficiency and relationships. Analyze goals with projected outcomes, transparency and accountability.

20. What is your position on the 2030 Commonwealth Games for a Hamilton bid?
I would support the games only if this will improve our infrastructure and affordable housing.

Hamilton Workers:

21. Do you believe in a living wage for all, including students?
Yes, there are many students that are independent from their parents, they can't live on the current rate.

22. Do you support contracting out or privatizing public services?
No

If YES, under what circumstances and why?

If NO, why?

We need to be able to control spending, budgeting, we would not have control over a private company spending

23. Would you support contracting in work? For example, cleaning or waste/recycle being brought back in house.

Yes, as long as it would be more efficient and cost effective

24. Would you support curbing the growth of auxiliary employment amongst municipal employees, and the conversion of auxiliary work to full-time regular positions?
Yes

25. How would you describe the labour relations climate with city workers and their unions?
I hope the culture is congenial, being outside this setting I am not able to offer my opinion.



26. How would you help to ensure that city workers are able to do their jobs with the resources they need, and to continue to provide the services upon which we all rely? we need to ensure there is regular opportunity for communication, to continue to support the goals and needs of the city workers

27. How do you see yourself supporting the members of CUPE Local 5167 as workers and residents?

Resident Engagement & Social Justice:

28. How would you address poverty in Hamilton?
implementing a living wage, supporting affordable housing initiatives, I look forward to working to eradicate poverty

29. How would you address homelessness and the balance of resident concerns?
I will work to continue with Hamilton's goal to eliminate homelessness, we need a balance approach, there is a right way and a wrong way. We need to work with residence to create the goals we want to achieve.

30. What ideas do you have for affordable housing in Hamilton?
I will work to create a partnership with other levels of government to increase the amount of affordable housing units. Bring back rental property registration, ensure current and future development addresses the needs and desires of the community.

31. What forms of inequity do you identify as problems in Hamilton and how would you address them?
More communication is needed to gain a complete understanding and implement necessary measures. Hamilton has been called out as the Hate capital, we have seen bias based on race, gender identity, and religion. The only way to address this is through communication, education, and implementing non tolerance policies

.32. What steps do you plan, if any, to take to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report calls to actions/justice within the various departments of the city?
Address the direct calls to action. Continue to implement the city of Hamilton's Urban indigenous strategy, connecting with indigenous groups with open discussion.

33. How will you consult with and build capacity within equity seeking groups in the community and organization?

Communication is key to building trust; I will be there to listen.

34. How do you plan to involve residents in decision making processes in Hamilton?
I will offer more platforms for residents to communicate, I will actively engage the community through town halls, and meetups. Councillors work for the constituents, I believe in communication and transparency, I will have an open door, and open communication policy.