

Candidate Questionnaire

2026 Municipal Election • Working People. Strong Communities.

Your voice. Our community. Stronger together.

Thank you for running to serve the people of Sarnia. The Sarnia & District Labour Council represents thousands of working people across our community. Your responses will help our Executive Committee review candidates and make endorsement recommendations to our members and affiliates. Please answer each question in the space provided; feel free to attach additional pages if you need more room.

Please return your completed questionnaire within 2 weeks of receiving it to Candace Young at candace.d.parsons@gmail.com, or by mail to 1086 Modeland Rd, Suite 249, Sarnia, ON N7S 6L2. This form is fillable — you may type your answers directly, save, and email it back.

ID CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION

Candidate name:	Andrew Stokley
Office sought:	City Council
Ward (if any):	N/A
Email:	andrewjstokley@gmail.com
Phone:	226-402-2892
Past elected office:	Elected to the Sarnia Committee of Adjustments
Date:	
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

I love this city too much to just sit on the sidelines when we need fresh energy, smart spending, collaborative team effort and coordination with city staff," a new way of thinking at the council table." I'm ready to put my experience in business, leadership, and governance to work for you. I want to strengthen our community so the next generation of families can thrive right here at home.

A LABOUR & DECENT WORK

1. Do you support keeping municipal services public and in-house rather than contracting them out or entering public-private partnerships? Identify any services you would protect or consider contracting out, and explain your reasoning.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

I would only consider contracting out work if the job required highly specialized, short term expertise that does not justify permanent full time municipal staffing and for temporary capacity surges such as seasonal repairs or short term specialized equipment needs where long term capital investment would be inefficient for taxpayers.

2. How will you ensure municipal jobs — and jobs funded by the municipality — remain stable, fairly paid, and unionized? Include your position on temporary/contract labour and subcontracting.

I would ensure that the city is utilizing the under-threshold set aside in all trade agreements which only kicks in once a project crosses a certain financial value. For smaller, lower-dollar municipal contracts, Sarnia's purchasing department is legally allowed to explicitly restrict bidding to local businesses. For minor park maintenance, local repairs, or small-scale supply purchases, Sarnia could enact a "Buy Local" or "Social Procurement" protocol specifically targeting local operators and workers.

3. Will you support Community Benefits Agreements, fair-wage schedules, and local-hiring requirements on major municipal infrastructure and construction projects?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

Sarnia maintains a fair wage schedule on construction projects as is and I will continue to support it. By forcing all out of town contractors to pay the local union equivalent wage rate, the City eliminates the "cheap labour" advantage that out-of-town companies try to bring with them. This naturally incentivizes those companies to hire local tradespeople, paying transportation, house, and feed out of town crews at the same high wage rate makes

4. Do you support a living-wage policy covering all municipal workers, contractors, and subcontractors, tied to the City's procurement policies?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

Yes, I fully support a living wage policy covering all municipal workers, contractors, and subcontractors. Integrating these standards into the City's procurement policies ensures fair compensation, reduces economic disparity, and guarantees that public funds actively foster equitable, sustainable livelihoods across our entire local workforce.

5. Sarnia's economy depends on turnaround and maintenance work in Chemical Valley. How will you use municipal levers (procurement, permitting, training partnerships with local contractors) to prioritize local, unionized skilled-trades labour?

Instead of mandating "Sarnia-only" workers, the City can establish a Community Benefits Policy. This is a legally compliant framework used on major projects across Canada (and required for federally funded infrastructure projects over \$10 million)

Sarnia staff would require bidders to propose a "Community Employment Benefit" plan as part of their Request

6. Will you commit to meeting regularly with the Sarnia & District Labour Council and its affiliates, and to consulting workers before decisions that affect them, if elected?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

Yes, I believe that being a part of and engaged with the union and the core issues that affect them help you gain the knowledge to support them in the best possible way.

7. Lambton County's By-Name List identifies roughly 390 people experiencing homelessness in Sarnia-Lambton, including about 190 who are chronically homeless. What concrete actions will you take on homelessness and supportive housing?

I would advocate three key actions.

Expand supportive housing capacity by advocating directly with the County of Lambton Housing Services and non-profit housing providers to accelerate high supportive housing projects. This includes securing dedicated provincial/federal funding for rent geared to income units integrated with onsite mental health, addiction, and

8. A County report warned that prematurely closing the Out of the Cold overflow shelter could more than double the unsheltered population. Do you support maintaining overflow and low-barrier shelter options while permanent supportive housing is built?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

Yes. I fully support maintaining the Out of the Cold overflow shelter and low barrier shelter options in Sarnia while permanent supportive housing is brought forward. Closing these vital capacity safety nets prematurely before long term housing units are built would immediately strain community services and displace hundreds of vulnerable individuals onto local streets. Emergency beds provide a critical bridge to keep people safe, warm,

9. Will you support zoning and parking reforms that make supportive and affordable housing easier to approve — rather than changes that stall projects like Indwell's proposed 353 George Street development in Mitton Village?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

Yes. I support zoning and parking reforms that streamline supportive housing approvals, provided that municipal planning principles remain grounded in complete community engagement and neighbourhood integration.

However, residents deserve proactive, upfront information regarding exact project parameters, intended tenant

10. With more than 900 households on the social-housing waitlist and demand for roughly 2,500 additional affordable units, how will you increase the supply of affordable and non-market housing?

After living in other cities in Ontario we need to look at our current zoning bylaws to incorporate stacked townhouses or multi-residential units on single family dwelling lots, making housing more affordable. This will allow more available rental units with fair and reasonable rates. Increasing rental units will decrease the prices until they reach an equilibrium of affordability.

11. Do you support a humane, housing-focused Encampment Response Protocol that connects people to services and housing rather than relying primarily on displacement or policing?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Undecided

Please explain:

I believe that if we effectively execute strong social housing policies, our community should never reach a point where encampments are necessary. When encampments do form, they present significant public health and safety hazards for both the surrounding neighbourhood and the individuals living within them. However, effectively addressing them requires balancing firm municipal standards with practical, lawful solutions. We must utilize existing legal frameworks and municipal bylaws, such as Sarnia's Encampment Response Protocol to keep

12. Major industrial investment (such as the proposed Northern Shield Energy Corridor pipeline) may add capacity while creating relatively few permanent jobs. How will you ensure new industrial investment translates into good, lasting local jobs?

When addressing major industrial investments that bring massive temporary construction booms but low ongoing operational headcount, the focus must shift from direct long term operational headcount to indirect, multiplier, and community-level economic retainment. I think due to what we have resource wise we need to look at new channels of industry. Cross-Border Logistics, Warehousing & Trade Services, Advanced Agri-Food & Bio-Agtech and Low-Carbon Energy & Clean Tech. There are lots of companies in this space that would be willing to open

13. The closure of INEOS Styrolution affects local workers. What role should the City play in supporting displaced workers and ensuring a fair transition and retraining?

When losing an extremely important industry for our city we should establish or support an immediate local workforce transition committee. This will ensure local post-secondary institutions (like Lambton College) and local building trades/unions have direct lines to affected employees to cross skill them into growing industries. Council serves as the unified voice lobbying senior levels of government for targeted retraining dollars, extended EI benefits where applicable, and regional economic diversification grants.

14. How will you attract and retain diversified jobs, commerce, and investment beyond petrochemicals — for example downtown, the port and waterfront, clean technology, and small business?

While oil and gas remain important, Sarnia cannot rely on a single industry. The city needs to actively recruit small businesses, utilize its border, tourism and logistics advantage, modernize its bidding process (using Community Benefits Agreements and local procurement tools) so that municipal spending prioritizes local workers, suppliers, and contractors over out-of-town companies.

15. Will you support apprenticeships, Red Seal skilled-trades training, and youth and local hiring through municipal projects and procurement — and if so, how?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Please explain:

Update procurement and tendering policies to include social value criteria. When evaluating major municipal construction bids, points can be awarded to contractors who maintain active apprenticeship programs and demonstrate a commitment to training Red Seal tradespeople. Include voluntary or incentivized local hiring targets in large scale infrastructure tenders to ensure projects directly employ qualified local residents,

16. How will you support revitalization of downtown Sarnia and Mitton Village and strengthen local small businesses?

Understanding we have the Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) for marketing and drawing large business to Sarnia Lambton region. A task force is needed, smaller in scale, for Sarnia specifically. Independent entrepreneurs are being left out of the big picture. This taskforce would create and compile a list of available leases and properties to investigate what landlords are willing to offer prospective new business tenants. The taskforce could reach out to other cities Chamber of Commerce and visit other successful businesses to see

17. Aamjiwnaang First Nation and nearby Sarnia neighbourhoods face benzene and cumulative air-pollution exposure. What actions within municipal jurisdiction will you take to protect residents' health?

Establish a formal, standing municipal–band council joint committee with Aamjiwnaang First Nation leadership. Enforce municipal nuisance and noise/odour bylaws rigorously on industrial properties where local jurisdiction applies. Collaborate with Lambton Public Health to track localized respiratory and cardiovascular health outcomes across impacted neighborhoods. Align the city's emergency response plans directly with Aamjiwnaang's Emergency Response Plan to coordinate swift action during severe spike events.

18. Will you advocate to provincial and federal governments for cumulative-effects air-pollution assessment and stronger monitoring and enforcement in Chemical Valley?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Undecided

Please explain:

More in-depth research is required on my part.

19. What specific actions will you take to implement and accelerate Sarnia's climate and emissions-reduction plans?

I would have to look more closely at what our council could do, implement or enforce.

20. How will you protect and expand access to affordable public transit and safe active transportation?

We have done a good job expanding the bike paths and lanes. We have worked with nuSarnia to look at where we could improve. We could look at a plan to help off-peak and weekend service frequency to serve shift workers, care trips, and non-traditional commutes. Redesign high risk intersections using protection, daylighting (removing parking near corners to improve visibility), curb extensions, and leading pedestrian intervals (LPIs) at signals and install micro mobility infrastructure when all roadway resurfacing or reconstruction projects moving

E GOVERNANCE, SERVICES & RECONCILIATION

21. Which public services (water and wastewater, waste, transit, libraries, recreation, emergency services) do you believe must always remain publicly delivered, and how will you strengthen them?

The water and wastewater, transit, libraries and emergency service should always be publicly delivered. We can do that by securing long term asset management funding for pipe and sewer replacement, invest in modernizing equipment, and ensure competitive wages for frontline emergency workers to maintain retention and fast response times. Transition municipal fleets toward zero emission or hybrid vehicles, adjust route frequency based on modern ridership patterns, and integrate micro-transit (on-demand shuttles) for lower density

22. How will you advance meaningful reconciliation with Aamjiwnaang First Nation and the broader Indigenous community at the municipal level?

We have and will continue to have a good relationship with our local indigenous communities. Just like any relationship you can always look at ways to improve. We have built a strong relationship with our local Indigenous communities, but every partnership offers room to grow. I am committed to reviewing UNDRIP recommendations and implementing viable committee proposals. To ensure continuous communication and shared goals, I propose establishing a formal, standing joint committee between our municipal council and

23. How will you ensure transparency, accessibility, and meaningful public engagement in municipal decision-making — and how will residents know whether you are delivering on your commitments?

I am committed to maintaining active, accessible community outreach. Citizens can reliably reach me through email, social media, and text. Additionally, I plan to introduce educational initiatives or updates either bi-annually or quarterly that will be sent to media outlets to publish on what has been accomplished and what is on going. It will show how the council decisions made are impacting our community.

24. What is one decision you would make that may be unpopular in the short term but necessary for the long-term well-being of working people in Sarnia?

Based on my business acumen, education and real-life experience one key decision that is often unpopular in the short term, yet essential for the long term well being of Sarnia's working families is strategically taking on municipal debt to fund major capital investments, rather than adhering to a strict, low debt austerity model.

While "taking on debt" is often viewed negatively in local politics, avoiding debt at all costs frequently leads to

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I appreciate the thoroughness of this survey and that it covers not only union specific matters but also those that affect their lives and families. I plan to hard for every citizen. I do hope I have earned your confidence, endorsement and VOTE come October 26th!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and for your commitment to building a stronger community for working people in Sarnia.