

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:	Anne Marie Gillis
Office sought:	Sarnia City Councillor
Ward (if any):	
Email:	Gillis4sarnia@gmail.com
Phone:	
Past elected office:	Sarnia City Councillor
Date:	
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

I have decided to seek another term of office to finish up the projects that I have started in this term . They are important to the city's overall health and well being , cover a wide scope and need to be completed . They will bring economic opportunities to our city that as we continue to be threatened as a country. We live in a beautiful place and we should be celebrating , not trying to continue to tear down . I like to work with people to find solutions , because when we work together We Can Do Anything. So I ask you 4 your vote .

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:

Yes , with one exception. Waste Management is currently being provided by Marcotte Disposal . They became our provider of choice during my first term as a Sarnia City Councillor.
Also Water Treatment is arms length but is still a municipal service , under the LAWWS partnership of municipalities.

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.

We are a city that has a FAIR WAGE Policy that was just recently approved by my Council in May. The Policy includes contractors and subcontractors. It is comprehensive and I am proud that Sarnia has renewed this policy.

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:

Yes of course. However ,I have found recently that it is hard to find contractors who are willing to bid on smaller contracts . The Bright's Grove Community Project was awarded to a contractor who has done a lot of work in Sarnia and Lambton County, due to this issue .

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. Refer to #2

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?

I know how difficult it is to find qualified people to work on Smaller projects during turnaround Projects . We have 2 major plants that have been preparing for their maintenance turnarounds for 2027. The fair wage policy sets the standards with this in mind . Unions in our city also have an historic agreement when it comes to the cost of projects, to keep costs done for investors. That is a great incentive. What is proving to be problematic is the lack of qualified tradespeople when investors come calling . Together we need to develop a new strategy!

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 am anticipating with the Federal government engaging in Nation Building Projects , we will see more activity in the Valley and beyond . Everyone needs to be on board , just like when the Heavy Haul Corridor was built . We can do great things when we work together . I was a member of council when that agreement came into being and we need to re-introduce that strategy to create another success story

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?

As a city /county councillor from 2006-2018, I supported the building of the first homeless shelter in Lambton County, The Lodge on Confederation St.Sarnia . As Deputy Warden of Lambton County I was part of the team that built the first Maxwell Park Place ,Supportive Housing Geare to income for Senior Woman on fixed incomes. This term I supported the new apt complex on Kathleen St. I walk the talk .BUT I am adamant when I say that affected neighbourhoods must always have there say and be active participants in order to achieve success.

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:

I support Out of the Cold Shelters , that are well maintained by the County that have minimum disruption to the neighbourhood. Many shelters have been set up in Churches with the blessing of the congregation . Trouble occurs when they are not maintained , the neighbours are given deadlines that are not achievable and trust is eroded . The county must regain the trust by being honest and upfront. The city must be a part of that process.

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:

BY-Law are being updated currently . I have introduced a motion seeking clear definitions for what is supportive , affordable , low barrier , etc. housing , so that the neighbourhood knows what to expect. I am currently working with city staff to have a better BY-Law that will make the applications better understood so that everyone can be on board . We know that here is a need , we have agreed with past projects when we all work together

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?

Refer to answer #10

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:

ABSOLUTELY. !

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?

This is exciting news , and everyone that will be impacted by a renaissance in the Valley . By ensuring that City processes for approval are not cumbersome,ensuring that no party that has a stake in the project is excluded, and the high standards of safety are not violated,Sarnia will be open for business,The role of the Mayor and councillors is to demonstrate that they can co-operate in their decision making to build confidence in the community and the country, can provide skilled trades,and the right environment to set up shop, and grow.

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?

The reasons for plant closures must be open and Transparent . When companies change ownership, regulations of the Country must be followed. Safety of workers and neighbours will not be compromised. The Lambton County Community Health Study of which I chaired and the province paid for, identified BENZENE as a threat to human health. Benzene was INEOS feedstock. INEOs chose to close the plant rather than fix the problem. The City needs to lean on the Province to help the workers that have been displaced.

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?

I have voted to support Cargill , one of the largest employers on the waterfront . The waterfront master plan is approved and has money allocated to keep that waterfront attractive. I have met with the Downtown merchants and advised their advocate group of where and how to improve and attract new businesses and maintain older ones.I voted in favour of their grant .I believe that Christina from George St. to Wellington St.should be closed every weekend in the summer,to allow for a pedestrian mall, patios, and stores that can be open on Sunday.

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:

Yes , the city currently hires students for the summer. I would like to see more apprenticeship programs especially Red Seal training with the city, certainly with the larger building projects .The Sarnia Police Services has created new programs with Lambton College to assist in solving crimes . That program has been very effective and is an important introduction to the function of the Legal System and how it all works.

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

Yes refer to #14

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?

Refer to #13

In addition the city needs to continue to press the Provincial Government to implement changes , as a result of the findings of Lambton Community Health Study. It cannot be allowed to sit on a shelf at Queen's Park.

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:

Yes . Refer to #13

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

The city has been taking action especially during my recent term and prior terms.

The fleet of cars for the city are Hybrid . We are switching the fleet of buses to electric as well as reducing the size of the busses. Solar panels are on all bus terminals for better energy use and for safety and we are finally implementing the Green Bin Garbage Initiative in 2027.

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

City transit will stay affordable , and I doubt it will ever turn a profit because I recognize the need of mobility for everyone , including the most vulnerable . Council just passed a motion to ensure there is bus service for those who are in need of a ride for whatever reason after hours which I supported. It is a work in progress, as a result of Sarnia Accessibility Committee and Brian White bringing it forward.

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?

All of them with the exception of waste, as previously stated. By reviewing the constantly changing services and keeping them relevant ,new libraries ,new equipment for emergency services ,refreshing parks and public spaces so that they will always be used and maintained . We must practice good Asset management and planning in order to not bankrupting the community when they need replacing. Adapt to the growing needs of the community by delivering services that suit the aging demographic.

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

I am a council member of UNDRIP . I am a founding member of this amazing committee of Council, and we are educating our citizens about Aamjiwnaang First Nation and the broader Indigenous community ,the place,the people ,the history and the culture which is one of the principles of UNDRIP. We have created controversy by commissioning a Mural in the entrance of city hall , a welcoming mural that speaks to the history of 3 nation, and no doubt will continue to do so. We know that Reconciliation will take time , but we will continue to find the way.

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 will continue to be open with my constituent , solving problem , embracing new ideas and championing others . I have been doing this over the past 26 years with results and if Sarnia wants me to continue this work they will re-elect me as a Sarnia City Councillor.

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?

I have made many. The one that stands out for me is standing by the HWNT. Not compromising with the City Council of the day who wanted the stretch of Michigan Ave. to Exmouth St. to become a road .I stayed with it and look at the results . A Compromise that benefits the whole city.



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I believe in working together to find a solution . I believe that good communications is the road to success .

I know that the person who speaks over you or criticizes you for your position is a waste of my time and I will not let them distract me from doing the job I was elected to do! Thank you so much for all that hard work that you do.

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