

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:	Brian White
Office sought:	City/County Councillor
Ward (if any):	
Email:	brianfilm@gmail.com
Phone:	519 464 2585
Past elected office:	City/County Council
Date:	
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

To bring continuity, mentorship and calm leadership during challenging times. I am looking to continue to invest in community assets and infrastructure that will attract investment, including all housing types. I will continue to advocate for accessibility and equality in all facets of municipal oversight.

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 don't believe any in-house positions are currently at risk. However, ongoing consideration of 24 hour transit has lead to the possiblity of outsourcing overnight service. I will defend the rights of union workers to take on those jobs, to maintain a higher level of skill and accountabilitiy for this important public service.

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.

Protecting the future of these jobs requires courageous investment in our own community and a belief that it will increase financial partnerships and levy contributions. I strongly believe that investing in our community attracts stable and smart residential growth, along with investment in commercial and industrial work. When our levy is trending up, people look at what else we can invest in, not take away. When needed, temporary contract and subcontract workers should have the same protection and pay scale as the unionized permanent 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:

I would ensure continuity with the city's fair wage policy, regularly analyzing it for opportunities to improve or strengthen it. CBAs are a particular interest to me at present. I am currently researching and beginning the process of working towards mentorship programs. This would apply to all, however, there are some significant funding opportunities to partner with Indigenous entities for such programs. It is my belief that by using the many

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:

We have to lead by example, not degrade labour standards and pay. Providing opportunities for folks to be able to spend back into the community benefits all who participate in the economy. The only way to accomplish that is by ensuring that they have livable wages, at minimum.

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?

Municipal levers are limited in this capacity, given the nature of private industry and significant limitations on jurisdiction. However, when possible we should use our procurement opportunities to support fair wages. Along with partnerships, we can also explore mentorship and workforce development while providing fair wages and decent working conditions. Bearing in mind that procurement is subject to trade law. Permitting can also be streamlined, without risking safety and environmental concerns.

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:

Where legally possible I would be more than willing to sit down and meet on a regular basis. Particularly challenging, though, is that when decisions are made, the political influence has to be separated from ongoing negotiations or discussions about those specific projects.

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 the political champion working directly with Indwell, I will continue to approve projects at both levels of government that support Indwell and other supportive housing opportunities. I will continue to champion annual investments in the county's housing reserve. I will move to ensure the community safety and well being plan is funded. Finally I will support mentorship programs that offer meaningful opportunity to bring folks from all levels of poverty, opportunities to develop meaningful skills.

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 have consistently voted and will continue to support ongoing emergency steps to keep people off of the streets. Importantly, though, I will continue to support efforts to minimize impacts on neighbourhoods where perceptions of instability as a result of temporary shelters have caused reputational and real harm. This image of instability affects our ability to move swiftly towards permanent solutions, and unnecessarily harms those who are most

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:

I am in the middle of this battle and will continue to be here to fight every step of the way. It's also important to understand that reducing parking minimums, reducing zoning restrictions and pre-approving minimalist plans for affordable and accessory units will have a greater impact on all housing types. This will help address needs from supportive housing all the way up to the missing middle.

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?

Without trying to repeat myself - pre-approved plans, reduced parking minimums, easing zoning restrictions for smaller and accessory units and ongoing funding of the housing reserve. My intention is to ask County Council to elect me as Warden. In that role I intend to tirelessly advocate and seek opportunities with the Federal and Provincial Governments to close the gap on what has been inequitable funding for Sarnia and Lambton County as compared to other Municipalities. I would also seek to increase rent supports for existing tenants at risk.

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:

My motion to enact an encampment protocol addressed that. The encampment at Rainbow Park was slowly disassembled as folks were individually connected to the appropriate services and housing opportunities. That will continue to be my focus and I will seek humane improvements, where possible. It was rushed to address a crisis, but will serve as an opportunity to improve.

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?

Where possible I will ensure that Federal and Provincial partners are at the table with Sarnia-Lambton for ongoing investment. Peripheral jobs will be critical in ensuring ongoing stable opportunities. I will support continued investment in Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, healthy partnerships with Lambton College, workforce development groups, unions, and Indigenous communities to ensure we are forecasting the needs and preparing our workforce to be ready to meet those needs. Attracting the opportunities requires investment in

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?

In this case, I believe it would be through the County. I believe while guiding Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership historically, we have missed the opportunity to focus on skill development. I believe through SLEP we can create stronger partnerships with appropriate stake holders to develop and fund retraining programs that include mentorship opportunities through the many skills offered through both upper and lower tier municipalities.

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 will keep this as simple as possible. Our image needs improvement. With the correct leadership and decorum, investments in our community will rise above any ill perceptions of who our community is. We have many groups and organizations doing incredible work on this already. We need to continue to invest at the municipal level in modern amenities and infrastructure that attract young and skilled workers. We need to create the environment for those doing the work or looking to invest to be as successful as possible.

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:

I believe my other responses have addressed this.

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

I will continue to support the Mitton Village Community Development Committee and the city's partnership with the Downtown Business Collective. I will continue to work with the businesses in these economic corridors to provide CIP (community improvement plan) funding. I will find ways to streamline special events, outdoor sales and attractions. As well, creating a walkable, attractive and safe corridor between Mitton Village, Downtown and the Waterfront will add tremendous value to the investment opportunities.

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?

Existing provincial oversight leaves municipalities with limited options. Critically, though, the municipality can lend a strong voice of support in times of urgency, so our partners in Aamjiwnaang aren't left alone in seeking resolution to serious matters. We can also ensure permitting is done swiftly, so long as strict criteria are met. We can also continue to monitor best practices along with industry and the Emergency Response Coordinators throughout the County to be ready to act as swiftly as possible when unsettling events occur.

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:

We've seen countless times throughout the years that safe limits fail to recognize the multiplier of external emissions and chemical mixes. We've got to clearly identify areas of weakness in the monitoring and highlight the very real human health impacts that have been ignored or minimized. Economic prosperity doesn't have to come at the cost of human lives. The protection and safety of workers and residents should be the priority.

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

As the one who championed Sarnia's Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy, I will continue to look for ways in which policies can reflect the priorities of this strategy. Currently of interest I will seek to move towards public disclosure of measurable targets through regular reporting and consistent identification within procurement and planning reports as to how these considerations have been included.

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

I am currently awaiting a report on my motion to generate 24 hour public transportation opportunities. This will provide residents safe, accessible and affordable options to expand employment opportunities as well as engage in other healthy elements of life such as social and healthcare appointments. The Active Transportation Network needs annualized funding to be protected amidst critical budget pressure. I commit to protecting that funding.

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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?

Currently waste is privately delivered through municipal contracts. So far through local partnerships that has kept well paying jobs local, while achieving budget efficiencies. All other services are and must remain publicly delivered. Services like EMS, which are provincially funded, maintain strong local management and the ability to demonstrate efficient delivery, while meeting critical response times. I will continue to support the County's collaborative administration of EMS. This will protect provincial funding while ensuring the health and well being

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

I will continue to serve on the UNDRIP committee. I will continue to champion the recommendations approved by City Council to be recommended by the committee in an implementation strategy. I will continue to participate in important community and cultural events and celebrations, as I am able. I will seek learning and sharing opportunities on an on-going basis.

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 proposing a monthly "Committee of the Whole." No motions will be passed. Council, as the committee, however will receive regular updates on capital investments, forecasts of budgetary needs and funding opportunities. This will provide a regular, less formal venue for council to participate in factual discussions, monitor progress and learn at a much deeper level how the budget is being spent. As a public meeting, this ensures residents have greater opportunity to learn and understand how decisions are made, track progress and

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 would see a long term commitment of public transit being funded for 24 hours. As this concept is designed, I would put significant consideration on connectivity between central commercial, healthcare, residential and industrial areas. While a full service fleet may not be reasonable during off-peak hours, a standard should be developed that incorporates on-demand services alongside regular hub or zone route connectivity. Ensuring a minimum time period of stable funding will allow residents to incorporate this connectivity into their current and

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The next four years is critical for the advancement and renewal of Sarnia's image. As a partner in Lambton County our collective strength will provide the best economic and social opportunities for growth, development and overall well being of the residents. With key investments in infrastructure and housing of all types, we will be able to open the doors for new opportunities to grow our employment base while continuing to support our current economic drivers. Relationships are critical. I am committed to rebuilding fractured partnerships.

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