

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:	Christopher Pettit
Office sought:	Sarnia City Council
Ward (if any):	
Email:	chrispettit@outlook.com
Phone:	519-312-6011
Past elected office:	NA
Date:	Aug 18 2026

In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:

I'm running because I believe Sarnia can do better. We have tremendous assets, a strong industrial history, skilled workers and a great location, but we aren't taking full advantage of them. I want to focus on growing our tax base, attracting investment and creating opportunities for local workers and businesses. I also want residents to feel safe by working with police and community partners to address mental health, addiction, homelessness and affordable housing, while ensuring financial transparency and accountability

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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 support keeping core municipal services public and in-house, particularly services where safety, accountability and specialized knowledge are critical. In my previous career as a maintenance supervisor, I saw firsthand the importance of accumulated knowledge and having experienced people who understand the equipment, systems and facility. I also understand that there are situations where contracting specialized work can make sense. I believe those decisions should be based on service quality, cost, safety, expertise and long-term value to

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 believe municipal employees should have stable, fairly paid jobs and the right to unionize and collectively bargain. I have firsthand experience with labour issues. I went through a plant closure and served on a council representing wage workers, where we received guidance on Ontario labour law. That experience gave me a strong respect for workers and fair treatment. I would not support temporary or contract labour being used simply to avoid permanent jobs, fair wages or benefits. There are times, however, when subcontracting makes sense, such as short-term situations where specialized equipment or expertise is required that the City does not have

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 support fair-wage schedules and Community Benefits Agreements on major municipal projects where they are legally permitted and provide meaningful benefits to the community. I also support creating opportunities for local workers, apprentices and businesses to participate in these projects, while recognizing that the City must follow its procurement policy, trade agreements and geographic-neutrality requirements. I believe major taxpayer-funded projects should provide good value while also creating good-paying jobs, training opportunities

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:

I support fair and reasonable wages for municipal employees and for workers performing work on behalf of the City. I would support looking at a living-wage policy for contractors and subcontractors, provided it is legally permitted and properly developed. I believe companies should not be able to win municipal work simply by lowering wages. At the same time, any policy needs to be transparent, enforceable and considered alongside the cost of the project, the quality of the work and the value to taxpayers.

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 have spent my career in industrial maintenance, so I understand how important skilled trades are to Sarnia and Chemical Valley. The City cannot dictate who private companies hire for turnaround work, but there are things we can do to support these projects. I would support working with local unions, contractors, colleges and training organizations to maintain a strong local skilled-trades workforce. The City can also help make turnarounds easier by ensuring efficient permitting and working with the industry and local businesses when large numbers of out-of-town workers require temporary lodging and other services

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 would commit to maintaining regular communication with the Sarnia & District Labour Council and its affiliates. I believe union representatives should have an opportunity to be heard when City decisions may affect their members. I also believe there is value in bringing the people who actually perform the work into the conversation, rather than relying only on management or representatives to speak for them. Having gone through a plant closure and served on a council representing wage workers, I understand the importance of listening to

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 recognize that homelessness and housing services are primarily a County responsibility, but the City still has an important role. Sarnia also has budget constraints, so I would make it a priority to protect the services and partnerships we already have and make sure we do not lose ground or become a lower priority. We should also continue supporting advancements such as the Lambton HART Hub and better coordination between housing, mental health, addiction and public safety services. This is also why growing our tax base is so important. A financially stronger community has more ability to maintain services, support partnerships and respond to these

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:

The fact that closing overflow shelter capacity could more than double the unsheltered population is exactly why permanent supportive housing is needed. Emergency shelters are necessary, but they should be a safety net, not the long-term solution. I would support maintaining appropriate emergency capacity while measuring whether we are actually moving people into permanent housing and reducing the need for overflow shelter over time.

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 making reasonable zoning and parking reforms that allow needed affordable and supportive housing to move forward. I also believe the people of Sarnia should have a meaningful voice in where these projects are located within our city. Lambton County has an important role in housing services, but land-use planning and zoning within Sarnia are City responsibilities. I would support bringing the City, County, housing providers, residents and other appropriate stakeholders to the table early in the process, so concerns can be

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?

I recognize the City cannot solve a 2,500-unit housing shortage on its own. I would work with Lambton County, the Province, non-profit housing providers and private developers to increase supply. Sarnia has recently undertaken work evaluating its zoning and land use, and I believe the findings should be a priority for the new Council. We need to take a serious look at what Sarnia's future land-use map should look like, including how we use our industrial, commercial and residential lands. Planning for growth needs to be done strategically and competently so affordable housing is part of the plan, not an afterthought.

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:

Yes. I support a humane, housing-focused approach that makes every reasonable effort to connect people experiencing homelessness with services, shelter and permanent housing. This is a combined effort involving Lambton County, the City and community service providers, and I believe Sarnia has an important role in keeping those efforts aligned and working toward the same goals. We need empathy for people's current circumstances, but support should also help people move forward and not allow complacency to become the long-term outcome.

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?

What does make Sarnia attractive for future investment is the competence of our industrial workforce and the ability to operate safely and reliably, deliver projects on time and on budget, and execute maintenance and turnarounds to a world-class standard. City Council has a role in supporting that environment by working with industry, unions, contractors and educational institutions to ensure Sarnia has the highest-quality skilled trades and process operators possible. That means developing our local workforce from the school years forward and making world-class skilled-trades training a priority. If we build that reputation, Sarnia becomes a place where

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?

Having personally experienced and witnessed a plant closure, I understand the impact it can have on workers and their families. Every worker responds differently. Some are very resilient and transition quickly into another job, while others have a much more difficult time adjusting to the loss. I believe most workers are somewhere in the middle and may only need some guidance and assistance to find their next opportunity. I would support working with INEOS to ensure affected workers are directly connected with local resources such as LEADS Employment Services, Lambton Collene Community Employment Services, Better Jobs Ontario and local

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?

To attract and retain diversified jobs, commerce and investment, Sarnia first needs to understand itself. We need to take an honest inventory of our strengths, weaknesses, assets, infrastructure, workforce and existing economic ecosystem so we can properly market Sarnia to the right opportunities.

Sarnia should not try to compete directly with every growing economy in Southwestern Ontario or the GTA. We need to understand where we fit within the larger regional ecosystem and attract investments that complement

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. I strongly support apprenticeships, Red Seal skilled-trades training and opportunities for local youth. A skilled workforce requires a deliberate investment in training. I would support ensuring the municipal budget provides adequate funding for employee training, whether the appropriate training is available locally or requires employees to attend specialized programs outside Sarnia. Where the City employs apprentices, I would support ensuring they are properly supported and compensated while attending required schooling in accordance with the

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

I would build on the work already underway in Downtown Sarnia and Mitton Village. The planned Mitton Street sewer separation and reconstruction is an opportunity to do more than replace infrastructure — it should improve the streetscape, safety, accessibility and overall business environment. I would also continue using the City's Community Improvement Plan to help local businesses improve their properties and attract investment.

I would support regularly monitoring the effectiveness of these incentive programs and measuring whether they

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ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

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?

Protecting the health of residents requires clear communication, accountability and coordination between Aamjiwnaang First Nation, nearby Sarnia neighbourhoods, the City, industry and provincial and federal regulators. Each organization has a role and responsibility. The City does not regulate industrial emissions or conduct environmental enforcement, but it has an important role in ensuring residents' concerns are heard, communication channels remain open and the appropriate agencies are engaged.

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. I believe Sarnia should advocate for strong, science-based monitoring and enforcement and for a meaningful cumulative-effects approach to air quality. There is already a significant amount of monitoring and environmental data being collected in Sarnia and Aamjiwnaang, and Ontario has a cumulative-effects assessment framework for certain pollutants. The question is whether we are using that information effectively and whether the regulatory system is responding when the data shows a problem. I would support greater

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

I support practical, measurable action on climate change, but I believe we need to focus on projects that provide real environmental benefits while also making financial sense for taxpayers. Sarnia already has climate and energy plans, so I would focus on implementing the actions already identified, improving energy efficiency in municipal buildings and operations, and taking advantage of new technologies where they make economic sense. I would also identify barriers that are preventing projects and programs from progressing and work to eliminate those barriers where the City has the authority to do so. Most importantly, I would measure progress

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

I believe affordable public transit is an important part of a healthy and accessible community, particularly for seniors, youth, people with disabilities and residents who do not have access to a vehicle. Sarnia already subsidizes public transit, and I believe that is a positive approach to keeping transit affordable for residents. I would work to protect the service we have while continually looking for ways to improve reliability, access and efficiency. One example I would like to explore is a more demand-responsive system, where riders could provide advance notice — potentially 24 hours — when they need service in areas or at times where regularly scheduled

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?

My experience as a maintenance supervisor has shown me that technology, equipment and operating systems are constantly evolving. It does not take long before a workforce's knowledge base can become outdated if ongoing training is not a priority. Maintaining a world-class workforce requires continuous investment in employee development and keeping staff current with new technologies and equipment. The more expertise we maintain internally, the less dependent we become on outside specialty service providers. This becomes especially important during emergency situations, when outside resources may not be immediately available. A strong

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

Meaningful reconciliation starts with respect, communication and action. As a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, I believe reconciliation should be reflected in the relationships we build and the opportunities we create together. There are already positive examples of this happening. Vertex, located in the Aamjiwnaang Industrial Park, provides environmental sampling and monitoring while training and employing Aamjiwnaang members and building positive relationships with companies in the Valley. Pathways Health Centre is another example of a community organization developing positive relationships with Aamjiwnaang through children's programs 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?

The City already makes a significant amount of information publicly available, much of it through detailed reports that can be hundreds of pages long. I don't believe the solution is to create more information or duplicate the work of City staff. The opportunity is to make the important information within those reports easier for residents to understand. I look at it like taking a 300-page report and using a highlighter to identify the key information, numbers and outcomes — the underlying information doesn't change, but the important parts become much easier to see.

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?

One decision I would support, even if it is unpopular in the short term, is making a complete review of Sarnia's economic position and municipal assets a top priority for the new Council. We need to take an inventory of our real estate, available land, zoning designations, infrastructure capacity and economic opportunities to determine if our current strategy is still the right path forward.

Recent reviews have identified significant industrial land availability, and we need to determine whether all of that



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views. My approach is based on practical experience, fiscal responsibility, transparency and respect for the people who make Sarnia work. My career in industrial maintenance has taught me the importance of skilled workers, safety, reliability, planning and making sound decisions with the resources available.

I believe Sarnia needs to take an honest look at where we are today, understand our strengths and weaknesses, remove barriers to progress and make decisions based on results. We need to protect the services residents

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