

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:	Ed Gresham
Office sought:	Sarnia City County/County Councillor
Ward (if any):	
Email:	edgreshamforcouncil@gmail.com
Phone:	519-312-5564
Past elected office:	
Date:	August 18, 2026
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

In my experience in dealing with both City and County Council, something I have seen frustrate citizens is both councils' lack of transparency. I am familiar with the Municipal Act, I will always maintain and insist on accountability to Sarnia residents. Municipal law mandates that every city practice good government encompassing transparency, accountability and participation. I have the experience for the first two. I have taken part in the third. I wish to help Sarnia Residents be a part of this.

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:

In some instances, such as waste removal, a competitive private quote and contract can be beneficial. Municipally run services provide consistently monitored attention in certain critical areas, such as by-law enforcement. The City and all parties must negotiate in good faith for all concerned.

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.

It is crucial for continuity purposes given the nature and structure of a municipal government for municipal salaries and benefit packages to be competitive with similar occupations. Union members should have a priority in the hiring process. When considering hiring temporary/contract labour and subcontracting, union leaders should be involved in the negotiation. Further, such contracts should be time limited and reviewable.

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:

The existing Sarnia Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a tool to support strategic community investment. The CIP provides a framework for public investment opportunities and incentive programs to assist the private sector to stimulate redevelopment and property improvements. I will continue to support its evolution.

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:

Municipal salaries and benefit packages need to be competitive with similar occupations and trades within the local economy. This is especially crucial for continuity purposes given the nature and structure of a municipal government.

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 will endeavour to uphold a policy that Sarnia gives priority to local labour and businesses, in order to promote further growth, development and prosperity.

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:

My engagement and participation with Sarnia & District Labour Council and its affiliates is a fundamental tenet of good government. The duty of council is to be informed of the issues affecting groups and constituents while collaborating with them to reach desired goals.

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 will continue to work in collaboration with Lambton County and the Province of Ontario for meeting housing goals. I am currently in discussions with a local transitional housing provider.

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:

If it's placed in a safe environment for all.

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:

The proposed Indwell build in no way conforms with either the official plan, specific zoning requirements such as setbacks and green space requirements that are necessary for ANY inhabitant to live in a wholesome and dignified manner. None of which are in the current Indwell proposal.

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?

Sarnia should continue to work in collaboration with Lambton County and the Province of Ontario for meeting housing goals. As a council member, I was strive to act as liaison between Sarnia, Lambton County and the Province of Ontario to meet these goals.

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 support appropriate redirection services that connect encampment dwellers with local services.

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?

All development should be considered, however an emphasis on researching, meeting and negotiating with businesses that seek long term investment in Sarnia is key. At a municipal government level, my aim is to promote a streamlined process that allows this to happen. Taking a hard look at the current "red tape" involved in this is step one.

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?

Engaging with firms designed to transition laid off workers into other areas of the industry is key. This has been a service in Chemical Valley that has historically been in place and I wish to support its continuation.

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?

Attracting a variety of businesses provides residents with enhanced choices as well as employment opportunities. A one industry city relies too heavily on a single economy. Tax incentives, not necessarily required for some of the businesses related to a main industry, are a useful tool to attract diverse and financially lucrative commerce.

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:

Hands on experience is key to successful career preparation. My role is to encourage local businesses to provide positions for apprentices and young workers to gain experience by connecting them with Provincial and local programs that incentivize the process.

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

I will support the current Community Improvement Plan which outlines good planning and the provision for incentive programs to the private sector to stimulate redevelopment and facilitate property improvements.

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?

I will act as liaison between residents, City of Sarnia and Provincial Ministries to ensure voices are heard and regulations are followed.

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:

Sarnia residents are always taken into account. Additionally, worker safety must be a top priority. I will advocate for all and once again, act as liaison.

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

Working with local industry is pivotal for maintaining a responsible stewardship for our environment. I will act as liaison with local industry, Provincial and Federal Ministries and its First Nations communities to accomplish this.

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

Sarnia has invested heavily and has a state of the art transit system that is responsive to the needs of its residents. I regularly utilize Sarnia Transit. I will support by-laws that promote safe public transportation that is in line with Provincial Ministry mandates.

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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?

Please see Answer 1. All of this needs to be negotiated fairly. Libraries are under the domain of Lambton County, however I will act as liaison between residents and the County to ensure needs are met.

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

Initiatives can start at the grass roots level. A recent, excellent example is one I recently attended, that being the dedication of the new crosswalk at the Christina St. and Wellington St. intersection. Acting as liaison between Indigenous Groups and local industry is also in a Councillor's job description.

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?

My track record as a concerned citizen of Sarnia speaks for itself and my platform echoes this. The principles of good governance require transparency, accountability and participation, as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act. As a retired lawyer, I default to following such mandates and residents can be sure of this commitment.

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?

Sarnia's proposed zoning change would allow a developer to simply pick ANY location whatsoever for supportive housing development. While revising this proposed zoning plan may delay the development of much needed supportive housing (which requires round the clock staffing for addiction and mental health services and all its components), it will guarantee a plan that meets the needs of all Sarnia residents.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Thank you for developing and inviting me to answer this clear and comprehensive questionnaire. I am looking forward to your event on October 6, 2026.

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