

# 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](mailto: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:                                    | <input type="text" value="George Vandenberg"/>            |
| Office sought:                                     | <input type="text" value="City/County Councillor"/>       |
| Ward (if any):                                     | <input type="text"/>                                      |
| Email:                                             | <input type="text" value="georgevandenberg@hotmail.com"/> |
| Phone:                                             | <input type="text" value="519-464-7584"/>                 |
| Past elected office:                               | <input type="text" value="City Councillor 2 terms"/>      |
| Date:                                              | <input type="text" value="2018-present"/>                 |
| In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running: |                                                           |

To continue the good work that we have been doing.

## 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:*

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 something that is already in place.

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:*

Everything should be local. On occasion when we contract out of town we seem to have problems.

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 it was in a motion to Council.

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?

We need the get rid of the lowest bid structure which in many cases eliminates LOCAL.

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:*

Although I said yes Councillors do not have the mandate to do this.

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?

We are doing this by voting in favour of new buildings as suggested by the County Level.

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 am not sure of what you are referring to as I see the Shelter on Confederation Street is about to expand.

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 will support zoning and parking reforms if they fit within the fabric of the neighbourhood. Indwell's Project is in the wrong location. Dr. Farag was willing to build a heart facility on that property.

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?

5 per cent of every new build should be dedicated to affordable housing units. The Municipality could give the developer a tax certificate or tax rebate.

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:

It makes sense.

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?

We need to get investment here and get rid of the road blocks.

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?

I do not believe that this is in our toolbox. It appears to be Provincial which the City should support.

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 and Councillor Burrell recently met with the MTO discussing same. We have asked the Provincial Government to help us create a huge transportation HUB.

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:*

Make it part of the procurement process.

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

Parking, cleanliness, safety is but a few ways to help these communities.

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?

Ensure that the MOE is more accountable.

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:*

It affects all of us.

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

I think this is being done as industry continues to evolve and do better in pollution reduction. Shut downs are an example.

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

We recently moved a motion on that specific question. More education is required for safe active transportation.

## 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. Supporting this through Council Motions.

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

I have been a strong advocate for Reconciliation. Recently working with the UNDRIP Committee, supporting the Territorial Acknowledgment, the new mural in City Hall and meeting with Local Leaders such as Chief Nahmabin and Deputy Grand Chief Chris Plain.

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 word is important to me. If I make a mistake I admit it.

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?

TAX increase.

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#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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