

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:	Lo-Anne Chan
Office sought:	City Councillor
Ward (if any):	
Email:	loannechan.sarnia@gmail.com
Phone:	519-694-2408
Past elected office:	
Date:	
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

I want to shape our city through cooperation and purposeful action. In an anxious political environment people are looking for hope and clarity for the city's future. I bring unique perspectives, and can work in cooperation with others to deliver solutions to Council priorities. Politics doesn't have to be divisive - I chose to make Sarnia my home, to raise my family here, and I believe a prosperous future for all is closer than we think.

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 support public services, publicly-delivered. I believe unions make our public services stronger and more sustainable, ensuring the people who deliver our public services are also paid living wages. I would like to see previously-contracted services return in-house, like community recreation programs, for example.

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 support moving to a living wage policy for all procurement and directly-employed workers. I would support budget measures that prioritize permanent programs and employment over short-term programs and contract employment. I will review operational budgets with an eye to attrition and gapping and will push back against these.

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 all of these measures!

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 a living wage for all workers.

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?

As an elected official, the most important municipal lever for supporting skilled trades is the ability to negotiate with employers on behalf of and alongside workers. The City of Sarnia can and should enter into Community Benefits Agreements with corporations seeking funding, rezoning, city infrastructure, etc. I would work closely with labour partners to hear from you what workers need and what to prioritize. As often as possible, I will ensure unions have a seat at the table. When an employer reduces its workforce or withdraws operations, I believe it is

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:

I believe in prior and informed consent for any group where a decision affects them.

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?

By prioritizing cooperative, affordable and supportive housing plans (which has been on the decline in recent decades) we can ensure that the land we have available for housing goes to directly addressing the housing crisis in our city. We can strengthen partnerships with local service providers who deliver mental health, addictions and harm-reduction services to ensure that housing comes with wrap-around supports. The County of Lambton already has a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, the City of Sarnia can do our part to formalize

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:

We shouldn't be removing shelter options in anticipation for permanent supportive housing. People need housing and support now, taking away what currently is available, would only displace those who are accessing these resources.

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 people who are in need of supportive housing are not in a position to require 1.5 parking spot per unit. The majority of parking spaces for these types of unit would be primarily occupied by support workers and visitors. What they really need is to be supported as they transition into a safe and secure place to call home.

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?

Prioritizing cooperative, affordable, and supportive housing means ensuring that the land available for residential development is used to directly address Sarnia's housing crisis. Strengthening this approach also requires using the municipal tools already at our disposal, including updates to zoning by-laws, more flexible land-use permissions, and strategic intensification policies. We can modernize zoning by-laws to allow a wider range of housing types, such as multiplexes, secondary units, cooperative housing models, and supportive housing

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 am in favour of programs that connect street-involved individuals to services and housing. At the core of it all, people experiencing homelessness are humans and their basic human rights should be addressed with compassion. Existing programs like IMPACT and MHART are effective, however we shouldn't be relying on the police to step outside their role of law enforcement, when social workers exist. I don't support encampment

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?

I think it is City Council's responsibility to take the long view on infrastructure and economic development. While a pipeline project may sound appealing for Sarnians whose livelihoods are closely tied to the fossil fuel industry, I share the concerns outlined in this question: that the pipeline will create relatively few local jobs while introducing significant environmental risks. We are already in a climate crisis; I don't think this is a worthwhile tradeoff. However, since it appears that the decision will be made by other orders of government, I will advocate and

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?

By attracting diverse businesses and prioritizing union bids on city work we can ensure that local workers affected by corporate closures due to environmental and health concerns are able to find fair paying jobs on other projects throughout the city.

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?

1. Improve investment into Invest Sarnia and its partner organizations so we can better champion local innovation, entrepreneurship and industry attraction.
2. Support the development of a framework to attract agribusiness and food processing to Sarnia. We would align our local strategy with federal priorities around food security and resilient regional supply chains.
3. Identify and support job retraining opportunities for energy industry workers, such as electrification, clean tech

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 plan to push for local unions to have priority in contract bids. The city's procurement bylaw can be updated so that local union labour receives weight scoring in Request For Proposal evaluations. Additional points would be awarded for apprenticeship programs, Red Seal training, safety records and local workforce. Unions already excel at this, so these requirements would naturally favour them. Even if the union job costs a marginal amount

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

1. Increase affordable housing through thoughtful intensification, such as the George Street development.
2. Use pre-zoning to enable development and business activity, for example allowing a food truck in the MV parkette (something the MVCC has already been planning for.)
3. Identify low-traffic downtown streets that could become 'shared streets' to support walkability, shopping, and a more vibrant pedestrian experience.

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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?

Everyone across Canada deserves safe air quality no matter where they live. As we continue to try to attract businesses and industry to build and establish themselves in Sarnia, we also have a responsibility to make sure they operate in a way that protects our residents and environment. Within municipal jurisdiction, the City of Sarnia can formalize an agreement with Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER)/BASES to integrate Clean Air Sarnia and Area (CASA) and Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA) real-time

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; as the companies say in the valley, operating in Sarnia is a privilege, where the license to operate is given with the assurance of community well-being and health of its people. There is already credible information/studies that Sarnia has high rates of cancer, mesothelioma, myeloid leukemia, and 50% higher lung cancer rate than provincial average. It is important to ensure our community's health is protected, and ensure

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

Be informed on the current trends/practices noted from professional academia, government policies & suggestions from knowledgeable groups such as the municipal Sarnia Environmental Advisory Committee or Climate Action Sarnia-Lambton. More active transportation, increased transit investment, incentivizing landfill diversion through solid waste programs, and job retraining to help with energy transition.

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

I support transit enhancements that ensure more frequent and reliable service to all communities within the service area, as well as good connections with nearby municipalities and inter-city transit. I will support capital enhancements, including a future where all buses are electric. I would love for Sarnia Transit to be the preferred method of transportation for people who do not need to, want to, or are not able to afford to use cars. To that end, I think we need more frequent service and 24 hr routes as well as deeply affordable fare options. I support

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 these public services must remain publicly delivered. I would support capital budget increases to improve our publicly-owned infrastructure and operating increases where they support core goals, like improved service access and reliability.

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

1. Regular meetings with the Chief and Council ahead of Sarnia City Council meetings that affect transit, shared services (SPS), area surrounding Chemical Valley as they are directly affected by what occurs to the air and water around them.
2. Formalize the relationship with Aamjiwnaang First Nation by co-developing a municipal Reconciliation Action Plan (as developed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario) - through this we can embed UNDRIP, TRC.

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?

There is a current Chatham-Kent who does posts "Council Conversations" regularly on her online platforms to update constituents about key decisions, contextual conversations that helped inform those decisions, and general knowledge for the public. I believe that there needs to be an avenue where councillors proactively engage with residents, because even though council agendas and meetings are available online and open to the public, the format is not inviting or engaging. Whether it is a standing conversation on YourTV, or a column in the

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 shift municipal incentives away from single-sector dependence and toward diversification of emerging industries like bio-manufacturing, agri-tech, clean tech and circular-economy businesses. In the short term it would create discomfort because it means evaluating long-standing habits that benefit the familiarity of legacy industries. We would have to re-evaluate how we zone land, how we structure tax incentives, and how we prioritize infrastructure investments. This approach would strengthen workers by creating multiple employment

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Thank you for these questions - I appreciate how well-rounded they are.

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