

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:	Patrick Coutu
Office sought:	City/County Councillor
Ward (if any):	
Email:	patcoutu@live.com
Phone:	519 384 3454
Past elected office:	None
Date:	
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

Recently, the leadership — or lack thereof — has descended to the point where the community no longer has its compass pointed to anything other than bickering. I want to change that and help get Sarnia/Lambton on the road to prosperity. We have an amazing, highly skilled workforce. We have a strong small business community and large-scale industry. We have an amazing waterfront on one of the best waterways in the world. There are so many opportunities that it is difficult to list them all. I want to collaborate with other councilors who can work as a team with a positive vision for Sarnia/Lambton.

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 believe in keeping the services in house and also private-public partnerships. All services should be kept under the control of the municipal government which will allow the citizens to have the best access and input to services.

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 would like to help Sarnia/Lambton become the municipality that attracts the best municipal staff and that we renumerate all staff to reflect a prosperous community. Subcontracting is a very important part of being a nimble and fiscally responsible corporation. A healthy economy will be the best way to make sure jobs remain stable.

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 will support programs that incentivise hiring local workers and businesses.

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 believe free market should decide wages.

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?

Our local skilled trades and unions are some of the best in the world. They do not need much help to ensure they get work with turn arounds and other work in the Valley. That being said I will be a big proponent of keeping our citizens employed.

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, absolutely. I would be grateful to have the opportunity to be in regular contact with the Lacour Council.

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?

This is a very nuanced question. My simple answer is that all boats will rise with the tide of a healthy economy. I want to first focus on getting the average income earner to be able to get ahead. Once we are doing that we can direct resources to anyone falling through the gaps. Currently our local social nets seem to be doing a reasonable job to get housing for those that want to take advantage of it.

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:

Government subsidized housing means that some tax payer somewhere is subsidizing it. So in that case you are supressing one citizen to take care of the needs of another. I do not believe that is the answer. The price of lumber, cement, copper etc. is what it is. Not much we can do about the hard costs of supplying housing. Currently in Ontario "red tape" makes up 30-36% of the cost to build a housing unit. In 1990 that percentage was

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:

Zoning changes and amendments need to all be looked at on an individual basis. That is why we have the review process we have. You have to carefully consdier changing zoning on area residents and businesses that bought those proprties with current zoning in place. New uses that can upset current enjoyment of surrounding properties should not be permitted unless everyone in the community can benefit.

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?

Better paying jobs can make all housing more affordable. In otherwords the cost of housing is less contrable in my opinion that the income of the people wanting housing. We can get more jobs and higher paying jobs. I know we can.

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 believe in strong policing first with a great humane support system behind it.

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 any and all jobs added to our community are valuable. Diversifying the economy will help create more stability.

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 the city should have a role directly with displaced workers. I believe indirectly having a healthy economy will allow workers to have opportunities.

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?

My job as a commercial realtor has allowed me to see all kinds of opportunities that the city and county are missing out on with their current business environment. There is too much red tape and not enough incentives. I will initiate change to those policies and make sure to notify the world that we are open for business.

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 this initiative is more for the private sector than the municipality however I am a huge proponent for apprenticeships and Red sealed skilled trades training.

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

Incubating BIA's through the provincial programs will be a good start for both of those commercial districts.

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?

We have great safety bylaws in place. Keeping them current and relevant is a must.

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:

I believe we are already doing a good job of that in Sarnia Lambton. World class really.

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

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

Once we are able to get the economy moving in the right direction appropriately funding public transit is a must. Additionally I want to see VIA rail stops increased and more options at the airports if possible.

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?

Yes these should remain public. Economic strength will allow us to fund these services properly.

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

Open respectful dialogue. In my roll as a commercial realtor I work with members of First Nations. They bring strength to the table and should be welcomed on that 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 fully committ to endeavours that I take on. I will be responsible to citizens, businesses, city staff and those in need of my attention.

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?

Take on strategic debt to fund projects that make returns for the community.

+

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Your organization is a vital component of our community. I appreciate you reaching out to myself and all of the other candidates with these insightful questions. I will sincerely look forward to the in person event on Oct. 6.

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