

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:	Petra Ramos
Office sought:	Public School Board Trustee
Ward (if any):	
Email:	lacanaca2003@yahoo.ca
Phone:	5198692220
Past elected office:	
Date:	August 30, 2026
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

After 35 years of working directly on the front lines of Ontario's education system, I believe I have the experience and passion to make a positive change in our schools! I have spent three decades implementing board policies, navigating curriculum changes and helping thousands of students succeed. I would like the opportunity to bridge the gap between bureaucratic policy and classroom reality to ensure accountability and transparency with the end goal being greater student wellbeing and academic achievement. We don't need more career politicians managing our schools; what we need is an experienced educator who understands the challenges of today's classrooms.

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:

Definitely! Ontario's 2026 Budget says municipalities are planned to remit education property taxes directly to the province, with school boards then receiving their funding through local provincial payments. I believe education dollars raised from our local taxpayers should remain clearly connected with transparent accountability to the people who pay those taxes. A board such as the LKDSB has circumstances that are not identical to Toronto, Ottawa or Northern Ontario. If we centralize funding, trustees have less influence over the connection between

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 do NOT believe in subcontracting out whatsoever. We should be employing the parents and citizens of our community to do the work that is required in our schools. As a trustee, I will advocate to keep our contracts local!

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:

Of course! I believe that when public dollars are being invested in construction and infrastructure, we should look for ways to strengthen our local economy, create opportunities for local workers and businesses and ensure that contractors are providing fair wages and safe working conditions.

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:

As a school board trustee, my direct responsibility is to the school board and not the municipality. I would support those principles within the board's own procurement policies, where legally permitted and financially responsible.

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 do not feel I have the required experience to answer this question adequately.

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 do believe good decisions come from listening to the people who are directly affected by them which includes teachers, education workers, support staff, skilled tradespeople, parents and students.

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?

Homelessness is a community issue, but it is also an education issue. I would not pretend that the school board can build supportive housing; that responsibility belongs primarily to municipal and provincial governments and community agencies. I can do my best to ensure that the LKDSB is doing everything within its mandate to support students and families who are experiencing housing insecurity.

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:

As a trustee, I believe my responsibility is to focus on student achievement, wellbeing, equity and the policies and budget of the school board. I would commit to being a strong advocate for students and families experiencing homelessness to working with our community partners to find solutions.

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 do not believe this question is applicable to the role of trustee.

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?

N/A

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:

N/A

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?

N/A

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?

N/A

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?

N/A

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:

N/A

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

N/A

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?

N/A

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:

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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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?

N/A

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

I will continue to build a relationship based on listening, respect, accountability and action. I would advocate for community lead indigenous education to ensure that Indigenous knowledge, language, history and culture are taught accurately and respectfully, with Indigenous voices guiding that work.

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 plan on attending the board meetings that are required and also partnering with other organizations such as the Sarnia District Labour Council when it is pertinent to education. My email and cell number are public so that all constituents can contact me when they have a concern or comment.

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?

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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.