

# 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: Richard C (Dick) Felton

Office sought: City Councillor

Ward (if any):

Email: rcfDickfelton@gmail.com

Phone: 519-464-6134

Past elected office: None

Date: August 26 2026

In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:

I am a lifelong resident of Sarnia. My family lives here and I want Sarnia to grow to be beneficial for my grandchildren. I feel that running for council is an extension of the volunteering I am presently doing. I want to help make Sarnia a proud, safe and prosperous place to live for the Citizens of Sarnia. This starts with a collaborative and critical thinking council. I hope to be on that council.

## 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 think that all city services should be reviewed as to effectiveness and cost. A periodic look at an internal service compared to contracting it out (to local companies) makes for an efficient City.

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.

Again, this comes down to costs. There are purchasing / contracting policies that the City has in place. This past April, new input was forced on municipalities by the provincial government about buying local. Those policies must be followed. As much as possible, the workforce should be stable, unionized and even if contracted out, the City should make sure that the workforce follows those standards.

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:*

as long as they follow the standards already in place

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 a living wage policy is a must 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?

I am not familiar with what can be done by the municipality that would affect turn around / maintenance work in Chemical Valley. Local workers - for sure - should be used, by all companies involved in a turn around. Should there be a case where a specialized company is required, even they should be encouraged / required to use local skills, if available.

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 am always open for input and as you can tell from my answers, input will be needed to bring me up to speed.

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 would suggest that easing existing restrictions for permitting where services exist to build duplex, triplex, 4plex and townhouses instead of million dollar homes is a place to start. I think supportive housing is a MUST and will be collaborating with the county to try and get this built in areas that are safe and acceptable . EVERYONE deserves an clean affordable place to live. Also I would like to make a statment that no one gets clean living on the street.

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:

This is a MUST, if another encampment is to be avoided.

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 would have said yes, IF you did not put in the George Street address. A smaller foot print might have made this location easier to approve AND once the tribunal rules, then either of two things must happen in my opinion. The City should propose a land swap for a more suitable location (if turned down by the tribunal) - OR - it becomes the City and SPS responsibility to keep this neighbourhood safe and clean

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?

Working with the county is an absolute necessity. The City can not take this on themselves. Easing the restrictions on existing serviced areas will allow infill to be maximized to develop at the least possible cost.

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:

yes - see my answer above. This is the Cities responsibility

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?

The tax payers of Sarnia fund the major portion of Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership's yearly 150 million operational costs; however, we do not take full advantage of this entity. I want SLEP to address council to tell us what we can do to help them attract business to Sarnia

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?

That is a provincial responsibility. I am sorry but INEOS is a crap company and the management is as well. Their pollution and worker safety records are not good. Sarnia is better off without them. Sarnia's responsibility is to attract new companies to Sarnia so that these workers can stay here and work here.

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?

FIRST, Sarnia MUST have a council that portrays a positive face to business that look at coming here. We MUST be welcoming and easy to work with. The real job of council is to collaborate and encourage businesses to locate here. There are so many ideas and I think a number to people who will develop them given the encouragement to do so. Presently I see only road blocks when someone want to develop something. we have to answer development questions with a YES and then figure out how to do it, along with those who propose the

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:*

Certainly because being an apprentice is how I gained my technical knowledge. Sorry but I just do not know how that can be done inside the City operations right now. I will find out and hopefully help institute this into the city operations

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

Less red tape and ask those downtown what they need to grow and prosper.

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?

Industries have standards and they should be held to those standards. I worked for Dow Chemical and we made that plant 100% contained after the BLOB was discovered. INEOS emissions were 100's of times too high. I am not sure if a periodic review is done on safety and emergency standards; but that is where I would start.

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:*

Absolutely - upper tier governments are not only the ones to control this assessment and monitoring, they are also our banker. Part of the problem with this area is that we do not collaborate with these upper tier people enough. I will be contacting County, Provincial and Federal representatives for their input and help continually.

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

Put it on the back burner for now; since there are other priorities as stated above

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

Smaller buses ; more bike lanes; protected bike lanes; enforce all transportation rules for all types of vehicles.

## 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?

water, waste water, waste, transit, libraries, & emergency services, should remain publicly delivered. Strengthening them by making sure that their delivery is efficient and for everyone equally is a necessity.

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

I was a tenant on the Chippewa Industrial development for close to 30 years. I would LISTEN, CONSULT and ASK FOR INPUT from Aamjiwnaang to foster reconciliation. I would also ALWAYS be RESPECTFUL.

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?

First there needs to be GOALS and PLANS to get to those goals. I would propose that the new council have a publicist who explains to the public what votes were done, why and how those votes affect the plans and goals that are put in place. Plain language with no spin. Waterloo puts out a monthly news letter and this may be a good thing to do.

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 borrow money to develop a green field ready property that SLEP could off to bring industry into Sarnia. I am also supportive of the new BACE Sports complex because it will attract sports tourism to Sarnia. This is another investment that requires borrow some money to gain revenue down the road

+

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

WOW - a lot of questions; however - thanks for making me think!

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