

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:	Scott Spinks Jr.
Office sought:	City Councillor
Ward (if any):	
Email:	spinksscottspinks@gmail.com
Phone:	226-402-1886
Past elected office:	None
Date:	
In 75 words or fewer, tell us why you are running:	

I'm running because working families in Sarnia deserve a councillor who shows up for them, not just for developers and big industry. I've watched good jobs disappear, housing costs climb, and everyday people get left out of decisions that affect their lives. I want to protect union jobs, push for real affordable housing, and hold industry accountable for our air and water so Sarnia works for the people who built it.

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:

Core municipal services -- water and wastewater, transit, waste collection, and emergency services -- should stay public and in-house. Contracting out or P3s too often trade good union jobs and public accountability for short-term savings that don't materialize, while leaving residents with worse service and less say. I would protect these core services and only consider outside contracts for specialized, short-term needs the City genuinely

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 will oppose efforts to convert full-time union positions into temporary or contract roles as a cost-cutting measure, and I will require that any City-funded project or service disclose its labour model up front. Where the City funds outside work, I want wage and benefit standards that match or exceed local union rates, limits on subcontracting layers, and regular reporting to Council on how many jobs funded by the City are stable, full-time, and unionized versus precarious.

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:

Community Benefits Agreements, fair-wage schedules, and local-hiring requirements should be standard on major municipal infrastructure and construction projects, so public investment translates into good local jobs and apprenticeship opportunities rather than profit flowing out of the community.

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:

No one working full-time for the City, or for a contractor doing City-funded work, should live in poverty. I support tying a living-wage floor to procurement policy, with compliance checks and real consequences for contractors who don't meet it.

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 will push the City to use procurement scoring, permitting timelines, and training partnerships as leverage -- favouring contractors who hire local, unionized, Red Seal-certified tradespeople for turnaround and maintenance work. I'll support expanding local apprenticeship placements tied to City-supported projects and work with building trades councils so turnaround work builds long-term local capacity instead of relying on outside crews.

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 will commit to regular meetings with the Sarnia & District Labour Council and its affiliates, and to consulting workers and their unions before Council decisions that affect their jobs or working conditions.

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 will support expanding permanent supportive housing units, keep low-barrier shelter and overflow capacity available until enough supportive housing exists, and push for faster, coordinated outreach between the City, County, and health and addictions services so people on the By-Name List are connected to housing rather than cycled through emergency responses. I also want clear, published targets and timelines so residents can see progress.

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:

Closing overflow and low-barrier shelter space before permanent supportive housing is actually built would make homelessness worse, not better, and would shift the burden onto emergency services, businesses, and neighbourhoods. Overflow capacity should stay in place until it is genuinely no longer needed.

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:

Yes, with the understanding that supportive housing has to be paired with real supports and good-faith engagement with the neighbourhoods it's built in. I support zoning and parking reforms that remove unnecessary barriers to projects like Indwell's proposed development, while making sure the City and operators listen to residents' legitimate concerns about safety, upkeep, and support services so projects have community buy-in,

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?

I will support increasing density near transit and services, streamlining approvals for non-market and co-op housing, using surplus City land for affordable housing partnerships, and pursuing senior-government funding aggressively rather than leaving it on the table. Cutting red tape and approval timelines for affordable projects should be a priority so we can start closing the gap on the waitlist and the roughly 2,500-unit shortfall.

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:

An Encampment Response Protocol should lead with outreach, housing, and health supports, not displacement. At the same time, it needs to address neighbours' and businesses' real safety and cleanliness concerns directly, with fast, reliable response -- housing-focused doesn't mean hands-off.

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 will push for local-hiring, apprenticeship, and Community Benefits commitments as conditions of municipal support, permitting, or incentives for major industrial projects like the proposed Northern Shield Energy Corridor. Council should not approve public support for projects that don't commit to using and training local, unionized labour, both during construction and in ongoing operations and maintenance.

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?

The City should work with the union, the province, and local training providers to fast-track retraining and job-placement supports for displaced INEOS workers, advocate for severance and pension protections, and use economic development tools to attract employers who can absorb these skilled workers locally rather than forcing them to leave Sarnia for work.

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 want the City to actively market Sarnia's port, waterfront, and downtown assets to clean-technology and advanced-manufacturing investors, support small business through lower red tape and targeted grants, and invest in downtown infrastructure and public space that makes the core attractive to workers and visitors. Diversifying our economic base reduces our exposure to downturns in any one industry and creates more entry points for local workers.

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 will support requiring apprenticeship ratios, Red Seal skilled-trades participation, and local and youth hiring targets in municipal procurement and project contracts, with reporting back to Council on compliance.

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

I support investing in streetscaping, public safety, and vacant-storefront incentives downtown and in Mitton Village, cutting red tape for small businesses opening or expanding, and coordinating with BIAs on programming that draws people back downtown. Revitalization has to go hand-in-hand with addressing homelessness and safety concerns so businesses and residents both feel the core is improving.

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?

Within municipal jurisdiction, I will support stronger local air-quality monitoring and public reporting, ensure land-use and planning decisions don't add further industrial burden near Aamjiwnaang and affected neighbourhoods, and make sure the City is a vocal partner -- not a bystander -- in pushing for accountability from industry and other levels of government.

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 will advocate to the province and federal government for cumulative-effects air-pollution assessment and stronger monitoring and enforcement in Chemical Valley. Residents' health has to come before any single facility's individual compliance record.

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

I will push to accelerate implementation of Sarnia's existing climate and emissions-reduction plans with clear timelines and public progress reporting, prioritize energy retrofits for municipal buildings, and support active transportation and transit investments that reduce vehicle emissions while making the City more affordable to get around in.

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

I support protecting and expanding transit service hours and routes, keeping fares affordable, and investing in safe sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike infrastructure so residents who can't or don't drive have real, safe options to get to work, school, and appointments.

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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?

Water and wastewater, waste collection, transit, libraries, recreation, and emergency services should always remain publicly delivered -- these are the services people depend on every day and they should be accountable to residents, not shareholders. I will strengthen them through stable union staffing, adequate capital investment, and resisting privatization pressure whenever it comes up at the Council table.

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

I will support regular, genuine engagement between the City and Aamjiwnaang First Nation on decisions that affect shared land, air, and water, ensure Indigenous voices are part of planning and environmental decisions from the start rather than consulted after the fact, and support City initiatives that advance the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action at the municipal level.

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 will support publishing clear, plain-language updates on Council decisions and their progress, holding regular open town halls in addition to formal Council meetings, and making budget and procurement information easy for residents to find and understand. I want residents to be able to track my specific commitments -- including the ones in this questionnaire -- against what actually gets delivered.

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?

Holding the line on keeping core services public and unionized, even when contracting out looks cheaper in the short term on a budget line, will be unpopular with some. But protecting stable, fairly paid jobs and reliable public service is worth the short-term political cost for the long-term health of Sarnia's working families.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Thank you for the work the Labour Council does for working people in Sarnia. I look forward to earning your endorsement and working with you if elected.

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