

Andre Jmourko

Councillor Candidate in the Town of Barrie, Ward 1
Simcoe Region

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

A: The actions that need to be taken to address this housing crisis is advocating for policies that create innovation & efficiency. New technologies are being researched nationally and internationally that focus on building more sustainable housing that can be produced faster, less taxing on the environment and for a smaller cost. Some of these companies and technologies are already at play and are showing promise to start making an impact in the current housing affordability crisis. Being open to challenge the traditional ways city growth and property construction is a start to finding affordable solutions to provide the right of shelter.

The second action is increasing efficiency, both from the development aspect as well as the municipality. The longer it takes to build or create housing, the more expensive it ends up to be. And ultimately, the end user or consumer pays for these carrying costs. Whether it be implementing progress updates, rewards and/or fines for the length of developments, as well as streamlining and optimizing zoning, application and approval/disapproval process, increasing the efficiency of building housing is another step forward to bringing down costs and making housing more affordable.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

A: Having had the opportunity to sit down and speak with individuals spearheading the climate crisis with regards to transportation and development, we need to prioritize research and policy advocating for net-zero buildings and

infrastructure. The research is improving with design to make these new and old developments feasible for the cost of going net-zero, and well as considering repurposing older infrastructure into new use prior to demolition.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: Building for the future, and relying on perspectives of the residents, local and large business owners, and professionals to create a space and landscape that will be enjoyed and benefit for the current purpose, and the future growth. Once built, maintaining the history or story associated with the space, and upgrading for future generations if/when needed.