

# Norm Di Pasquale

Councillor Candidate in the City Of Toronto, Ward 11  
City of Toronto

*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:** Prioritize affordable housing in every city-led development and on public land

- Assist non-profit builders with navigating the approval process
- Award additional density to allow for more affordable housing
- Combine rent supplements with existing City housing initiatives to create homes that are truly affordable for Toronto's lowest income earners.
- Preserve the city's stock of affordable housing
- Work on progressively expanding Toronto's Multi-Unit Residential Acquisitions Program to keep more rental properties affordable forever.
- End Exclusionary Zoning
- Support the implementation of Inclusionary Zoning
- Direct public investment to homes that are accessible to all
- Build as much affordable and supportive housing as possible, to ensure everyone has their human right to housing respected.

**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:** We need walkable communities, a robust and prioritized public transit system, and safely redesigned roads to succeed in substantially reducing our carbon emissions. Ensuring we are increasing density around areas that can support it, like major transit stations and hubs, making it easier to increase density in areas which are seeing a

decline in population while the City is growing, and supporting easier mid-rise approvals to get these units built, and online, faster.

**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:** We need to engage with the public early in the concept design stage and ensure that their ideas are being captured. Once captured, we must find a consultant with expertise in building civic infrastructure, and not necessarily take the lowest bidder to ensure the quality of the work and design. The statement that you get what you pay for never rings more true than it does when building major infrastructure, and public spaces. Having more projects subject to a design review panel at the City will bring forth more projects rooted in design excellence, and less of the status quo.

This also applies to the maintenance of the infrastructure. We need to reject austerity budgeting and set funding for integral operations (maintenance and other state of good repair) to ensure the longevity of the work. We cannot neglect everyday upkeep, or count on rebuilding the infrastructure with capital funding. We need to invest in the long term value and return of what we build.