

# Brad Bradford

Councillor Candidate in the City of Toronto, Ward 19  
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:** We have been tasked with stepping up to meet a generational challenge - the housing crisis. For too long the forces and inertia of the status quo have had a grip on the way we think about housing. Whether it's supportive housing at O'Connor and Woodbine or affordable housing down on Queen, I have been unequivocal in my support to get housing built for those who need it most.

In addition to building more affordable and supportive housing, we also need to bring more affordable housing forms into our neighbourhoods. Garden suites represent Toronto's latest, modest addition to the housing toolkit, but it's not enough. We need to bring more Missing Middle housing (i.e. duplexes, triplexes and low rise apartments) into our neighbourhoods, which is why I put up my hand to bring a Missing Middle Pilot project to Beaches-East York. I strongly believe that we need more options 'in-between' the multi-million dollar house or high-rise condo that dominate the landscape of our city. The Missing Middle plays a critical role in creating more opportunities for people to get onto a property ladder that's increasingly out of reach.

**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:** The task at hand is to be bold and step up to meet the ambitious target that we've set for ourselves as a city - reaching net zero emissions by 2040. The good news is that good housing policy is also good environmental policy.

By bringing more Missing Middle housing forms into our neighbourhoods, we're not only creating more affordable options, we're building more walkable, environmentally sustainable communities that reduce the need for urban sprawl. In addition to legalizing these housing forms, we need to encourage development along transit corridors, provide incentives for new developments to reach the highest levels of sustainability possible, and help older buildings to obtain the retrofits that they need to keep their residents cool and their emissions low. As a city, we also need to be setting an example by pushing for the highest levels of sustainability on all new projects. This includes, for example, the new Dawes Road Library in Beaches-East York which is working towards both net-zero energy and net-zero carbon. Together, we can build better, healthier, more sustainable communities.

**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 hold ourselves to a higher standard when it comes to architecture, urban design, and the public realm. Back in 2019 I brought a motion to the Planning and Housing Committee with the goals of raising the design standards across the board in the City of Toronto. Among other things, this motion requested that CreateTO - the city's development agency - explore options to employ open and international design competitions for major and transformational projects in which it is the lead developer. As a local Councillor I've also pushed for new applications in key growth areas to be submitted to Toronto's Design Review Panel in order to achieve the highest quality design outcomes.