

# Jamaal Myers

Councillor Candidate in the City of Toronto, Ward 23  
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:** I'm committed to ensuring Toronto reaches its target of building 40,000 new affordable homes by 2030 to rejuvenate and promote all of our neighbourhoods. Prior to running, I worked to get affordable homes quickly built in Scarborough as a volunteer with HousingNowTO.

As a councillor, I would support reforming zoning laws to build affordable homes in all neighbourhoods, expanding Toronto's eviction prevention and rent support programs and legalizing and regulating rooming houses. I have been endorsed as an affordable housing champion by More Neighbours Toronto, Progress Toronto and the Toronto & York Region Labour Council.

To learn more about policies and actions that I believe are needed to address the housing crisis, please see [Restrictive zoning bylaws in Toronto hurting Scarborough families looking for affordable housing | Opinion | toronto.com](#).

**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:** As Senior Legal Counsel at TD Bank, I work on challenging Environmental, Social and Governance matters such as preparing for a changing climate, sustainable finance and protecting biodiversity. As a councillor, I would work to support Toronto City Council's ambitious strategy to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to

net-zero by 2040 and to ensure that the TTC's bus fleet is emissions free by 2040. Prior to running, I helped lead, coordinate and assemble the coalition that secured a historic \$1.2 billion investment from City Hall to build the Eglinton East LRT and finally bring rapid transit to Malvern and eastern Scarborough and have been endorsed by Amalgamated Transit Union 113 for my commitment to public transit.

To reduce GHG emissions within Toronto's built environment, I would prioritize permitting, encouraging and incentivizing the gentle densification (duplexes, triplexes, low-rise walk up apartments, townhouses and so on) of all Toronto neighbourhoods to help create more compact communities. In support of creating compact communities, I propose creating an integrated and safe transit, walking and biking network in Scarborough to provide residents with multiple options for making short trips rather than personal vehicles. I do not support high rise condominiums in single-family home neighbourhoods, unless they are within walking distance to rapid transit stops.

**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:** As a councillor, I'm committed to achieving design excellence in Toronto's civic spaces and ensuring that they are properly maintained to serve future generations by:

- improving city services for snow clearance, tree and grass cutting, cleaning up litter and fixing damaged roads;
- modernizing, expanding and better maintaining local parks to ensure they include splash pads, bathrooms, drinking fountains and dog parks, and are accessible to people with disabilities and seniors; and
- doubling the number of cricket pitches in Scarborough by 2026 by converting underused baseball fields into pitches to ensure pitches are properly maintained, equipped and accessible for players at all levels.

To ensure civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, Toronto must hire decision-makers that are more reflective of the city, particularly by geography, age, race and disabilities, and allow a more diverse set of stakeholders to provide input into civic space design. I'm proud to be endorsed by the Toronto Community Bikeways Coalition for my advocacy for better transit and for vulnerable road users.