

2022 TSA Questions to Candidates:

1. 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?

The City of Vaughan has limited tools to address the shortage of affordable housing, or the interest rates associated with housing mortgages and loans, as the City is bound by multiple Provincial acts, as well as Official Plans when planning future development for the City. However, the City can use whatever tools it does have to ensure a variety of sustainable, accessible and affordable housing is built within each community to provide housing options for all.

During the previous term of Council, in 2021, the City of Vaughan launched an Affordable Housing Strategy. As this process moves forward, it will provide the City with an opportunity to understand the current state of housing opportunities for residents in Vaughan, including the demographics and the social, economic and geographic factors that impact housing needs and demands. Through this process, and under provincial regulations, municipalities are required to develop an assessment report as part of their Official Plan and inclusionary zoning policies. This report can then be used to inform the creation of an Inclusionary Zoning Policy framework and contribute to the Official Plan Review process – both of which will need to adapt in response to both COVID-19 and the evolving housing market.

Through this multi-phase approach, the City will look for creative and innovative solutions to address local housing issues by reviewing a variety of planning policy and financial tools, partnership, collaboration and advocacy opportunities, and new strategies and initiatives. This strategy will also outline an implementation timeline, the process to execute the units and the resources and monitoring tools needed to measure success. As Mayor, I will continue to advocate for the completion of this strategy by 2024.

With the inevitable growth of the City of Vaughan, there is a need to bring in high-density development, but only in appropriate locations where major transit infrastructure is already or will be in place - for example, at the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) where the subway, Viva transit and bus terminal reside, or along the future Yonge Subway extension. This will also ensure that there will be a percentage of affordable/attainable housing available for our residents in viable locations.

Furthermore, we can achieve more housing options through secondary suite rentals that the City of Vaughan has approved, along with implementing a licensing process for short-term rental housing that legitimizes rental suites, making them safe, affordable and accessible. Secondary or rental suites will help provide affordable housing and assist homeowners who need to supplement their income.

2. 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 prioritized to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

During the last Term of Council, the City began updating its Municipal Energy Plan to determine how Vaughan can transition to a low-carbon community and become more sustainable. The MEP did

progress through a public consultation process earlier this year. The City's mandate during the last Term of Council was to update this plan to incorporate Vaughan's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration into action by:

- setting out a pathway to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions by about half by 2030, and to reach the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, while respecting the needs of those who live and work in Vaughan.
- considering the role of the City in driving and supporting climate action change
- identifying how citizens, businesses and stakeholders can participate in transitioning Vaughan to a low-carbon community.

As a champion for sustainability in the City of Vaughan, I worked closely with staff to ensure the newest community centre in Ward 4, Carrville Community Centre aligns with the City's commitment to sustainable leadership and a low-carbon future, renewable energy sources will help power the new facility through rooftop solar panels, while geothermal heating and cooling will help conserve energy. We are also exploring options like green fleet vehicles and implementing programs to retrofit existing City facilities to achieve LEED certification among many programs and initiatives part of the City's Environmental Stewardship and Green Directions Vaughan programs, approved by Council.

Over the next term of Council, the City needs to focus on identifying actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and increase renewable energy assets. As Mayor, I will ensure we explore opportunities to make these changes in all sectors across the city, including development, transportation, and energy supply to transition to a low-carbon community. It will also be rooted in a science-based innovative approach that recognizes how Smart City initiatives can put Vaughan in alignment with internationally recognized targets and pathways for limiting global warming and reducing the impacts of climate change.

I also believe that a vibrant and livable community must focus on environmental sustainability, where everyone has access to parks, open spaces and trails. We must protect our green spaces, and responsible development is key to ensuring the City can protect its environment and achieve our low carbon goals. As Mayor, I will continue to advocate for fair, sustainable and appropriate development to help achieve these goals.

3. 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?

Vaughan continues to grow, and as Mayor, I want to develop more green spaces and amenities to ensure active and healthier lifestyles. During my past 18-plus years on Council, I have delivered more than 22 community and district parks, 2 new state-of-the-art community centres and a new library. More than 130 km of cycling facilities, multi-use pathways and trails were advanced through various City partner projects that I helped champion. Recently, we opened a new studio and event space for the community in Vaughan's downtown core.

I have always been a champion for utilizing amenity spaces in innovative, multi-faceted ways – for example, I brought a dual-use splash pad/ice pad to the Thornhill community to be able to utilize the

space for as many months of the year as possible. Additionally, I want to ensure that Vaughan's downtown is built to provide everything that residents may need within steps of their door – access to the transit and the subway, green space, public art spaces, retail and other shopping and cycling networks. Edgeley Pond and Park is the largest open space, a City-owned piece of land in the VMC that I will ensure continues to manifest into the heart of the community, a signature amenity for the new downtown. My vision is to build a sustainable open space at the centre of the VMC that will function as a hybrid of vital stormwater management infrastructure and create an innovative multi-use public space design.

I will continue to deliver more recreational spaces and amenities that are innovative and achieve design excellence so that every individual and family has access to programming and facilities that meet their needs.