

# Styles Q. Weinberg

Councillor Candidate in the City of Vaughan, Ward 4  
York 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:** Interesting question. First the cost of rent and housing has gone out of control. To suggest that there is a single solution that would or could address this issue would not be honest. There are so many variables that must be considered. What has caused such a spike in the housing market? Well the demand has surpassed the availability. We must increase the supply so that there is a choice and an affordable one. There is very little doubt that the building single unit family homes must be revisited and more emphasis placed on building narrow and tall rather than wide and short. Once the availability is put into perspective the pricing will go down.

**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 not look far to see the devastation that our carbon footprint has caused. Floods, fire, deforestation, arid farm land and the list goes on. This is a global issue and I fear that no matter what we do individually it will not be enough to save our planet. I would support investments in mass public transportation, an increase of taxation on fossil fuel cars combined with a tax relief on electrical transportation. We must resort to existing and new forms of natural energy. We must begin to use reusable energy. Clean air, water and energy MUST be the top of our priority list.

**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:** Our parks in the City of Vaughan have not been designed to be user friendly. More often than not we create spaces that have no useful purpose other than saying that there is a park so satisfy the residents requirements. The amenities are too costly and require too much maintenance. One of the ideas I would implement is to bring back the simple skating rinks that would be easily erected and maintained by just flooding a section which is enclosed by a wooden fence. Accessible to everyone for winter exercise and fun. Put in tracks so people can use them to walk, run all year round and feel safe instead of the streets. More soccer, basketball and basketball facilities. Easy to maintain and cost efficient.