

Municipal Elections 2022 -Wilmot Township

1. Cities/urban centres are responsible for 80% of our greenhouse gas emissions. What is in your plans to reduce that?
2. What are your plans to support a 15-Minute City where everything we need can be accessed by foot or bike in that time and reduce vehicle use?
3. The [Doughnut Economy](#) is a working model that addresses both social and environmental issues to create a livable future for everyone without exceeding Earth's ability to provide. What are your priorities to meet these challenges?
4. Optional question: Do you have campaign donations from speculators/developers and, if so, what percentage of your funding?

Township of Wilmot Mayor

Pfenning, Jenn

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1. I will continue to work through the Sustainability Working Group (a committee of council created through a notice of motion I brought in the past term) on addressing greenhouse gas emissions from a corporate perspective while demonstrating leadership for the community through that work. Wilmot has declared a Climate Emergency, committed to hard targets on carbon emissions reductions and has in fact met or exceeded those targets. I will continue to support that work.

Urban centres have the opportunity to reduce GHG emissions by implementing effective public transportation systems that make it a viable option for residents to not own a personal vehicle. I have advocated for and will continue to advocate for improved service through GRT to ensure rural residents and small urban centres can reasonably access public transit.

Cataloguing, assessing, and managing our natural assets is vital to understanding what we have and how it impacts our climate resilience. Asset management must be extended to natural spaces as environmental service assets. I will work to have this added to our Asset Management Policy and strategy.

2. In the previous term of Council, I brought a notice of motion to create the Wilmot Trails Advisory Committee. Through that committee, work has been focused on increasing active transportation corridors and recreational opportunities. In the new term, a new Trails Master Plan will be created. I will be advocating for that to include an active transportation network as a top priority. That network needs to connect residents to amenities and businesses, as well as to the other settlement areas in the Township and into the cities to enable those who are able, to have safe and efficient options to commute to work and to access basic needs.

Having the active transportation routes available is only one half of the equation. Ensuring that local businesses are supported through policy and regulatory frameworks and active economic development engagement at both township and regional level is critical to maintaining the services we need close to the residents who need them.

3. Arranged under the headings of the 12 points in the doughnut

1. Food
 - a. Work with the Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable to create Local Food Security plans and strategies at both the regional and township level
 - b. Work to preserve farmland by ensuring the countryside line is upheld, and developing policies that enable and support the economic success of farming businesses
2. Health
 - a. A sense of connection is the single biggest determinant of health, wellbeing, and longevity. Creating public spaces that encourage community interaction and promote connecting with neighbours is an important way that municipal governments can support this. Parks, trails, community centres, and even sidewalks and commercial spaces can be improved to increase their ability to serve this need.
 - b. Work through Public health to support wellness and preventative health programs
3. Education
 - a. Support the school board's work to ensure safe space for students regardless of race, gender, or creed
4. Income and work
 - a. Create addition to procurement policies to score bids and proposals for labour practices to ensure government is working with companies that treat workers well
5. Peace and justice
 - a. Addressing community demands for reform in how address issues in the community is a top priority for me. Upstream interventions need to be implemented in order to reduce reliance on policing for social challenges.
6. Political voice
 - a. I plan to create more opportunities for residents to be heard. I will set up regular townhall style meetings, a regular communication channel from the Mayor's office to the public, and work with staff to improve overall communication from the township and region to residents
7. Social equity
 - a. I am committed to taking action on the Calls to Action for Truth and Reconciliation
 - b. I will work to ensure that the motion to create an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee at the township level is implemented, and that their work has impact
8. Gender equality
 - a. Access to childcare is critical to ensuring women are able to participate in the economy and have agency over their lives. I will work to support regional efforts to increase availability of childcare spaces in our township and the region.
9. Housing
 - a. Working with developers to have intensification and increased density designed in a livable way is foundational to the ability to reduce our use of space to meet housing needs and reduce our overall environmental impact. Creating conversation between the development community, residents, and government that is open, transparent, and community focused will benefit the whole community.
10. Networks
 - a. I will work collaboratively with the other lower tier municipalities and the region to improve connections between our communities
11. Energy
 - a. Municipal assets can be upgraded to be more efficient and reduce energy consumption. I have supported this through the Sustainability Working Group and will continue to do so.

- b. Municipal buildings should be assessed for their capacity to support solar panel installations, and a plan to install developed and integrated into the asset management plan
12. Water
- a. I am committed to protecting our groundwater to ensure we have clean drinking water for generations to come. This means rejecting any projects that would threaten aquifers in wellhead protection areas, or groundwater recharge areas
 - b. Water is also essential to the overall health of the environment and I will work with the GRCA to ensure we have the plans and protections in place to keep our waterways clean

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1. I appreciate and trust the work completed by ClimateActionWR so some of the below information has been copied from their TransformWR report.

- Develop strategic partnerships among different departments and levels of government, agencies and institutions to better understanding funding availabilities, support networks, and governmental rebates for citizens.
- Identify and implement policy and program opportunities to incentivize active transportation.
- Plan and begin to implement a transition to zero emission vehicles for municipal fleets
- Work towards policies that create new residential developments with 100% “EV Ready” requirements for parking.
- Work with GreenWR and other rural municipalities to develop a Green Development Standards for new developments.
- Reduce unnecessary building demolition and construction waste
- Continue to develop and enforce robust land-use planning protections for prime agriculture land
- Establish metrics to measure progress on increasing equity through GHG reduction initiatives in our community.
- Fund a climate justice committee led by community members from equity-seeking groups

2. I appreciate and trust the work completed by ClimateActionWR so some of the below information has been copied from their TransformWR report. I believe we should

- Plan for and build neighbourhood connections by first mapping out all of our Townships services, resources, and businesses and determining what is missing for each local area to create a 15 minute city.
- Plan a network of major active transportation corridors across cities and townships, that will provide high volume priority travel for walking, cycling, and rolling to key destinations across the region, as well as access to public transit.
- Design and maintain active transportation infrastructure to ensure year-round access, safety, and comfort for people of all abilities
- Implement design standards for new developments to build for walking, cycling, and rolling
- Plan how to increase compactness and promote mixed-use buildings and neighbourhoods. Compact development means higher-density development that makes greater use of the same land area. Mixed-use development refers to a variety of functions – such as residential, retail, office, institutional and/or light industrial. Unlike a single-purpose area hosting only ‘big-box’ retail stores,

offices or apartment towers, a more compact, mixed-use neighbourhood provides a balanced diversity of human-scale activities.

This means the official plan needs to

- be updated for planning and zoning rules for new developments for infill and regeneration projects to increase compactness and diversity of use in the medium to longer-term
- zone for medium density development and smaller block sizes
- promote the adaptive reuse of vacant or underused buildings which will allow buildings to be brought into more productive use while preserving their character and providing space for a more diverse mix of uses
- require critical public services, infrastructure and green space to be accessible to all residents at the neighbourhood level

Current development regulations in North America have three major blindspots. The first is that regulations treat land as a commodity to be divided among different uses rather than a complex, integrated ecosystem. Regulatory maps usually show land without contours and devoid of specific soil and hydrological conditions. There is often a serious mismatch between what is permitted – or required– and the actual ability of the landscape to survive such change.

Another blind spot is the almost universal prescription that both use and densities should be separated. For example, regulations generally separate shopping from areas zoned for different types of houses. This type of development makes it extremely difficult to create more compact 15-minute communities because no matter what people will have to drive to access essential services. Which makes it difficult to get from one to the other without a car..

A third blind spot is a system of zones based on arbitrary categories rather than functional segments of a city, such as neighbourhoods or business centers. Separating residential buildings by lot categories makes it difficult to create new versions of the walkable neighbourhoods with mixed housing types. We can see this in same-sized lot zoning and the narrow commercial corridors zoning establishes along major roads.

3. Currently, cities consume 75% of natural resources, produce over 50% of global waste, and emit between 60-80% of greenhouse gases.

- Working with the other councilors and staff to help each other better understand how our municipality can envision our townships future through the lens of the Doughnut Economy like the City of Nanaimo as well as Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Berlin, and Cambridge and Amserdam.
- Work with community partners and academic institutions like the University of Waterloo learn more and gain additional support for our township.
- Waterloo Region is going through the process of completing their 30 year Official Plan. Next year Wilmot Township will need to complete their Official Plan and incorporating the Dounut Economy into the framework would be important.
- Connect with community groups to ensure there is community wide support for this model of thinking.
- Mapping out our townships natural assets would be a good way to better understand what we have, their benefit to our community and economy and to understand how to protect them.

Community engagement is key in any climate change plan. But the definition of community engagement has different meanings for not only municipalities but between individual staff and council. "Community engagement is the process of involving the people that live and interact with your city in its development, including anyone with an interest or influence in, or who is impacted by, a local plan, policy or action. Engagement strategies help cities to develop a better working relationship with the community to ensure that the needs and issues of all parties are understood, and can be addressed to achieve positive change." https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Inclusive-Community-Engagement-Playbook?language=en_US

4. I have no funding from any speculators/developers

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1. Cities and Urban centers contribute a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions through the burning of fossil fuels for heating, cooling, production, cooking, and transportation. I believe that the Municipal Government can work on reducing greenhouse gases in a number of ways.

- a. Plant more trees, protect and enhance the green spaces.
- b. Work on the building codes to encourage things like heat pumps, solar power and net zero buildings.
- c. Continue to improve the public transportation with greater access and encourage more usage

2, The 15-Minute plan is an important one. Here in Wilmot Township, there are ways to enhance the towns and villages, encouraging businesses to locate in the downtown areas. I also would like to see more space given to bike lanes, sidewalks for safety, and paths to encourage people to walk in their communities where they live. I think that encouraging building to focus on density rather than sprawl is important.

There are many ways, some small and some big where we can promote the sustainable living and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.