



Ward 2 Candidate: Lisa Kearns

Question 1	If elected, will you commit to the protection of Burlington greenspace and Halton farmland, including opposing the construction of Highway 413, and prioritizing the establishment of complete, 15-minute communities in your ward/throughout the city?
Response:	Yes. I have a track record at Regional Council of voting for no urban boundary expansion and protection of greenspace, opposing construction of Hwy 413 and much of the planning work done in this term of council has focused on complete communities that deliver on our exceptional quality of life.
Question 2a	<p>Transportation is the largest source of carbon emissions in Burlington, and currently accounts for over 40% of total emissions. Reducing emissions from this sector is an essential step to reach Burlington's goal of community carbon neutrality by 2050. If elected:</p> <p>A) Will you support the changes and funding investments required to boost public transit ridership (e.g. purchase more (electric) buses; enhance frequency, range, reliability, density & directness) to make public transit an appealing and effective option in Burlington?</p>
Response:	Yes. Delivering on honest transportation options that work for people is key to reducing carbon emissions in Burlington. We need to build on the great work already done - making our transit routes simple to understand, cleaner busses and more comfortable stops - including the first heated shelter at the Seniors Centre. Incredible increases in ridership have been the result of policy changes like free off-peak transit for seniors, covering the City portion of low income transit passes, and free transit for under 12 years. Under this council's leadership, we have more work to do with the school boards to get more students onto public transit. We are so close to rolling out electric busses - I was glad to vote in favour of each step in our roll-out for a Zero-Emission Bus Fleet Implementation and Plan by engaging with the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) and CUTZEB (CUTRIC's not-for-profit arm).

Question 2b	What specific actions will you take to make active transportation (cycling, walking, ...) an appealing and effective option in Burlington?
Response:	We already have so many residents in Ward 2 that truly love to walk, bike, roll or ride to where they are going. With the completion of the Integrated Mobility Plan we will see new corridors unlocked and even more pathways to help people move through the city. Keeping our paths safe and connected is a sure way to see more people using them. I also lead by example, you'll always find me on my bike, scooter or walking in and around our neighbourhoods!
Question 2c	Will you support opportunities to increase and prioritize public EV chargers to ensure equitable distribution on City property across the community and with consideration of accessible design standards?
Response:	Yes. We must have more than just public chargers to truly make the shift to EV and eliminate tailpipe emissions. Downtown Burlington currently has the most publicly available chargers in its lots, including a L3 - but we also need new buildings to have the infrastructure to support more resident use. I know that more opportunities are required to increase charges because I drive one and better distribution across the city is absolutely critical.
Question 3	We are facing a sixth mass extinction event. Biodiversity is critical for climate mitigation/adaptation and local accessible nature is vital for mental and physical well-being, but Burlington does not have a biodiversity action plan. If elected, will you champion the creation of a biodiversity action plan within the next 4 years and advocate for the resources/budget to initiate its implementation?
Response:	Yes. It has been a true community achievement to have the first Urban Farm in Ward 2 this term. I brought this forward as a way to increase biodiversity, improve mental well-being and strengthen the bonds of community, all while providing thousands of pounds of locally grown nutrient dense food to our food security providers like the Burlington Food Bank. Walking the talk is just as important as the plan. Having this experience will be crucial in bringing an action forward plan for Burlington. I also know we will work on by-law changes to recognize naturalized private property that will further help improve local biodiversity.
Question 4	If elected, will you actively demonstrate your support for the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition push for a temporary moratorium on new gravel mining applications in Ontario, by supporting a pause on all new and expanded quarry permits in Burlington?
Response:	Yes.

Question 5	<p>Climate Change is worsening existing inequities and putting marginalized community members at increased risk of harm if mitigation and adaptation efforts are not carefully planned (see Health in a Changing Climate report).</p> <p>If elected, will you champion the effective integration of measures such as vulnerability and equity impact assessments into city plans and processes to prevent avoidable harm to marginalized Burlington residents, and encourage other members of council to support this as a top priority?</p>
Response:	<p>Yes. One thing I know for certain is that this Ward 2 community is compassionate and resilient. I know that residents want to be absolutely certain that the decisions made by their councillors are helping to lift every neighbour up. I have served on so many Boards this term and have an unparalleled empathy and understanding of the deep and complex challenges many residents are facing, I will truly do my very best to ensure no neighbour is left behind.</p>
Question 6	<p>Please share some of the actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint:</p>
Response:	<p>We are a very eco-conscious family, reducing single use plastics as much as possible, selecting bio-friendly cleaning products, driving an EV, using active transportation, focusing on animal free meals, staying away from fast fashion (lots of hand-me-downs), perfect waste sorting, living in a 15 minute community, teaching the kids that we only have one earth.</p>