



Mayoral Candidate: Steve Rieck

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:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>We need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect greenspace and farmland with balanced growth and expansion using an enviro-lens. - ‘Partner’ with developers and challenge them to build ultra-green and integrate while preserving our greenspace. - Review all projects one-by-one thoroughly to avoid past mistakes. - More highways will be needed if we continue to grow with more cars. We therefore need to reduce our dependency on vehicles. - Free electrified transit + make pathways appealing where we ‘want’ to walk or bike instead, creating hybrid 15-min. communities <p>We need a vision!</p>
Question 2a	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:

	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?
Response:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Let's pilot free transit on Friday's with "Free-Key Friday" transit trial, to get to work or enjoy an after-work social or night out in our city. If successful and economic benefits, expand.</p> <p>As we phase in electric buses, making them free will slowly build excitement and community demand to use transit as an option.</p> <p>A small transit thinktank of passionate visionaries, instead of a transit committee can help research what works elsewhere that we can copy here or brainstorm ideas worth considering.</p>
Question 2b	What specific actions will you take to make active transportation (cycling, walking, ...) an appealing and effective option in Burlington?
Response:	<p>Copy what works elsewhere. Free electric buses will allow for hybrid transportation, allowing 'scooter commuters', (or cyclists, walkers etc) to jump on a bus for part of the trip and scoot the rest or access car-share.</p> <p>Cycling routes + More bike racks + weed paved paths + bike share + car share + scooter rentals + Free Electric transit and EV taxi partnerships to backfill. Bike and walk to school</p>
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. EV's save money, are fun, clean, improves air quality, prevents messy winter gas station filling. Encourage as many businesses & residents and the city to drive electric. Our own Burlington Hydro is our fueling station.

	<p>Support local jobs!</p> <p>Opportunity: Pre-order EV's! 'Waiting list ordering' is the real opportunity!\ '25 by 25' EV's in driveways.</p> <p>Encourage fleet EVs + dealer partnerships + EV buying and user-groups.</p> <p>Simplify process to pre-wire homes for solar/EV chargers.</p>
Question 3	<p>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?</p>
Response:	<p>Yes. 'It's the little things that matter' The impacts of climate will impact known and unknown areas related to biodiversity.</p> <p>I am not an expert but have a close relationship with a biodiversity expert. I will seek the knowledge and recommendations of "the science" and "the experts."</p> <p>I am happy to replicate and improve on model biodiversity plans from other cities and communities as a starting and discussion point in the first year.</p>
Question 4	<p>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?</p>
Response:	<p>I am not familiar with this project and will need to speak with all parties to get their perspective.</p> <p>As both a businessman and an environmentalist, I can offer a unique climate perspective while being empathetic to the business case. Note: We need surveys with more than 100 words to talk about important issues. I will post real responses on website or answer emails questions. S.</p>
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</p>

	members of council to support this as a top priority?
Response:	<p>Yes. Climate a great divide in socio-economic impacts that unfairly impacts those who pollute less. I am open to all ideas and happy to copy programs that act as a good template that works elsewhere, as a starting point to begin discussions from and tweek to make more locally applicable.</p> <p>Double/Triple community gardens near those who need it more.</p>
Question 6	Please share some of the actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint:
Response:	<p>Enjoy life, just greener, when you can. That is all we should ask of people. EV owner + bike! No gasoline home. Work from home. Donate to climate. Less meat and feel great. Garden + buy local when possible. Reduce over-consumption + simplify. I am not perfect, but I try. I believe being green is easier than people think and can be a rewarding and positive experience. Climate thinktank and running for Mayor aims to present ideas to accelerate climate action. BG members are encouraged to be actors on climate stage. Opportunity video: https://share.vidyard.com/watch/woseiVL8U2eGfxuAbBXoyQ?</p>