

Ward 2 Candidate: Masha Brar



Question 1		Flood Infrastructure & Stormwater: Burlington has faced repeated severe flooding, including the 2024 storm that impacted over <u>1,600</u> homes and businesses. Will you support accelerating the City's stormwater planning, flood-mapping and infrastructure investments needed to reduce the risk and impacts of future flooding?
Response:	Yes	Nature is something we can never fight with or win over. So it is very important to understand and create our infrastructure which works with nature and our environment. So I will fully support our planning, mapping and infrastructure so that we can better understand Burlington's areas which are vulnerable to flooding and implement/create infrastructure that works with nature and not against it, to reduce the risk and impact of any future flooding.
Question 2		Transit Investment & Emission Reductions: With vehicle emissions generating <u>over 40%</u> of Burlington's greenhouse gases, improving and expanding public transit is central to reaching the target to be a net carbon neutral community by 2050. Will you commit to supporting increased funding investments and service enhancements – such as fleet electrification, increased frequency, route reliability, and network connectivity – to make transit a competitive alternative to driving?
Response:	Yes	Absolutely. I am all for a better transit system in Burlington. We need one. And I have heard many residents say, if there was a better transit system with predictable schedules, actual routes at all time and connectivity, they would much prefer taking a transit. Some homes with 2-3 cars would be happy to have only 1. So we definitely need this.
Question 3		Climate Equity & Vulnerable Communities: While every resident in the city of Burlington will be impacted by climate change, not every resident will be impacted equally. The most vulnerable residents who are facing financial, social, mental and physical barriers will experience compounding effects and bear disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis. (<u>Burlington Climate Plan 2026-2031</u>) Will you commit to supporting the budget investments required for the implementation of the City's climate mitigation, adaptation, and emergency response plans to protect these disproportionately impacted communities, and all residents?

Response:	Yes	I agree. We are all not equally impacted by climate change. We have to take into account our most vulnerable residents when we make any plan.
Question 4		Biodiversity Action Plan: Burlington currently has no municipal Action Plan to protect and care for local nature, and yet the implications of the biodiversity crisis (such as the acceleration of invasive species) continue to grow. Will you commit to directing staff to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan by 2028 with associated budget investments required for its implementation?
Response:	Yes	I will be honest- I read briefly about the invasive species and that was also some time ago. So I do not have the full clarity on this subject. However, I think it will be a good idea to have an Action Plan for Biodiversity. This will also bring our attention and increase the knowledge of those like me who are not well conversed in it.
Question 5		Aggregate Moratorium: To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the <u>Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium</u> (temporary pause) on new and expanding aggregate operations? (The purpose of a moratorium is to allow time to conduct a broad consultation process, with Indigenous Nations, affected communities, independent experts and scientists, to chart an improved path forward.)
Response:	Yes	I think it is a good idea to conduct a broad consultation. In this I would also like to see may be the chamber of commerce and some businesses put forth their point of view as well. We should listen to and understand the point of view of all sides, including those we might right now have a bias against. That will help us either change our decision, modify it or affirm what we already think.
Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance</u> beyond the Ontario Building Code. Consistent with the <u>City's Horizon 2050 net -zero commitments</u> , will you proactively advocate for stronger energy-efficiency and sustainability standards in Burlington's new developments, with associated incentives, planning processes, and legal tools available to the City?
Response:	Yes	Absolutely. We have a lot going on with the Province and how they have been dictating things to the cities. I know development and growth is important, but it has to be sustainable. We have one environment/nature, one earth. We cannot create natural things, and we do not respect and protect them, then what do we have? What about our children and grandchildren?
Question 7		Accountable Reporting: To ensure all Council members receive staff reports that are consistently accountable to the City's <u>Horizon 2050 Vision and 25-year Strategic Plan</u> guiding principles, will you direct staff to adopt an environmental, social, and economic lens to all reports, starting 2027? (example: <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals Framework</u>)

Response:	Yes	Yes. We have to consider all aspects before we make decisions. So our reports should be covering them to make sure we have the knoweldge and tools to make the right decision.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		Reduce, Reuse and Recycle is a motto we live by. We save water as much as we can, by closing the taps and not wasting water. We turn off our car when we are not driving, even if we are waiting for a couple of minutes. We try and choose products that come in recyclable containers, and try to reuse things as much as possible. We believe in repairing and using things instead of buying and throwing. We make sure we dispose off our litter properly even if it is outside the house. We try to carpool or use transit (100 word limit reached).