

Ward 4 Candidate: Chris Carter



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	Flooding is an immediate infrastructure and public-safety issue, and it fits directly with my commitment to maintain the infrastructure we already own and plan ahead rather than react after problems occur. I support accelerating stormwater planning, updated flood mapping and risk-based infrastructure investment. Development decisions must also consider stormwater capacity alongside roads, water, wastewater and other infrastructure. Burlington should coordinate closely with Halton Region, Conservation Halton and senior governments, pursue available funding, and clearly report priorities, costs, timelines and results. Proactive investment can protect residents while avoiding larger recovery and repair costs later.
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	Transit is a core service and an important part of reducing transportation emissions. I support investments that improve frequency, reliability and network connectivity, along with a practical transition to lower-emission vehicles. New spending should have a clearly defined problem, cost, expected outcome and way to measure success. As with cycling infrastructure, transportation investments should form part of an integrated network and be guided by demand, safety, utilization and value. Burlington should strengthen connections to GO and neighbouring systems and pursue senior-government funding. The goal is reliable service that gives more residents a realistic alternative to driving.

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. (Burlington Climate Plan 2026-2031) 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	Protecting vulnerable residents during flooding, extreme heat and other emergencies is a legitimate municipal priority. I support practical, measurable climate initiatives where the benefit can be demonstrated and municipal government can make a meaningful difference. Burlington's mitigation, adaptation and emergency-response investments should have a clearly defined need, cost and expected outcome, with priority given to residents facing the greatest risk. Council should also consider the lifecycle cost of failing to act. We should coordinate with Halton Region, community organizations and senior governments to improve outcomes and pursue shared funding rather than placing the full burden on Burlington taxpayers.
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:	Partially / Other	Burlington's trees, green space and natural areas are part of the quality of life we need to protect as the city grows. I support developing a practical action plan with clear priorities, measurable goals, costs and implementation responsibilities. In Ward 4 especially, protecting mature trees and green space must remain part of the equation as growth occurs. Burlington should leverage the experiences of surrounding municipalities with existing action plans, and work with Conservation Halton, Indigenous partners, environmental organizations and residents and pursue outside funding opportunities, where available.
Question 5		Aggregate Moratorium: To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium (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:	Partially / Other	The Niagara Escarpment, groundwater and surrounding natural systems require thoughtful protection. I generally support a temporary provincial pause on new and expanding aggregate operations to allow for a comprehensive, evidence-based review and meaningful consultation with Indigenous Nations, affected communities, municipalities, independent experts and scientists. Aggregate resources are important to Ontario's infrastructure and housing needs, but decisions must properly account for cumulative

		environmental impacts and community concerns. Timelines for such a moratorium should be reasonable and used productively to improve the regulatory framework, strengthen environmental safeguards, and provide greater certainty for communities and industry.
Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance beyond the Ontario Building Code</u> . 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	Growth should be planned with infrastructure and long-term community needs, not dealt with after the fact. I support Burlington using available planning tools, incentives and legal authorities to encourage stronger energy efficiency and sustainability where the environmental benefit can be demonstrated. Any standards or incentives should be evidence-based, practical and predictable, and their impact on housing affordability and development costs must be considered. I would look at lifecycle value, not simply upfront cost. Where provincial rules limit effective municipal action, Burlington should advocate for appropriate changes while focusing locally on measures where the City can make a meaningful difference.
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	Council must understand the full impact of the decisions it makes. I support an environmental, social and economic lens in reports, provided it is practical, concise and tied to the strategic priorities of quality services and enabling purposeful growth, while preserving the environment. Recommendations should clearly identify costs, funding sources, expected outcomes, ongoing operating impacts and relevant trade-offs. This aligns with my broader commitment to plain-language reporting and measurable results. The goal should not be another layer of process; it should be better information that helps us make decisions and allows residents to understand what was decided, why and what (100 word limit reached).
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		I try to make practical choices that reduce waste and unnecessary consumption, including using digital materials where possible, reusing materials and supporting local businesses and community initiatives. I also believe environmental responsibility means thinking about the long-term impact of everyday decisions rather than simply choosing the most convenient short-term option. In my professional and community work, I look for opportunities to use resources efficiently and reduce waste. As a Councillor, I would bring

		that same practical approach to City decisions while continuing to look for ways to improve my own environmental footprint.
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