

## Ward 5 Candidate: Kristy Dickinson



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| Question 1 |                          | <b>Flood Infrastructure &amp; Stormwater:</b> 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:  | <b>Yes</b>               | Yes. Protecting residents, homes, businesses and public infrastructure from flooding is an important municipal responsibility. As Burlington experiences more frequent and intense weather events, I support continuing to invest in evidence-based stormwater planning, updated flood mapping and infrastructure improvements that help reduce flood risk and improve community resilience. At the same time, I believe these investments should be prioritized using sound engineering, the best available data, and long-term financial planning to ensure we're directing resources where they will have greatest impact. Proactive investment is often more cost-effective than responding to the significant financial, environmental and personal impacts of future flooding. |
| Question 2 |                          | <b>Transit Investment &amp; Emission Reductions:</b> 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:  | <b>Partially / Other</b> | I support continued investment in Burlington Transit because reliable, accessible transit is an important part of a growing city. However, my approach to any investment is to first understand the problem we're trying to solve and evaluate where additional funding will have the greatest impact for residents. I support improving service reliability, network connectivity and frequency where data demonstrates it will better meet community needs. I also support transitioning to lower-emission technologies as part of normal fleet replacement, provided those investments are financially responsible and supported by a strong business case. My goal is to ensure Burlington Transit becomes a (100 word limit reached).                                           |

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| Question 3 |     | <b>Climate Equity &amp; Vulnerable Communities:</b> 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. ( <a href="#">Burlington Climate Plan 2026-2031</a> ) 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 | Yes. A reliable, accessible transit system is an important part of a growing city and plays a key role in reducing congestion, improving mobility, and providing transportation options for residents of all ages. I support thoughtful, evidence-informed investments that improve service reliability, network connectivity, frequency, and accessibility so transit becomes a practical choice for more people. As our fleet is renewed over time, I also support evaluating lower-emission technologies where they are operationally feasible and fiscally responsible. My approach is to ensure every transit investment is supported by a clear business case and delivers measurable benefits for residents. The goal (100 word limit reached). |
| Question 4 |     | <b>Biodiversity Action Plan:</b> 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 | Burlington's natural environment is an important community asset, and I support developing a Biodiversity Action Plan that establishes clear priorities and guides long-term decision-making. As with any municipal strategy, the plan should be evidence-informed, developed in consultation with residents, Indigenous partners, environmental organizations and subject matter experts, and include a transparent implementation plan. I believe good planning helps prevent bigger problems in the future, and this is an opportunity to make thoughtful, long-term investments that protect Burlington's natural environment for future generations.                                                                                              |
| Question 5 |     | <b>Aggregate Moratorium:</b> To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the <a href="#">Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium</a> (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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|                  |                          | path forward.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Response:</b> | <b>Partially / Other</b> | I support protecting Burlington's natural environment, groundwater and the Niagara Escarpment, and I believe decisions about aggregate extraction should be informed by sound science, meaningful consultation, and long-term environmental stewardship. I support a thorough review of aggregate policy, including consultation with Indigenous Nations, affected communities and independent experts. Before committing to a specific policy such as a moratorium, I would want to understand whether it is the most effective and balanced approach to protecting Burlington's environment while considering the broader impacts of that decision.                                                                                                                                                             |
| Question 6       |                          | <b>Green Building &amp; Development Standards:</b> 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?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Response:</b> | <b>Partially / Other</b> | Partially. I support the objective of encouraging more sustainable development. My hesitation is not with the goal, but with making a blanket commitment to every incentive, planning tool or legal mechanism without first understanding its effectiveness, financial implications and impact on residents. I support using the planning tools available to the City to encourage sustainable, energy-efficient development that aligns with Burlington's long-term environmental and growth objectives. However, my approach is to evaluate each proposed incentive or policy on its merits to ensure it is practical, evidence-informed, fiscally responsible, and delivers meaningful environmental benefits for our community.                                                                               |
| Question 7       |                          | <b>Accountable Reporting:</b> 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> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Response:</b> | <b>Partially / Other</b> | I strongly support providing Council with clear, practical and comprehensive staff reports that help us make better decisions. Good reporting should give Council the information needed to understand trade-offs, evaluate options and make informed decisions on behalf of residents. My hesitation is not with considering environmental, social and economic impacts—it is with committing to a specific reporting framework before understanding Burlington's current reporting processes and whether a new framework would improve decision-making without creating unnecessary administrative burden. I support continuous improvement and would welcome opportunities to enhance staff reporting where it leads to greater transparency, provides better information to support (100 word limit reached). |
| Question 8       |                          | <b>Personal Commitment:</b> What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| <b>Response:</b> |  | <p>I believe environmental stewardship begins with the choices we make everyday. My family participates in backyard composting, we make a point of shopping locally whenever possible, including at farmers' markets, and we use reusable water bottles and travel mugs to reduce waste. I also spend a great deal of time walking and running throughout Burlington, which has given me a deep appreciation for our parks, trails and natural spaces. These everyday choices reflect my belief that we all have a role to play in caring for our community, and they reinforce my commitment to making thoughtful decisions that protect Burlington (100 word limit reached)</p> |
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