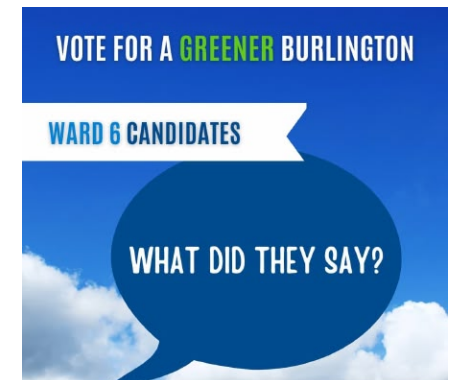


Ward 6 Candidate: Bianca Bielski



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	As a councillor, I would push for a clear, city-wide approach that identifies the highest-risk areas, updates our flood mapping and establishes priorities for stormwater infrastructure based on risk. I also believe we need to make sure new development does not add to existing stormwater problems. Growth needs to be accompanied by the infrastructure and stormwater capacity necessary to support it. It is about being proactive rather than waiting for the next major storm.
Question 2		Transit Investment & Emission Reductions: With vehicle emissions generating over 40% 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	I support investing in public transit and improving the service residents receive, including more reliable service, better routes, increased frequency where demand supports it, and a gradual transition to a more electrified diversified fleet. Transit has to be a practical and dependable alternative. That means looking at where routes are working, where gaps exist and where increased frequency would actually make a difference for residents.
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:	Partially / Other	Climate resilience is about basic municipal responsibilities: protecting homes and businesses from flooding, ensuring our infrastructure can withstand extreme weather, and making sure emergency services can respond effectively when residents need help. However, I believe these investments need to be carefully prioritized. As a councillor, I would want to see clear plans, measurable outcomes and accountability for how taxpayer dollars are being spent.
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	I would support requesting staff to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan, however, I would want to have a better understanding of policies the city currently have in place. Burlington's natural areas, forests, wetlands, creeks and shoreline are important community assets and protecting the, is essential.
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:	Partially / Other	I may support a provincial moratorium on new and expanding aggregate operations to allow time for a thorough review of how gravel mining is affecting groundwater, air quality, farmland, communities and the Niagara Escarpment once having consulted with city staff.
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	As I have in the past, I would advocate for stronger energy-efficiency and sustainability standards in Burlington's new developments. I would support using planning policies, incentives and other available mechanisms to encourage higher-performing buildings, greater energy efficiency, lower emissions and more sustainable development. I would also support working with the development community to find practical ways to make these improvements achievable and economically reasonable.
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:	Partially / Other	I would support requesting senior management to incorporate an environmental, social and economic lens into Council reports, where relevant to the decision being considered. Staff reports should continue to clearly identify significant environmental, social and economic impacts, including how a recommendation aligns with Burlington's long-term plans and objectives.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		Everyday I try to be conscious about the environmental impact of my choices. I recycle and reduce waste and try to be mindful of energy and water use at home. I believe small, consistent choices by individuals, combined with responsible decisions by governments can have an impact. As a councillor, I would bring that same practical approach to environmental issues: look for solutions that are achievable, measurable and provide value to residents and the community.