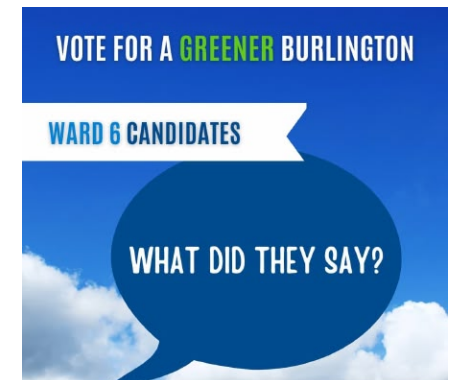


## Ward 6 Candidate: Chris Bouchard



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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> | An ounce of prevention equals a pound of cure. Reducing flooding risks helps prevent home Insurance premiums from rising, coverages decreasing and the overall costs for city cleanup to be reduced. This is a long term win win scenario to protect residents while ensuring the city isn't paying more in the future for recovery and remediation and then flooding prevention anyways.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 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>Yes</b> | I've said it before and I'll say it again, to get the public to use public transportation you need to incentivize it and make it more palpable than driving your own vehicle. So yes increasing in smart endeavors such as fleet electrification, route reliability, network connectivity, are paramount for success. I would also include safety measures as some residents have always felt safer in the confines of their own locked car in case a situation were to arise, addressing safety concerns and route reliability would go a long way in getting the public to feel confident in riding public transit. |

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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 I will. And to echo my first answer regarding flood prevention investments, this is part of the reason why as well. No matter what, if disaster occurs in our City and Region, it is going to cost the taxpayers to remediate the issue. So not only is it in our humanity to ensure everyone is taken care of, it also makes prudent fiscal sense to support the budget investments now to prevent more costly disasters later, both on the financial and human side. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.                                                                                                                                                      |
| 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 | I'd like to see a Biodiversity action plan, As stated there has been an acceleration of invasive species does continue to grow. For ex, I know quite a few home owners over the years, including myself that have lost trees to the importation of the asian longhorn beetle. It's important we truly understand the natural world around us to better understand and treat any threats to our local eco systems here.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 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 path forward.)                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Response:  | Yes | In construction, one of the first idioms of measuring twice before you cut once, and this scenario is no different. Let's fully understand the scenario before we progress through. I don't see anything wrong with taking a literal measured approach before we go and create or expand operations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Question 6 |     | <b>Green Building &amp; Development Standards:</b> Provincial legislation <a href="#">restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance</a> beyond the Ontario Building Code. Consistent with the <a href="#">City's Horizon 2050 net -zero commitments</a> , 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?                                                                                                                                                                         |

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| <b>Response:</b> | <b>Yes</b>               | Necessity is the parent of invention and I believe putting out a standard for better building and sustainability standards is a perfect example of this. And the added benefit of creating incentives can help coax potentially something innovative and potentially patentable. There is great business incentive in developing a higher standard of construction where it could coax businesses into creating entirely new divisions of construction. Making environmental sustainability an ideal capital investment could help induce some amazing economic and environmental potential.                                 |
| 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 don't want to commit to anything I'm not fully informed to. So I'm not sure why the current framework would be preventing council members from receiving these staff reports to begin with? There are more questions in this question that I have that I don't feel comfortable committing to a yes or no statement until I understand what council is getting or not getting as far as reports to the 25 year strategic plan and it's adherence to it.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Question 8       |                          | <b>Personal Commitment:</b> What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Response:</b> |                          | I'm fortunately able bodied, So I try and walk to and from local places as much as I can. I hope people have seen me in the neighbourhood doing that. I also believe councillors should be committed to using public transportation when commuting to work. What better way to get the heard of public transportation issues than by experiencing the issues first hand, but also highlighting and promoting public transit. Getting to live and work in the same city, civil servants should be highlighting the transit we seem to champion so much and hopefully that coaxes more people to use (100 word limit reached). |