

Cobourg

Cobourg Council Candidate



Municipal Elections

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First Name *

Randy

Last Name *

Barber

Campaign address *

734 Elmer Hutton St Cobourg

Website and social media *

Facebook

Name one or more specific actions you would take to address voter's concerns related to community safety?

Continue relationship with Police Chief and town bylaws enforcement. Adjust bylaws as required.

How would you address issues related to mental health and addiction of individuals living rough, giving specific steps or actions by council?

Within our power and mandate, provide expanded services to those truly in need and for those unable to make the personal decision, intervene and remove to where they can have help imposed

How effective do you think the Emergency Care Bylaw is in addressing the needs of unsheltered people who need a temporary home? What, if anything, would you change?

Anything that is done is helpful realizing there is no silver bullet. nimbyism rears it's head always and the more services are provided the more will come. I support Cobourgs effort for a warming room this Nov.

How would you address the creation of affordable housing, giving three specific items you would introduce during your term on council? How many units would you want to see created by the end of your term?

Dont know what affordable housing is or who would build it? Would support a farm property with tents or tiny homes someplace in County. Trailer with bathrooms and shower on site. Daily monitoring by police and service support organizations and access to food banks.

How would you implement the More Homes Built Faster Act locally. giving two examples?

Follow provincial guidelines allowing community input at every opportunity with new development proposals as they are submitted.

What are your views on Strong Mayor powers and their use?

Used judiciously, they can improve intransigence. It's an experiment partially studied and highly misunderstood by the general public on social media. As with everything new, there will be extremes at both ends but the test is what's gets done that benefits the overall community

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

We shop local. Cobourg works closely with the DBIA and it's businesses throughout the town. I generally support growth because I would rather have a new resident paying taxes than an existing resident paying more taxes. 50-100 year old underground infrastructure will not be repaired costing the same as it was when built. That is why reserves are important.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

Just voted in favour of new parks and rec plan and the future looks bright.

What is a reasonable municipal tax rate or increase? How would you achieve this, giving specific budget areas or line items?

Impossible to answer. After line by line review, we all want an increase as close to zero as possible. In my experience, a former municipality who for several years put through 3% or less including a couple of years at 0%, soon discovered that to realign took a 20% increase in one year. Most contract salary raises stretch into the future at 3% or more and the cost in the future of repairs is not going to be LESS than today.

What is a reasonable increase to the Cobourg Police Service budget? Give specific services or line items you would adjust to reach this goal?

Explain reasonable! Demand for service is up so more officers? HQ is old and crowded. Technology gets better daily. Patrol cars wear out. Board study line by line is required and then the tough decisions are made by Council of which I am one vote of seven.

Name one or more new initiatives you plan to implement over your term to improve the quality of life for everyone in the municipality?

Continue to enhance Cobourg as a place to reside and work and VISIT. Maintain and enhance our heritage centered around Victoria Hall. Continue in my role as Chair of several organizations and answer my 25 plus emails daily from residents asking for my assistance about something that concerns them.

How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to council that no one else can provide, but also giving at least one guilty pleasure?

I consider myself as a "student of listening" resulting from years of chairing administrative tribunals at the federal and provincial levels and then writing a decision for the applicant with reasons that are clear and understood. My appeal rates were far below the norm because I explained my reasoning, pro or against. As one of seven votes, I have the power to persuade and be persuaded, after reflecting on the decision consequences in the short, medium and long term. None of us is perfect or right all the time!

I admit to enjoying a daily celebratory cigar. My problem is that I often find more than one thing to celebrate in 24 hours!!

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