

Cobourg

Cobourg Council Candidate



Municipal Elections

2026 YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.
INFORMED TODAY. STRONGER TOMORROW. • N897 FM

First Name *

Alex

Last Name *

Cahill

Campaign address *

440 lonsberry dr

Website and social media *

alexcahill.ca

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

I would focus on working with the county and province on delivering the immediately necessary housing and supports for people living on the streets with mental health challenges and addictions. Mental health, crime, and addiction are downstream of affordability and housing accessibility and these are the core issues that must be addressed to create a safer community for everyone. I would work towards creating more afterschool programs for youth to divert one of the most vulnerable populations away from hard drugs and antisocial behaviours. I would encourage our police force to bring more foot patrols to the downtown core to create a sense of safety and a more immediate point of contact and response for anyone feeling unsafe.

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

We need to work with the county to immediately find and build transitional housing with supports for people facing mental health, addiction, and homelessness. Without a safe roof and locked door to sleep behind, these downstream issues can't properly be addressed. People need stability and predictability in their day-to-day lives to begin dealing with their health challenges. Support workers waste an inordinate amount of time and energy trying to find the people they're supposed to be working with. A fixed address solves many concerns at once.

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?

The emergency care bylaw hasn't addressed the needs of unsheltered people. They are still unsheltered and without a home. That number has only grown.

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?

I don't think affordable housing is the right term. We need housing that everyone can access. The dollar amount that people can afford is variable based on their circumstances. I would like council to direct town staff to find ways to follow the examples of other communities that have already built transitional housing with supports and report back on how it can best be done in Cobourg.

I would like council to connect with the Ontario Cooperative Housing Federation to work on building cooperative housing units in Cobourg as fast as possible to address the needs of folks on fixed incomes and workers struggling with the rising cost of living.

I would work with council on petitioning the county to accelerate the construction of social housing because as a percentage of units, we lag far behind most other developed countries in its availability.

We must petition our MPP and MP to find every available support from our provincial and federal governments.

We should aim for at least 50 transitional housing units. Even this number might not be enough to bring everyone off our streets, and that should obviously be our goal.

Cooperative and social housing units should be the primary focus of development in our town and that number should be in the hundreds.

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

I don't believe this is a piece of legislation that we should rely on. It takes away our town's autonomy and ability to manage development by giving developers free reign to overrule zoning and environmental legislation.

It downloads development costs of key infrastructure like roads and sewers to our residents and that doesn't make sense to me.

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

I believe this undemocratic legislation shouldnt be used, and at the very least, be delegated to council.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

I would work to communicate clearly what the parking bylaws are so that residents and workers would feel confident in parking and visiting businesses downtown.

I would work to increase access to shopping areas, especially Northumberland Mall, Division Street, and downtown with public transit.

I would work to amend zoning laws to allow for limited commercial activity in new neighbourhoods being built - cafes, bakeries, grocery stores, gyms, and small offices. This would reduce our reliance on residents to fund and maintain the infrastructure necessary to keep our town's roads, sewers, stormwater drainage, and services paid for by increasing tax revenues.

This would also be a step towards the economic development we need, and reduced reliance on driving to access all of our needs.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

Our town is in desperate need of more extracurricular activities for our youth, as well as young adults. I would work with council to establish new recreational sports, arts, and music programs in our parks and community facilities.

Our library presents a great opportunity in the provision of afterschool programming for children and we need to make the best use of it we can.

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

Most of our residents can't afford further increases to taxes. We have to focus on increasing revenues by attracting businesses and workers to our town to offset the continued rise in our mill rate. Property taxes are an inherently regressive tax that affects those having the greatest difficulty the most. We should be petitioning the provincial government to upload the costs of as many services as possible to ease the burden on our residents.

Our greatest costs are police, the maintenance of our roads, and facilities. We must do everything possible to reduce the future costs of these line items by refocusing our policing and bylaw enforcement strategy away from management of our population experiencing mental health and addiction challenges, and homelessness. This is work for county social services.

We must be mindful in further development of new neighborhoods to reduce how much land we pave to mitigate road maintenance and stormwater drainage management. The maintenance of this ever-expanding infrastructure is bankrupting towns all over North America.

We should explore revenue raising opportunities such as charging non-county residents for the use of high traffic and high maintenance cost amenities like the Cobourg beach.

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

0

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

We must address the converging mental health, addiction, and homelessness crisis caused by a lack of accessible housing and the rising cost of living.

The reduced sense of safety felt by many of our vulnerable residents must be heard and dealt with.

Our council and town staff should work to increase the number of extracurricular activities available for all of our residents, especially our youth.

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

Having worked in the service industry most of my life, as well as in farm wholesale and market operations, with most of my years in management, I bring the ability to listen to people's concerns and cooperate with those around me. I'm extremely congenial in my dealings with those around me from a lifetime of experience in service.

I love shopping and supporting our local thrift stores to a fault!

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms