

## Municipal Election 2018 (Survey Results): Township of Zorra

Poverty negatively impacts our ability to create a healthy, vibrant community. The fact that some people in Oxford County cannot afford basic needs, including nutritious and sufficient food is a real concern. In Oxford County, based on the 2015 after tax Low Income Measure, 10.8% of the population (11, 835 people) live in low income.

On September 10, 2018, all Township of Zorra Candidates were contacted via email with a follow-up call and provided an introduction to, and a link to the following survey. The survey questions provide an opportunity for voters to start a discussion with candidates about poverty reduction. Our hope is that this survey serves as a starting point to an ongoing conversation about poverty in Oxford County.

Participation in the survey was voluntary. Responses provided by the candidates that completed the survey are posted and have not been changed in any way. Social Planning Council Oxford would like to thank those candidates who have completed the survey.

The following candidates from the Township of Zorra did not submit a completed survey:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>
Doug Matheson	Mayor
Betty Bartram	Councillor
Katie Davies (acclaimed)	Councillor
Ronald Forbes	Councillor
Steven MacDonald (acclaimed)	Councillor
Paul Mitchell	Councillor



## Municipal Election 2018: Candidate Survey Responses to Social Issues

### Question #1: Poverty Reduction Strategy

In 2017, Oxford County declared:

*“Poverty reduction in Oxford County is achievable and will strengthen well-being for all. It’s the right thing to do.*

*Through leadership, innovation, and the transformation of relationships, in working to eliminate poverty. Oxford County will deliver improved health and well-being for all residents and enhance community prosperity.”*

As a result a draft [Zero Poverty Plan](#) was presented to council in June 2018.

#### Do you support the funding and implementation of the Oxford County Zero Poverty Plan?

Candidate	Position	Response
Marcus Ryan	Mayor	No
Michael Kukhta	Councillor	Yes

### Question #2: Housing

a) Is safe, decent and secure affordable housing a priority in your platform?

b) How will you help families and individuals secure and maintain safe, decent and affordable housing?

Candidate	Position	Response A	Response B
Marcus Ryan	Mayor	Yes	Item 7 from my platform: "Improved development plan to reduce pressure on current property tax payers and increase affordable housing"
Michael Kukhta	Councillor	Yes	Work with zoning bylaws we have to allow more rental units and renovations to allow for options. Allow second dwellings on rural properties. Re-work rules to allow more severances. Meet with groups like yours and school principals in the area to find out what signs they are seeing of poverty. I coached high school football and learned a lot about what is going on in the community about families who need help. as a start



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### Questions #3: Transportation

- a) Is affordable public transportation a priority in your platform?  
b) How will you create or enhance public transportation that is affordable for everyone, especially people living in poverty?

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Response A</b>	<b>Response B</b>
Marcus Ryan	Mayor	Yes	Item 10 from my platform: "Transportation Policy Part 1, Improve Safety of Roads", and item 12: "Promote alternatives to the existing High Speed Rail proposal"
Michael Kukhta	Councillor	Yes	I like the UBER hail option Innisfil is trying. I would also see if we can create an app that can connect people with vehicles and some time to do a more informal ride sharing program. I also support inter-city rail options.

### Question #4: Other Comments

Any other comments or areas in your platform that will address poverty or other social issues in Oxford County?

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Response</b>
Marcus Ryan	Mayor	Item 1 from my platform: "Rural communities shouldn't bear the costs of protecting Prime Agricultural Land on their own: The Provincial Government needs to understand that there are consequences to rural Ontario for rightly protecting Prime Agricultural Land on behalf of all Ontarians. Rural communities should not have to bear the costs (reduced growth resulting in reduced services such as schools, hospitals, infrastructure) on their own"
Michael Kukhta	Councillor	The signs and sounds of poverty and those who hover close to it must not be ignored. This applies to both younger families struggling to get started, seniors who have pensions that aren't sustaining them and many in between. You need a safe and reliable place to live as a start. Can we find and pair up seniors who are lonely and folks who need a place? It may be a start as a one-on-one approach. Focus on bylaws and rules that we control can, support poverty reduction groups and advocate for more funding from the Oxford and the Ontario governments.