

Municipal Election 2018 (Survey Results): Township of East Zorra-Tavistock

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 East Zorra-Tavistock 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 East Zorra-Tavistock did not submit a completed survey:

Candidate	Position
Donald McKay	Mayor
Maureen Ralph	Mayor
Donald Edmiston	Deputy Mayor
Shirley McCall-Hanlon	Deputy Mayor
Thomas Murray	Councillor
Scott Rudy (acclaimed)	Councillor
Matthew Gillespie	Councillor
Jeremy Smith	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
Phil Schaefer	Councillor	Unsure
Margaret Lupton	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
Phil Schaefer	Councillor	Yes	Having a safe, affordable place to live is a foundation to lifting oneself and their families out of poverty. I think there may be an increased role for the private sector to be involved in the solutions needed
Margaret Lupton	Councillor	Yes	This has always been a priority for me. In my experience over the years I have served on Council work supporting this is under the direction of the Human Services Department at the County. (Paul Beaton).I have been impressed with the progress made in creating new facilities as well as improving and up-grading those we already have. If elected to EZT Council I will continue to support HS recommendations.



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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?

Candidate	Position	Response A	Response B
Phil Schaefer	Councillor	Unsure	The township has no public transportation, and it would be difficult to make something like this economically viable in a rural township.
Margaret Lupton	Councillor	Yes	I have often wondered if some use could be made of the many school buses that sit idle most of the day. At one time a school bus made a route from Embro to Tavistock to Woodstock in the morning and returned later in the day.. I wonder is something similar could be reinstated to at least help rural residents needing to access urban services but unable to access transportation to make this possible.

Question #4: Other Comments

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

Candidate	Position	Response
Margaret Lupton	Councillor	I really believe this needs to be continued under the mandate of Oxford County Human Services Department. I have confidence they have the people most able to plan the programmes that need to be implemented. I also see the need for the Province to step up their support....financially and other wise.