



Municipal Election 2018 (Survey Results): Township of Norwich

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 Norwich 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 Norwich did not submit a completed survey:

Candidate	Position
Larry Martin	Mayor
Jim Palmer (acclaimed)	Councillor
Ed Atfield	Councillor

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.



Municipal Election 2018: Candidate Survey Responses to Social Issues

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

Candidate	Position	Response
Tara King	Mayor	Yes
Lynne DePlancke	Councillor	Yes
John Palmer	Councillor	Yes
Tyler Zacher-King	Councillor	Yes
Alan Dale	Councillor	Yes
John Scholten	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
Tara King	Mayor	No	Although safe, affordable housing is not printed in my platform, I know how important safe, decent, affordable and secure housing is very important to Oxford County as a whole. In Norwich Township specifically, I have a goal to bring back licenced Child Care. This will be a small step in helping the 30% of children in Norwich that are marked as vulnerable on one or more domain of the EDI (2017). Families will be able to access funding from the County of Oxford for this licensed child care facility, freeing up funds for other necessities and availability for work.
Lynne DePlancke	Councillor	Yes	the Township of Norwich fall under the category of a rural municipality which brings different issues and obstacles than urban areas. If a solution can't be reached in our municipality it might be in the best interest of a family to be relocated to an urban area with the help local elected officials
John Palmer	Councillor	Yes	Working with developers and their planned projects to ensure there are a variety of housing to meet the needs of all.



Municipal Election 2018: Candidate Survey Responses to Social Issues

Tyler Zacher-King	Councillor	Yes	The county and township have to work together to provide opportunities for affordable housing. Working with developers to offer affordable rental housing will help the township grow and prosper.
Alan Dale	Councillor	No	I support secure affordable housing but it is a county issue in conjunction with the other two levels of government. I live in a rural ward where there is no public housing nor is there water and wastewater services to support such housing. Transportation is another concern when building housing. This is a county issue but the Township of Norwich could and should work together with the County of Oxford and partner agencies to provide such housing in a serviced location such as the village of Norwich. I was disappointed to see that the provincial government cancelled the pilot program regarding guaranteed minimum income. A program such as this would help families to afford to remain in their own housing unit.
John Scholten	Councillor	Yes	By continuing to support council decisions

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
Tara King	Mayor	Yes	I will promote Transit options that will connect our communities within our township, so that Youth and Seniors can stay connected to our community and participate in recreation throughout the township.
Lynne DePlancke	Councillor	Yes	The town of Tillsonburg is currently working on a planned bus route to connect several of the rural areas to the urban ones. This will enable those who don't have the way or means to get to appointments, shopping etc... able to do so. Once again being mainly a rural community it brings more difficulties to this plan. As an elected official one would have to look at helping fund this program to enhance public transportation for all.
John Palmer	Councillor	No	Would investigate if some type of busing was needed in the county so that residents could access stores, services and hospitals.



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Tyler Zacher-King	Councillor	Yes	We have to look at different options for public transit. It could be bussing, subsidized ride sharing or another alternative transit option. People young and old need to be able to move around our township.
Alan Dale	Councillor	No	The County of Oxford is working on a transportation plan. We need to support and encourage various forms of transportation. The support of public transit is also needed where appropriate. Here in a rural area there is little demand to provide regular public transportation. Again this is an upper tier issue. The policies and budget for this need to come from the county level. I am glad that the transportation study is happening and as a member of the Township of Norwich council I am supportive of supporting enhanced transportation. However this is a county level and mainly an urban issue.
John Scholten	Councillor	Unsure	Does not believe transportation is an issue within his municipality however supports proposed ideas of creating an intercity transportation system

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
Tara King	Mayor	I will pursue opening a Walk-In Clinic and increase access to Primary Care, so those that want to continue to live in Norwich Township can do so by their own choice.
John Palmer	Councillor	Maintain high level of employment in the county
Alan Dale	Councillor	Again, issues such as public housing and transportation are upper tier issues and happening mainly in urban centres. I am supportive of the County of Oxford working to improve the lives of our residents but at the lower tier we do not have the budget nor jurisdiction to handle these issues. These issues are important but are not a priority here in a rural ward. Public health education and services however, are an example of programs which tend to benefit both urban and rural residents of Oxford. However, once again, this is dealt with at the county level.
John Scholten	Councillor	he will represent the needs of his municipality and support council decisions as they arise.