

Burlington Chamber of Commerce

2010 Municipal Election Issues

Survey Conducted: August 3 to August 9, 2010

Number of Respondents: 187

Note: Questions 2, 3, and 4 percentages do not add to 100 due to some incomplete surveys.

1. Which issues should be the priorities of the next city council?

ISSUE	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAID THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE A COUNCIL PRIORITY
Capital Spending	51.9%
Taxes	47.6%
City Operations Spending	46.5%
The Pier	41.7%
JBMH Expansion	40.6%
How Well Council Functions	38.5%
Jobs & Prosperity	34.8%
Waterfront Development	33.7%
Traffic	30.5%
Land Use	21.9%
Size of Council	20.3%
Public Transit	19.3%
Red Tape	18.7%
Education	14.4%
Development Charges	12.8%
Air Quality	12.3%
Intensification	11.2%
Other	7.5%

Other:

- Traffic and transit option.
- Gov't spending has to be more efficient.
- Improve image outside of Canada through Travel & Tourism exposure.
- Driving a customer service mentality at city hall.
- Sustainability and environmental issues.
- Accountability to residents.
- Let the whole World know that Burlington, ON Canada EXJSTS.
- Need to replace basically everyone on council including the mayor, as they are poor fiscal managers.
- Heritage and culture.
- Council accountability.
- Leadership at council is the key issue for this election.
- We desperately need new Leadership on council.
- A leader who can facilitate open dialogue and trust between the community and council.
- We need another Mayor like Rob McIscac not someone who has been in the political area most of his working career.

2. What should happen to the size of city council?

Remain the same	47.1%
Get larger	22.5%
Get smaller	16.6%

3. What should be done with the pier?

Just finish it	57.8%
Get a new builder	16.0%
Tear it down	11.8%
Other	5.9%

Other:

- But it needs to be completed.
- Redesign it to make it more of a people place - look at Bronte or even the old Shell pier.
- I am prepared to see a tax increase to maintain the city physical infrastructure in good condition - e.g. no bridge collapses (or other infrastructure failure) owing to lack of maintenance - - before we build more.
- Pier question. What's the difference between Just finish it and get a new builder? Both imply finish it.
- The pier is a disgrace finish the dam thing "NOW"!
- Pier situation -- not reflect well on our city.
- Our council needs to build consensus within trust with the public and make some concrete decisions about something.
- Hire a project manager.
- The tallest building in the world started construction at the same time the pier started. They finished building the tallest building in the world January 2010. This was a waste of our money.
- The city has the ability to fight this thing for much longer than the builder. The pier and the way it is being handled is an embarrassment to the city and citizens
- We must complete the pier it is embarrassing to have visitors coming to our beautiful city with that left unfinished. What was our Mayor thinking? I know this project was implemented by the previous council but it is the current Mayors responsibility to get the job done and stop placing the blame on others!

4. Do you plan to vote in the October 25 election?

Yes	84.0%
I don't know yet	38.0%
No	1.6%

Comments:

- Traffic - you can't allow commercial buildings along major roadways like Harvester and Fairview load and unload trucks while stopped in the roadways. If they do not have proper loading zones why do they get to screw up traffic by blocking already busy streets.
- Very UPSETTING.>>!!! I am spending money to sustain businesses and enjoy the charm of the downtown area and then I need to pay the city for the privilege.
- Certainly feel the Charm of Burlington is falling by the way side. We are becoming a cookie cutter of all other concrete jungle communities [i.e., Mississauga]...living here for the past 9 years and loved the uniqueness of the city however with traffic where not necessary would love to enjoy the town and community for what it is....a city on to itself..and not just one big high rise box stores tourist trap of a concrete jungle.
- Adjust the council so that wise decisions are being made on behalf of the existing citizens and not dragging in new citizens that don't have the beauty of the city in mind. Burlington used to be so clean very odd to see something thrown from the car. Now the people that drive our downtown and surrounding areas throw garbage coffee cups etc. onto our streets and surrounding area. People moving in have no pride in the community. Council should concentrate on that to ensure that what Burlington is known for is kept up and is respected. It is just terrible what I have seen [as a new person in Burlington] in the last three years with development. People just don't care and I am wondering if your council sees that and what they intend to do to keep the charm going?
- Council gives in to developers and changes zoning to suit developers' needs despite having reservations.
- Nice short survey. Thanks chamber. Looking forward to the results. Council disharmony is the biggest thing the new council should work on. New mayor would help.
- As a business owner in the Burlington area I would like to see a mandate to re-build our economy in order to create spending. People are afraid to spend afraid to invest and do not trust our economy or our leaders. All issues would be more easily dealt with if Council worked better together. It will likely take a new Mayor to do this.
- With all due respect to the mayor perhaps he should leave now before he makes it worse.
- We need a change at the top.

- Why are you hosting the all candidates meeting on a Friday before the Monday election date? You host sooner to create some really great buzz! Please reconsider!
- We live in one of the finest communities in the world. We need to make our City politicians aware of it! How we invest and strategically plan our logistics and growth now will dictate what Burlington looks like for the next 25 years.
- Contrary to what the Burlington Post and so-called expert Hamilton Spectator columnist Joan Little says I think Burlington is pretty-well run. The naysayers and 'let's do nothing-invest nothing' crowd seems to have little understanding of what it takes to build a 'stand-out' city and no credible alternatives. Let's press to freeze municipal wages and benefits. Surveys show the public sector is leading the private sector in compensation. This must be reversed especially in light of our weak economy.
- There should be a smaller group of councilors responsible for the whole city - we're only 165.
- My issue is with how moneys are being distributed to different areas of Burlington. Our Downtown Marketing should be a major focus as it is the heart of the City and there is not enough money and man power being directed specifically to marketing these independent businesses. This is such a beautiful area but these businesses need support. We barely get \$100,000 for marketing the downtown a year and there is no position specifically targeted to work with the volunteers to help make events run smoothly. The Burlington Arts Centre receives about \$750,000 a year of funding it would be nice to receive just a quarter of that for helping ALL of the downtown businesses. The Arts Centre is still important however the distribution of funding seems very off. The big Box stores are going to slowly but surely take over the unique independent businesses.
- City hall needs to be accountable to the citizens and focus on what we want. Did the taxpayers really want? 1) Discovery Centre/Spencer's (a.k.a Mistake by the Lake part I); 2) the Pier (a.k.a Mistake by the Lake part II) and 3) Performing Arts Centre. There appears to be greater opposition to these items than support for them.
- I am sick of local politicians inserting themselves in virtually every issue of the Burlington Post for no apparent reason. Stop wasting resources on the pier. If it is unsafe then tear it down at the original builder's expense. Support JMBH - it barely runs as it is because it is understaffed especially at night. Any expansion must support HR as well as new infrastructure and equipment. Make people stop smoking near the hospital entrances!
- With the additional growth in business and residential the added income should make for 0% increase in taxes. I am ok with a hospital levy as the reputation of Joe Brant is not stellar. More bike paths are needed.
- We've never had such huge issues with council as during the last couple of years. Get rid of Mr. Jackson and get some new blood into council. It's time for a shake-up.
- Some of the items listed in the first question are not directly controlled by the City, but by either the region. I have only clicked on the items that I think are both controlled by the City and should be a priority. The other items are also important but should possibly be addressed by candidates as to how they would try to extend influence to the other levels of government.
- I'm not a resident of Burlington. But I am a business owner here.
- Our public transit system is wholly focused on commuter traffic. The rest of the system is inefficient and ill-conceived. An example is a bus stop in front of a high school that arrives (if it is even on time) right when the school day starts. If it arrived 10 minutes earlier it might be useful for kids. I also tried to use transit earlier this year and a trip that takes 10 minutes in the car took an hour when using transit. Who are we kidding? No one is going to bother leaving their car at home.
- I am sorry that I voted for this mayor and councilor for ward 1 I won't make the same mistake next time.
- Present mayor and councilors have gone on a wild spending spree in recent years and mortgaged our future. This is compounded by the fact that there is no leadership or consensus. We need to start with a new slate of individuals that listen and do what the citizens desire
- Great city but Tax increases are too high and not much accountability to the taxpayer. They should look back at what we received with the increases... are we better off and did we get good value?
- As a Resident 5 minute drive to the Downtown Area...Personal issues with "Paid Parking on Saturday" in the downtown area. One recent Saturday shopped at Mia Shoes, Mirella's, Scribner's, JJORR and had lunch at Downtown Bistro. Spent over \$2000.00 and came to my car to find a parking ticket. Parked at the Brickworks building. I feel that is gouging the citizens. I understand Monday to Friday as every municipality has parking to sustain it's communities however on Saturday where the downtown local businesses need business citizens are being "hit over the head" with parking tickets because if it before 6pm. I read the sign and my attention was only caught with the FREE Parking Saturday Sunday and Holidays. I did not see the 6 pm. I feel this is horrible and very upsetting. I will certainly not be shopping or enjoying the downtown area unless someone else is driving or I need to come down during the week for business. Make the signage bigger to note it changes after 6 pm on Saturday. When you are looking for a parking spot you don't always have the feasibility to stand there and read every word.