

Question	Rick Goldring	Marianne Meed Ward	Mike Wallace	Greg Woodruff
Why are you running for Mayor?	I've lived in Burlington my whole life. For the past eight years, I've proudly served as your mayor. During this time, we've accomplished a great deal for our community, but there's still more to do. The mayor is one vote on council. To get things done, the mayor must build consensus. Of the three leading mayoral candidates, I am the only one with a proven track-record of bringing council together and getting results. This is not the time to gamble on untested on unstable leadership.	The city we love is changing, not for the better, due to decisions by this mayor and the other councillors on overdevelopment, causing land price escalation; selling public waterfront land; unaffordable tax increases; lack of focus on business attraction; red tape at City Hall slowing down reasonable development; traffic congestion, slowing the pace of business; insufficient transit, especially to business areas. I'm running for reasonable growth, better transit, protection of trees/greenspace, business attraction, protecting community character, and respect for residents, businesses and among councillors.	Over the next four years, the decisions that Council make will impact Burlington residents for decades. Now is the time to ensure that our city "fights above its weight class" with policy makers in Halton, the Province, and Federal governments. Neither confrontation or appeasement will achieve this. It requires leadership. My experience, knowledge and relationships with other levels of government will get Burlington's issues addressed.	No response received
What is the most important issue that you will deal with in the next four years and how will you deal with it?	Thirteen years ago the Ontario government decided Burlington must grow. They targeted our downtown and the areas around the three GO Stations. As a result of provincial growth and density targets forced on us, development has occurred that doesn't always reflect the values of our community. Though some mayoral candidates promise that they can single-handedly stop development, this is not the reality. The new provincial government provides a new opportunity for Burlington to push for changes to planning policies that had previously been dismissed.	Overdevelopment is our biggest challenge, that leads to others which negatively impact business including traffic congestion, loss of retail/commercial space, rising land prices due to speculation. With three new councillors (Ward 1 and 3 retiring, my Ward 2 seat open) there's an opportunity to amend the Official Plan for reasonable growth, scaled to our infrastructure; refocus the Burlington Economic Development Corporation toward business attraction, with the mayor pitching investment; attract post secondary; create Mayor's Business Roundtable; develop small business "concierge service".	The underlying issue that I am hearing at the door is how growth is shaping Burlington's future. As Mayor, I will bring experienced leadership to the table. We need collaborate with all stakeholders at the beginning of the process, not at the end. The current us against them atmosphere Burlington is experiencing has caused poor decision making. I will not be led by ideology, but practicality and community concerns. I will not refuse to work with others. As your Mayor, I will listen and lead.	No response received
The Places to Grow document has put pressures on municipalities to grow and intensify causing a decrease in affordability. What measures would you introduce to address this problem?	All levels of government must play a role. The Region of Halton has created over 1,300 new housing units in the last ten years for residents in need and will build more as provincial and federal funding comes available. The City of Burlington will create a housing policy using a range of different tools to encourage a variety of housing including rentals. I commit to creating a not for profit/non government seniors housing agency and working with Habitat for Humanity to help address the issue.	First, end overdevelopment. Our share of growth is 185,000 by 2031; Burlington was 183,000 in 2016 Census. We're on track, but decisions by this mayor/ council push us beyond growth requirements, reduce affordability. We'll get new targets to 2041, and I'll advocate to the region/province only for growth that fits our infrastructure; protect employment land from conversion; explore Community Improvement Plan districts for business incentives and grants to cut the cost of business and bring jobs to Burlington (eg. Deferred Development Charges, ICI credits).	The Places to Grow Act does not reflect the vision the people of Burlington have for our city. Nor my vision, particularly downtown. We must have downtown mobility hub removed for the plan. This will allow us to determine where, when and how much growth Burlington needs to accommodate. I am the only candidate that can effectively work with our current provincial government to get the changes we need to take control of our own growth plans. Success comes from collaboration and negotiation, not confrontation.	No response received
If elected, what measures would you propose or support to improve the operations of Burlington Transit?	Our city's transit plan has prioritized service our major routes. To continually improve transit service we must: Improve frequency of service on Plains, Fairview, Appleby, Brant and others; provide better connectivity for people who live off main routes to get to their closest transit stop easier; better align Burlington's transit schedule with the Go schedule; improve customer service by installing 'next bus' signage at major stops and create a new Transit App that allow riders to get real time scheduling and updates on any delays.	End single source, high priced consultants (\$150,000 for Jarrett Walker, I was the only councillor to oppose) and listen to people/businesses to build a system that works; increase frequency on a grid system; ensure service to low rider areas, but consider innovative alternatives to fixed route, big buses (eg. Dial a ride taxi service) where these are more economical; ensure effective transit for Mainway/Harvester/John Lucas/services roads and other employment areas; explore Regional transit service to improve cross border linkages.	To increase ridership, we must make transit more efficient and effective. Transit is the one of best answers to solving some of our traffic issues. Cycling or walking are not solutions, at least in the short-term. I want to look at improved relationship between local transit systems including the possibility of a GTA west fully integrated transit system. I am also open to look at the future services that can supplement our transit system such as shared -ride, driverless and on-call systems.	No response received
In the previous two years, tax increases averaged 3-4%, much higher than the rate of inflation. What would you do to control the municipal budget?	Over the last eight years, Burlington's overall property tax increases, (combined City-Region) averaged less than two percent with the City's portion averaging three%. Moving forward, I would control the municipal budget by: improving efficiency by introducing multi-year budgeting; implementing zero-based budgeting focused on the most cost-effective way to deliver city services. Starting at zero is the only way to ensure annual tax increases are not 'built in" to our budget process and conduct a municipal review of all city services with the objective of finding //	I'll work to find more value for taxes and efficiencies. I didn't vote for the last two city tax increases (4.42% and 4.36%) as the current mayor did, since there weren't enough cost savings found (I suggested over \$1 million in savings) nor residents needs prioritized – money was directed towards administration not front line services like snowclearing and bylaw enforcement. I'm committed to a thorough review of the budget once per term (eg. Base budget exercise) and listening to front line staff to find savings.	Council must do a better job of this. Projects such as New Street Road Diet were clearly vanity projects with no regard for taxpayer value. Taxes must be tied to inflation. Period. As taxes rise, it becomes more and more difficult to provide housing options that are affordable. Council must demand clear value for money objectives, transparent plans, and priority documentation for each department as well as a program evaluation process that results in timely decisions. Council must report its progress against specific goals, annually.	No response received
If elected, what measures would you propose or support to improve the supply of Burlington's skilled workforce?	People choose to stay or relocate to a new community based on quality of life, family and career opportunities. As Mayor, I will continue to focus on: improving transportation, expanded GO service, better roads, improving Burlington transit; ensuring new housing options including more rental, seniors and affordable housing options; investing in our youth, many of who are struggling to enter the workforce; enhancing and adding to Burlington's great recreational, cultural, arts and heritage amenities and working with our partners in education, government and the private //	Explore attracting skilled trades college. Also, much of our skilled labour will come from newcomers. As mayor, I'll work with local, regional and other agencies to connect newcomers to employers using tools such as an online portal; explore joint municipality-economic development-chamber of commerce recruitment programs, grant programs; work with local research agencies to identify potential job shortages, explore employment councils, to match skilled trade workers to available job opportunities. Work with federal/provincial agencies on national standards to streamline flow of skilled trades between provinces.	A fundamental concern I have for the long-term viability of our City is the retention and attraction of the next generation to Burlington. We need young people and their families to ensure not only a future skilled work-force but a vitality to our City. This is why I am proposing a "Liberty Village West" vision for Burlington. A hub for the next generation, that is affordable and provides employment opportunities to attract the brightest and most skilled workforce in the GTA west.	No response received

// indicates 85 words. Candidates were given an 85 word maximum per question.