

Name	City/Municipality	Running For:	District:
Aba Mortley	Kingston	Councillor	King's Town
Will you promote municipal policies and investments that create and maintain good stable and fairly paid jobs in our community? Yes/No			
Yes			
If elected, what specific action will you take to fulfill this commitment?			
Economic growth should not only be about the number of jobs we create, but whether those jobs allow people to build stable lives in Kingston. If elected, I would support municipal policies that encourage stable employment, fair wages and safe workplaces. When the City spends taxpayer dollars on major projects, I want us to look at how those investments can also create training, apprenticeships and good employment opportunities for people in our community. I would also support partnerships between the City, Kingston Economic Development, educational institutions, skilled trades and local employers to better connect training to long-term local employment, while supporting small businesses that already create jobs in our community. As a small-business owner and educator, I recognize that employers need to remain viable while employees need wages and working conditions that allow them to live in the community where they work. Housing, transit and good employment are all interconnected parts of building a strong local economy.			
Will you oppose the sale of public land and the corporatization (decision-making in the hands of a board independent of city council) out of municipal services when those services can be effectively delivered by municipal employees? Yes/No			
Yes			
If elected, what specific action will you take to fulfill this commitment?			
Yes. I believe public land and municipal services are community assets and should not be sold or moved outside direct public oversight without a clear public benefit, such as creating affordable housing, improving essential services, increasing public access, or providing significant long-term value to the community. Where services can be effectively and responsibly delivered by municipal employees, I support keeping them publicly delivered and accountable to Council and residents.			
What will you do to make housing more affordable? Affordable to whom?			
Affordability has to start with the question: affordable to whom? Building more housing is important, but increasing supply alone does not ensure that a senior on a fixed income, a young person starting out, a family earning a modest income, or someone experiencing homelessness can afford it. I want Kingston to be more creative about what and how we build. That means moving beyond the idea of one house on one lot and supporting infill, gentle density, mixed-income developments, co-operative housing, rent-geared-to-income and supportive housing, as well as modular and other innovative forms of construction. I also believe the municipality can be a more active partner. We can identify and leverage appropriate public land, partner with non-profits, co-ops and responsible private developers, and actively pursue federal programs such as Build Canada Homes and the Build Communities Strong Fund to help finance housing and the infrastructure needed to support it. Build Canada Homes specifically provides opportunities for municipalities to partner on affordable and mixed-income housing, including co-operative and non-profit models. Kingston has already received \$27.6 million through the Housing Accelerator Fund, with a target of accelerating 890 additional homes. We need to build on that experience and be ready with projects when new funding becomes available. My goal is not simply more units.			

It is a broader housing continuum, market housing alongside attainable rentals, co-ops, rent-geared-to-income, supportive and deeply affordable housing so that the housing we build actually reflects the incomes and needs of the people who live here.

Talk about your approach to homelessness & investing in social housing.

My approach to homelessness is twofold: we must respond humanely to people who are unhoused today, while building a much stronger pathway into permanent housing. That means access to shelter, clean water, washrooms, warming and cooling spaces, mental-health and addiction supports, while also investing in more supportive, co-operative, rent-geared-to-income and deeply affordable housing. We also need to pick up the ball at one of the major pain points: moving people from transitional housing into permanent affordable homes. If people are ready to move forward but there is nowhere for them to go, transitional spaces remain full and the entire system backs up. I would look at strengthening relationships with landlords who are willing to house people transitioning out of homelessness, while providing them and their tenants with a reliable point of contact and ongoing support. This can help build trust and address concerns before they become crises. We should also think creatively about supporting the organizations doing this work. Could we create a shared administrative hub, similar to a co-working model, where community agencies can access common administrative, funding and reporting support? This could allow frontline professionals to spend more of their time delivering programs and working directly with people. At the same time, Kingston needs to be ready to aggressively pursue and leverage new federal funding. Build Canada Homes is specifically designed to partner with municipalities and non-profit sectors to accelerate affordable housing, while the Build Communities Strong Fund is investing in the infrastructure needed to support housing growth. We should come to those programs with projects, land and partnerships ready, rather than waiting for funding opportunities and then beginning to plan. Ultimately, we need a functioning continuum: immediate support to transitional/supportive housing to permanent affordable housing. My focus would be identifying where people are getting stuck, bringing together the organizations that already have their trust, leveraging every available funding opportunity, and finding practical and creative ways to remove those barriers.

Will you stand up for workers' rights and safe, fair workplaces? Yes/No

Yes

If elected, what specific action will you take to fulfill this commitment?

I support workers' rights to safe, respectful and fair workplaces, fair compensation, and the ability to raise concerns without fear of retaliation. Kingston already has a Workplace Inclusion Charter, and I believe we can build on it. I would support expanding that framework beyond inclusion and diversity to encourage broader commitments around workplace safety, fair treatment, accessibility, respectful workplaces and good employment practices. I also believe the City should model those standards in its own workplaces and consider them, where appropriate, in procurement and partnerships. Strong communities depend on people being able to work with dignity, safety and fairness.

Will you support using public dollars in ways that strengthen public services, support good local jobs and provide the greatest benefit to the local community? Yes/No

Yes

How will you make sure public dollars support strong services, good jobs and our local community?

I would support using public dollars in ways that deliver strong services while also creating broader community benefit. That means looking beyond simply providing a service and asking whether it is reliable, accessible, responsive and actually working for residents throughout the year. I would also consider long-term value, job quality, training and apprenticeship opportunities, and community impact when the City procures goods, services and major projects. Public spending should not only fund services or complete projects, it should help create services that work well for the community, adapt to changing needs, and provide lasting local benefit.

What is your position on the use of Section 107 of the Canadian Labour Code and government intervention during legal strikes?

I believe the right to meaningful collective bargaining, including the right to strike, should be respected. My view is that government intervention in a legal strike should be exceptional, transparent and a true last resort, after bargaining, mediation and other dispute-resolution efforts have been exhausted. I also support clearer safeguards around its use. The federal government has now proposed changes that would require a special mediator, a public report and a finding of significant adverse national impact before Section 107 could be used to end a work stoppage. As a municipal councillor, I would not control the Canada Labour Code, but I would support workers' rights to fair collective bargaining and oppose routine government intervention that undermines that process.

Will you support municipal policies and services that promote equity, inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunity for all members of our community? Yes/No

Yes

If elected, what specific action will you take to fulfill this commitment?

I support municipal policies and services that promote equity, inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunity for all members of our community. For me, that means looking at whether City services, programs, public spaces and decision-making processes are actually accessible to the people they are intended to serve, and identifying barriers that may prevent participation. It also means continuing to strengthen accessibility, anti-racism, inclusion and community engagement work, and ensuring that the voices of people most affected by decisions are included early in the process. I would build on the Workplace Inclusion Charter so it becomes more than a one-time commitment or certificate. It could include ongoing training modules for participating workplaces on topics such as accessibility, anti-racism, unconscious bias, inclusive hiring, accommodation, respectful workplaces and responding to discrimination. Employers who complete the Charter could then access these courses for staff and managers, with updated learning offered annually. I would also add practical tools and accountability, such as sample inclusive hiring practices, accommodation guides, anonymous employee feedback tools, and an annual self-assessment or renewal process so organizations can show progress over time. The City could recognize workplaces that continue to meet the standards and share best practices across the community. Another useful piece would be a resource and referral network. If an employer encounters a workplace issue they are unsure how to handle, they should know where to go for guidance rather than being left with a document and no follow-up support.

Will you advocate for the protection of local jobs and programs at St. Lawrence College? Yes/No

Yes

Will you oppose reductions in library staffing that results in fewer services or reduced access for local residents? Yes/No

Yes

Will you advocate for maintaining reliable accessible door to door mail delivery for local residents particularly seniors, people with disabilities and others who rely on home delivery? Yes/No

Yes

If elected, what specific action will you take to fulfill this commitment?

St. Lawrence College Conflict of interest disclosure: I am employed by St. Lawrence College. I will advocate for the protection of local jobs and programs at St. Lawrence College, while recognizing that any Council matter creating a direct conflict for me would need to be handled in accordance with conflict-of-interest rules. Library staffing I would oppose reductions in library staffing where they result in fewer services or reduced access. Libraries should be welcoming community spaces where people can read, connect, access technology, warm up or cool down, and simply spend time safely. I am concerned when access depends on pre-registration, a library card and PIN during unstaffed hours, because that can create barriers for people who may already face exclusion. A public library should remain broadly accessible, and staffing decisions should consider not only cost, but also equity, safety, accessibility and the library's role as a community space. Door-to-door mail delivery I would advocate for reliable and accessible door particularly for seniors, people with disabilities and others who may face barriers accessing community mailboxes. While Canada Post is federally governed and municipal Council cannot directly control delivery models, municipalities can still advocate. I would support joining with neighbouring municipalities and communities to present a stronger, united voice to Canada Post and the federal government, particularly where changes could reduce accessibility or disproportionately affect vulnerable residents.