

Name	City/Municipality	Running For:	District:
Vanessa Mensah	Kingston	Mayor	n/a
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?			
As Mayor, I will also bring labour and workforce partners to the table earlier when major economic or infrastructure decisions are being developed. I will use the City's purchasing, infrastructure and economic-development decisions to support good local jobs. This includes; - strengthen local and social procurement opportunities where legally permitted; - prioritize projects that create quality employment and apprenticeships; - work with unions, employers, post-secondary institutions and community organizations to identify local workforce needs; - support pathways into employment for people facing barriers to work, including through social enterprises and community-benefit partnerships; and - ensure major City investments consider job quality, local economic impact and long-term value, not simply the lowest upfront cost.			
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?			
I will oppose the sale of public land and the transfer of municipal services to arm's-length corporations when those assets and services can be effectively maintained and delivered by the City. Before selling public land or moving a service outside direct municipal control, I would require a transparent public business case that considers long-term financial value, service quality, accountability, workforce impacts and community benefit. Where City employees can deliver the service effectively, my preference would be to keep it in-house rather than create a separate corporate structure that reduces Council and public oversight. I would also expect the City to demonstrate that it has fully considered operational efficiencies and other ways to manage costs before selling public assets or asking residents to pay more.			
What will you do to make housing more affordable? Affordable to whom?			
Affordability cannot simply mean a home is affordable compared with Kingston's current market prices. It needs to be connected to household income. Kingston needs housing options for people living on low or fixed incomes, people receiving social assistance, seniors, students, working families and middle-income households. My goal is a range of housing, from deeply affordable and supportive housing through to market housing, so that people at different stages and income levels can build a life in Kingston. I would: - Prioritize City-owned land for affordable and supportive housing rather than automatically selling it. - Streamline approvals for affordable, non-profit and supportive housing. - Use municipal incentives and partnerships to encourage the creation of below-market housing. - Work with provincial and federal partners to bring more housing funding to Kingston. - Review City policies, fees and processes that may unnecessarily increase the cost or delay the delivery of housing. I would also track progress through an annual State of Kingston Housing Report, so residents can see what is being built, who it serves and where gaps remain.			
Talk about your approach to homelessness & investing in social housing.			

I support a Housing + Support + Pathway approach. People experiencing homelessness need access to permanent housing, but housing alone may not address the circumstances that contributed to someone losing housing. I would strengthen coordination between the City, housing providers, healthcare, mental-health and addictions services, outreach teams and community organizations so people can move from homelessness into stable housing and receive the supports they need to remain housed. I would also focus on prevention and early intervention, so people are not entering homelessness in the first place. I would make social and supportive housing a long-term municipal priority and actively pursue provincial and federal funding to increase the number of units in Kingston. Municipalities cannot solve the housing crisis alone. As Mayor, I would use Kingston's relationships with Queen's, St. Lawrence College, RMC, housing providers, community organizations and other levels of government to build a coordinated housing strategy.

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 will ensure the City is a fair and responsible employer and use its purchasing power to support safe, fair workplaces and good-quality jobs. In my first year, I will review the City's employment, procurement and contracting practices with municipal staff and labour representatives, and bring recommendations to Council to strengthen worker safety, fair employment practices, apprenticeships and local job opportunities.

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?

will treat every public dollar as an investment in Kingston. The City should prioritize strong services, fair employment and local economic benefit when making purchasing and contracting decisions. I would strengthen local and social procurement where legally permitted, improve transparency around major contracts, and assess bids based on long-term value, not simply the lowest upfront cost. I would also review City spending and procurement practices to identify efficiencies and ensure public dollars are delivering measurable value for residents, workers and the local economy.

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

I support safe, healthy and respectful workplaces, collective agreements, and workers' right to organize and bargain collectively. I believe negotiated agreements should be the goal, and government intervention in a legal strike should be exceptional, transparent and used only when there is a compelling public-interest or safety concern after meaningful mediation and bargaining efforts have been exhausted. The right to collective bargaining and the right to strike are important parts of a fair labour relations system. As Mayor, I would apply these principles to the City's own labour relations by respecting collective agreements, engaging workers and their representatives in good faith, and seeking negotiated solutions when disputes arise.

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 will use my experience as a municipal EDI leader to ensure equity, inclusion and accessibility are built into how the City makes decisions and delivers services. I will establish an equity and accessibility review of key City services, policies and capital projects, with meaningful input from residents and community organizations. I will bring measurable recommendations to Council and report annually on progress. This means looking at who is benefiting from City services, who may be experiencing barriers, and what practical changes are needed to ensure everyone can participate and build a life in Kingston.

Will you advocate for the protection of local jobs and programs at St. Lawrence College? Yes/No	Will you oppose reductions in library staffing that results in fewer services or reduced access for local residents? Yes/No	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	Yes	Yes

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

SLC: I will advocate for protecting local jobs and programs at St. Lawrence College because the College is an important part of Kingston's workforce, economy and community. I will also strengthen partnerships between the City, College and local employers to create pathways into good local jobs.

Library: I will work with the Library Board, staff and residents to identify service needs and ensure Council considers the community impact of staffing decisions when determining municipal funding. Libraries are essential public services and community spaces, not simply places to access books.

Door to door delivery: I will advocate with Canada Post and the federal government on behalf of Kingston residents, raise local concerns through Council and support community consultation before changes that could reduce access to essential mail services.