

Make Your Views Known in the Municipal Elections:

- Tell the candidates your concern and ask what they will do if elected.
- View video of women's message to candidates- www.cawi-ivtf.org
- Support a candidate's campaign.
- Share this brochure with others.
- Vote on October 25th.
- Help others to vote.

CAWI (City for All Women Initiative) is a unique collaborative of women from diverse communities, organizations, and academia working with municipal decision makers to create a more inclusive city and promote gender equality.

For more information:
CAWI, www.cawi-ivtf.org

City of Ottawa, www.ottawa.ca,
phone: 311



City for All Women Initiative
Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes



Our Votes Count

Women's Eyes on the Municipal Elections



Produced by:
City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)
Initiative : une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)

With financial support from Ontario Trillium Foundation, Community Foundation of Ottawa and Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres, 2010

Why Vote in the Municipal Elections?

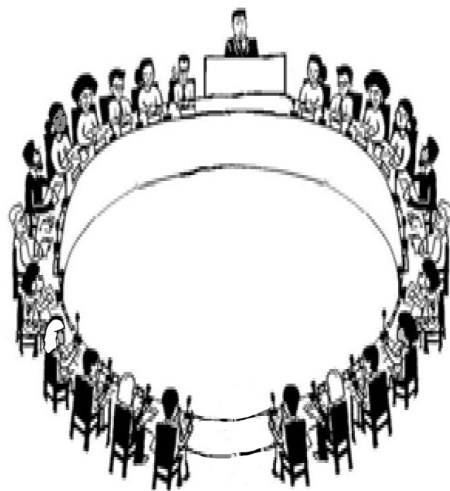
On **October 25th, 2010**, citizens in Ottawa will go to the polls.

We will choose the men and women who will represent us at City Council (24 members: Mayor plus 23 councillors, 1 councillor per ward) for the next 4 years.

They will make decisions that affect our everyday lives.

They can decide to increase or cut:

- user fees in recreation activities,
- childcare services,
- bus routes,
- taxes,
- and more...



If you are a woman who is Aboriginal, of a visible minority, a recent immigrant, living in poverty or with a physical disability, you may not see people like yourself on City Council and question whether they will represent you.

Here is a chance to make sure they do.

Let's select candidates who represent us and our concerns.

How To Vote?

To be able to vote in the municipal election, you must be:

- a resident of the City of Ottawa, or owner or tenant of land in the City, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant;
- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old; and
- not currently serving a sentence for a convicted crime.

To register to vote:

- If you are already registered, you will receive a voter's card in the mail informing you when and where to vote. Bring this card with you when you go to vote.
- If you are not registered or need to change your personal information, you can do so when you go to vote. You will be asked to complete a form and present 2 documents with your name and address, such as a driver's license and/or household bills.
- To avoid delays on voting day, pick up a copy of the form, "Application to Add or Amend Voters List", at a client service centre or print one from ottawa.ca after Sept 7th.

More Information on the Election:

- Contact the City's Elections Office 613-580-2660 (TTY: 613-580-2401) e-mail: elections@ottawa.ca
- Contact the City by phone at 3-1-1 (TTY: 613-580-2401)
- Visit the City's website at www.ottawa.ca

How Do I Decide Who To Vote For?

Each ward will have at least one candidate running for City Council, plus the candidates for Mayor.

Start by asking yourself, what kind of person you would like to see represent you on City Council.

Someone who is...



- Honest
- Speaks out on issues important to you and your community
- Listens to the community
- Participates in community events
- Works with different community partners including women's organizations
- Communicates effectively with all members of the community
- Representative of a racial or cultural minority
- A woman
- _____

Second, ask yourself, what concerns you would like to see him or her address?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Select Your Candidate:

To find the nominated candidates, visit the City of Ottawa website. – www.ottawa.ca.



Find out which candidate will best represent you and address your concerns.

- Ask others what they know about the candidates.
- Find out who supports them.
- Read the newspaper to see what candidates say.
- Listen for their views on the radio and TV.
- Observe candidates already on City Council by watching City Council meetings on Rogers Cable 22 (Cable 23, in French) or attend a City Council meeting.
- Type the candidate's name into the Internet to see their website or a list of their community involvements.
- Attend candidate meetings to hear what they say.

Influence the Candidates

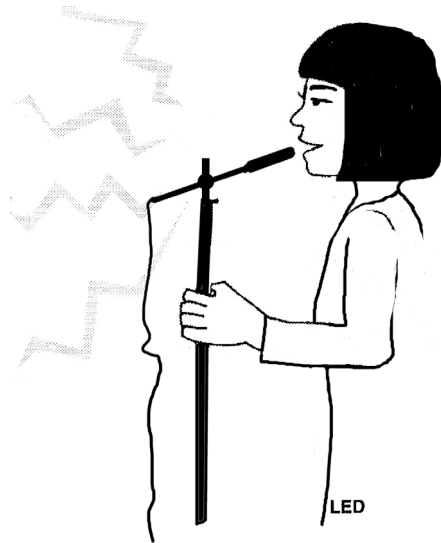
By raising concerns with candidates, we educate them and influence their electoral platform.

Ask the candidates what they will do if elected:

My name is... I live in the ward where you are running for City Council. I am concerned about... This concern is important to my community (family, organization) because... What will you do about this, if elected?

Where can I ask this question of the candidates?

- Ask in a phone call, e-mail, fax or letter to the candidates.
- Ask when a candidate or someone from their campaign comes to your door.
- Invite a candidate to your organization or community event .
- Ask at one of the public all-candidate's meetings to be held in your ward.
- Organize a candidate's meeting.
- Invite people you know to ask the question (give them a sample phone message or letter).
- Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper.



Questions You Might Ask:

Here are some questions that women are asking the candidates. You can ask one of these questions or prepare your own.

TRANSIT FARES

Since 2006, transit fares in Ottawa have risen 7.5% per year and Ottawa has consistently had some of the highest transit fares in Canada. During this time most incomes have only risen slightly if at all. Meanwhile, bus fares have gone up by more than 2 and a half times the inflation rate each year while routes are being cut and service reduced.

This increase in transit fares has greatly impacted many people I know. As fares continue to rise at this rate, transportation becomes unaffordable for many. This means that people cannot go to work, attend recreation activities or contribute to the life of our city. (Or give your own example)

QUESTION: Will you now commit to doing everything in your power to ensure that transit fares do not rise, or if they must increase, that they rise by no more than the rate of inflation?



Questions You Might Ask:

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2009, there were 10, 235 households on Ottawa's social housing waiting list. During that year, only 1,842 households were provided with housing and only 88 new affordable housing units were built.

(Give your own example of the impact this has on you or people you know.)

Safe and affordable housing enables people to be productive and contribute to the community. The economy is stronger and communities are healthier.

QUESTION: Will you commit to work with Council to increase affordable housing by 1000 units each year for the 4 years of your term? Will you ensure this housing is available for people with incomes at or below minimum wage?



Questions You Might Ask:

CHILDCARE

This fall, the Province of Ontario is introducing full-day kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds. This means changes to our childcare system and the subsidies that allow low-income parents to access quality care.

It is the responsibility of the City of Ottawa to coordinate planning in this transition to make sure that families do not lose their childcare spaces and subsidies.

Affordable and accessible daycare is key for parents to be able to maintain jobs and support our families. We want to be sure that our children get the safe, quality care they need in the early years.

QUESTION: With the transition to full day kindergarten, how will you ensure that our City takes this opportunity to improve our childcare system so that it is affordable and works for families when and where they need it? Will you champion childcare?



Questions You Might Ask:

RECREATION

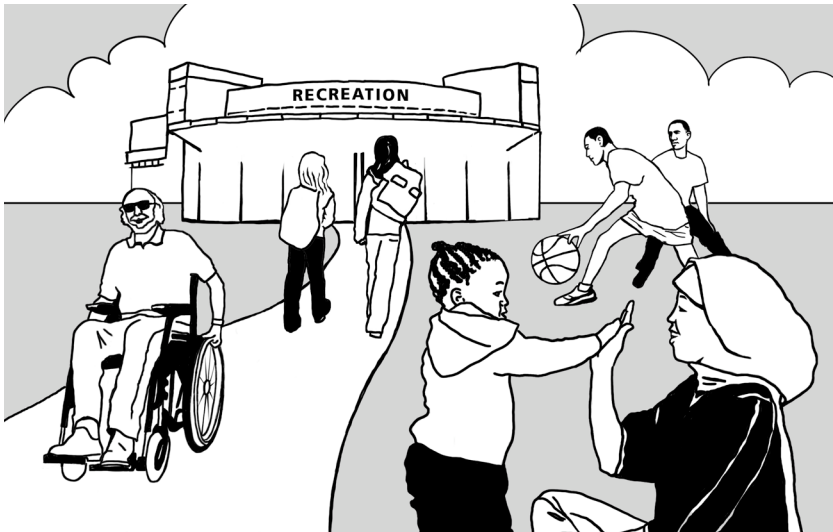
For low-income residents, there is a lack of affordable places where youth and adults can go for recreation. (Give your own example)

Some parks are not safe. Fees for city recreation services continue to climb making them unaffordable for many. Many residents are not aware of the subsidies available for low-income residents or are ashamed to ask for them.

There are some solutions that require minimal funds. For example, informal activities for youth or access to public facilities for community meetings.

I am pleased to know that the City is developing a new Recreation Master Plan with principles about making services inclusive for everyone.

QUESTION: What will you do to help make this plan come to life? What will you do to ensure that parks, recreation programs and facilities are accessible to low-income residents?



Support the Candidate of Your Choice

Contact your candidate's campaign office to ask how you can support their campaign

Some things you might do from your home:

- Make phone calls
- Stuff envelopes
- Write letters
- Translate material
- Post a sign

Some things you can do within your community:

- Distribute literature
- Post signs
- Talk to your neighbours
- Help get people out to vote
- Encourage others to get involved

