



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<u>Candidate Name:</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date:</u>
Cody Oschefski	Midland, Ontario	Sept 5, 2022
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Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than September 15, 2022. The answers will then be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website.

N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.

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1. AWARE Simcoe considers the preservation of farmland, the protection of water resources and natural heritage, and providing transparency and accountability in government decision making to be the primary issues of this election.
Our goal is to elect representatives who support those objectives. Do you agree with this?

ANSWER

Yes, while Midland is a rapidly growing community, we need to remain cognisant of our farmland, water resources and natural heritage. These all should be put above development and growth and we need to be completely transparent and accountable when dealing with these issues.

2. Do you feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in your municipality?
If so, how will you achieve this?

ANSWER

Yes, again, nature over development. We need to be calculated and considerate when dealing with development and be aware of what impact we are having on our environment. We need to use partners such as Severn Sound Enviro Association to help guide us through our decision making process with a focus on environmental impact, short and long term

3. Ancient deposits under the Simcoe Uplands in Simcoe County's Tiny, Springwater, Oro-Medonte and Tay townships contain pristine groundwater.

This water is the purest water known to science, and is the gold standard for water worldwide, a national and global treasure.

Ongoing gravel pit extractions on French's Hill, the water recharge area, now threaten to destroy this precious water. Will you work to protect this important local resource?

ANSWER

While I am not familiar of the specifics of this process, or it's impact on our water, if elected I will commit to getting to know the issue and do what ever I can to ensure our water is protected for generations.

4. Do you support/oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County? In either case, please explain why.

ANSWER

I whole heartedly support the protection of our environment, water and wildlife and if this is the tool we need to properly manage that I support it. As long as it is done logically and realistically, I don't see a down side.

5. What are your plans to combat climate change in your municipality?

ANSWER

In my full time job I am the energy management champion at a local manufacturing facility. I will take my knowledge and experience to the municipality and to the county to help us reduce our carbon footprint and to find creative ways to save resources, and encourage our residents to do the same.

6. Every municipality in Ontario is faced with row-on-row sprawl-style development, and surrounding farmland is being destructively gobbled up with little regard for future agricultural needs. Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland every day, it needs to be protected before it's too late. We need to ensure we have the land to grow food for today and future generations. Once it's paved over, it's gone forever!

How will you protect agricultural lands within your municipality?

ANSWER

While we don't have a large amount of agricultural lands I will fight to defend what we do have. I will also fight for expansion of agriculture programs in our community to help battle food scarcity issues, inflation making healthy food unobtainable and will help community members develop more community gardens, fruit tree forests and assist with our farm to door programs.

7. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater Twp – zoned Agricultural, as the site for a (much needed) waste handling facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). Many residents in Simcoe County objected to this location, pointing out that this is an industrial use and there are suitable properties zoned Industrial where the facility should be built. What is your view?

ANSWER

This isn't something I am familiar with and I don't pretend to know when I don't. I will commit to learning about the issue and will get involved to find balance between the need for the waste handling facility and importance of our county forests.

8. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

ANSWER

- 1. Getting Midland Bay Landing right for our residents
- 2. Getting our tax rates in line with other similar municipalities
- 3. Bringing awareness and advocating for mental health, addiction, homelessness and affordable housing issues.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.