



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Debbie Levy

Penetanguishene

September 29, 2022

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  
I agree, absolutely.

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  
On the issue of protecting the water supply in Penetanguishene, this is a crucial issue. We only have one source of water for our distribution system. We protect our aquifer with Source Water Protection, which identifies potential threats and mitigates them. We also protect Penetang Harbor by having a new, state of the art sewage treatment plant. We are one of the few small towns in Ontario that has no sewage spills. We have enough capacity now for several decades. Wetlands have been protected for many years, and Penetanguishene has two provincially significant wetlands. I feel all wetlands should be protected, including seasonal

wetlands. There are many areas we can increase density without destroying our wildlife corridor or our mature, diverse forest, and our wetlands.

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

I supported the fight against site 41 for decades. As a Penetanguishene Councilor I'm not sure what I can do to stop the gravel pit, but will take any opportunity to do so.

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

ANSWER

I fully oppose any expansion of the Greenbelt anywhere in Ontario. The Greenbelt provides the lungs of our province.

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

ANSWER

Climate change is the biggest issue facing us. We need to pressure the Provincial government to improve the hydro grid to accommodate more electric vehicles. I would like to see our municipal fleet transition to electric vehicles over the next 10 years.

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

We must protect Ontario farmland at all costs.

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

Not able to answer this. Sorry.

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

ANSWER

1. Climate Change
2. Protecting Water
3. Affordable Housing

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.