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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Hafizur Rahman

Barrie, Ward 6

September 14, 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 am agreed. There will be a rise in poverty and food prices if we lose our agriculture. With the onset of climate change, it is imperative that we safeguard our water supply. When residents have no way to access information and the council approves projects without reading the records, accountability and transparency suffer severely. Council approved documents should be made public for complete accountability and transparency. The locals have given us the power to speak for them by electing us.

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 I am agreed. Preventing climate change and projecting our ecological requires safeguarding natural freshwater, wetlands, and refill sites. Reducing our reliance on aggregate by exploring increased use of salvaged materials for construction, as is commonplace in Europe.

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 am agreed. No pumping should be permitted in regions with uncontaminated ground water because doing so could deplete the whole reservoir.

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

ANSWER A larger Greenbelt has my full backing. Preserving natural areas like wetlands and forests is crucial in the fight against global warming.

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

ANSWER If I am elected, one of my top priorities will be to promote tree planting, green space expansion, and the regulation of urban sprawl. Minimize, reuse, and recycle are imperatives.

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 safeguard our fields against urban expansion, for without them, we would starve. With no farmers, there would be no food. The most recent Simcoe County Municipal Integrated Survey prioritizes conservation of agricultural land and expansion of parkland. This is a farming community, and I intend to keep assisting local farmers and safeguarding agricultural the land for future generations.

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 For this reason, I am opposed to turning forests into landfills. It's too late now, though, because this project has already been greenlighted. Moving ahead, we as a county need to investigate energy plants where trash can be burned and the steam created can be

utilized by manufacturing, cutting down on the need for dumps and helping to mitigate the effects of global warming.

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

ANSWER

1. We're renewing and modernizing the city's economy
2. Affordability of housing and homelessness relief, tax stability.
3. Conservation of natural resources and combating global warming.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.