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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Howie Major

Midland

September 5, 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

Yes, I believe the preservation of farmland and water resources are priority number one. We need to be able to sustain our current and future communities with locally grown food and keep the nation’s freshest water pure for our community use. Transparency and accountability in government decisions is imperative as we are representatives of our community members and need to be able to account for how our resources are allocated.

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, I feel there is a need to protect our resources. I will achieve this by working closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources and our local government bodies and county offices on learning and following policies and procedures already laid by our governing bodies.

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

Yes, I feel very strongly that it is our responsibility to preserve this national treasure at any cost.

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

ANSWER

I oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County as I feel we need to make way for more affordable housing. I do feel it is important to protect our agricultural and historical lands, but don't feel that expanding the Greenbelt into Simcoe is the only way to do that.

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

ANSWER

Review Public Transit to ensure it is fully accessible to all residents. Organize tree planting events.

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

Work towards removing the Carbon tax as well as tax on fuel and fertilizer so that the farmers can afford to supply food to the community and prosper financially. This will stop the farmers from needing to sell their properties and keep the land agricultural.

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

There is a lot of industrial land waiting to be occupied in Simcoe County. That industrial land should be utilized for this project and the county forest should be kept preserved as is.

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

ANSWER

1. Listen to the constituents of Midland and table their concerns
2. Affordable Housing
3. Ensure transparency and accountability for all municipal spending and decisions

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.