

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:
Jessica Gunby

Municipality Severn Township

Date: 09/15/22

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 do agree - having worked in the Township of Georgian Bay for 13 years, the environment was always number one when making any decisions for development or new policies. We were always stating that accountability and transparency were key in ensuring the public were aware of the decisions we were making and the reasons behind it. I always welcome any and all comments from residents with any concerns and they do not go ignored.

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
It can only be achieved by working with any possible developers to ensure they follow the legislation and the policies set out by the Township, if Council chooses to move ahead with any applications. There are some environmentally protected areas done through the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, and they are there for a reason.

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

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

ANSWER

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

ANSWER

In previous roles, we declared a Climate Emergency and started passing by-laws to ensure we were doing our part as much as we could. That is something that can be discussed with Council, but it seems like a topic that appears to be difficult to vote down.

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

Depends on what the Growth Plan states - as much as we want to maintain farmland, if the Township is forced, as Orillia currently is, to create more housing and commercial business with a lack of available land, it is something we would have to look at very closely.

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

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

ANSWER

1. Listening to all concerns of all residents, not just the ones who may be the 'loudest' (my experience shows this is how some Councils operate).
2. Getting as many people involved and educated as possible.
3. Being a positive addition to the Council table with my experience of working in municipal government for over 16 years.

As an aside, I do not have a platform where I have promises of what I plan to do if elected; one Councillor does not make the decisions, it's Council as a whole, which is why I don't have specific things I want to change or create.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.