



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Paul Partridge

Municipality

Essa Township, Ward 2

Date:

August 30, 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.**

=====

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 absolutely agree with this. The federal government is planning for four hundred thousand people a year to immigrate to Canada. Province is mandating municipalities plan for population increases. As an agricultural community, protecting farmland and our resources needs to remain a high priority, while coming up with strategic ways for accommodating a growing population.

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 have been fishing in the Pine River and the Nottawasaga River for over 50 years. As a child my father always instilled in me that you leave the environment in better shape than you found it. I do the same with my own children.

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. Like any natural resource, if we do not recognize potential threats and find the best solution to protect those resources, they will disappear forever. We need to need to understand the effects of our decisions and determine if we want to be responsible for eliminating or preserving that resource.

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

ANSWER

I do. There is a ton of focus around expansion and accommodating growing populations. As a government we need to balance those needs with our needs for green space. It is what makes us such a great country. I have been around the world and have seen first-hand the lasting effects on the environment and ultimately people's lives when this is ignored.

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

ANSWER

I think that this has been a high priority for our current and past councils in Essa for years. I am looking forward to supporting the ongoing efforts in place and look to new ways to reduce our carbon footprint and improve our efforts utilizing new and evolving technologies.

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

This is a largely agricultural county. Our farms are what is feeding not only the people of Ontario but is contributing to national & global exports. It is my feeling that we need to do what we can to preserve our farmlands. The resources that are available to us are depended on heavily by our farmers and our residents. We need to look at every option available before we go destroying some of Ontario's most fertile farm land to make way for housing.

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

If industrial options are available for waste disposal sites, then I would never agree with converting environmental land or farmland for industrial use.

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

ANSWER

1. Road Safety – Residents are concerned about the speed that people are traveling on our roads and side streets. We need to continue with measures that control speed including public awareness programs and enforcement.

2. Community Development – Preserving our farmland & natural resources needs to remain a top priority for Essa Township. We all depend on it too much to ignore it.

3. Business Development – There is more need in our community different types of businesses. Corner stores and Grocery stores for example are needed in some of our smaller communities. I will first work to promote local businesses and entrepreneurs, and then work to petition for the types of businesses that are needed in our community.

=====

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.