



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Richard White

Wasaga Beach

9-5-2022

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

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. Only a regional organization like the NVCA can have a broad enough reach to consistently deliver this type of mandate. Municipal governments will take differing approaches and deliver inconsistent mandates and enforcement.

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 – As someone who’s household used drinking water from the elmvale well on 27, I agree with this. However, Wasaga Beach does not have jurisdiction for French’s Hill. This is why conservation authorities are valuable.

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

ANSWER – Yes. Expand the green belt and reduce urban sprawl is an important for sustainable communities.

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

ANSWER – We should have a committee advise council on the opportunities. We have jurisdiction over WDI which can help expand solar in new homes, we can modernize the municipal fleet to electric and work with business to add charging stations. There is a lot to do in Wasaga Beach on climate change.

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 – Reduce urban sprawl. Change the zoning in some areas to higher density.

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 – I don’t know enough of the issue for a meaningful response. Sorry. I would need to research it.

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

ANSWER

1. Community safety.

2. Modernize our goals for social equality and inclusion, climate change and action, access to government.

3. Affordable living and sustainability

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.