



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Steven Fishman

Innisfil, Ward 4

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 agree 100% with your statement.**

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

**Our elected officials need to protect our water, wetlands, farmland from development which would put these areas at grave risk. Innisfil Council recently approved a master plan for Innisfil Beach Park which calls for the development along our beachfront to include stores, and the creation of “The Port of Innisfil”. The current ward councillor who’s a self-proclaimed environmentalist voted in favour of the Master plan.**

**If I’m elected I will do everything in my power to amend the Master plan so the Port of Innisfil never takes place, along with the commercialization of Innisfil Beach Park.**

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 would do my best to protect this important local resource.**

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

ANSWER

**In a perfect world, I would expand the Greenbelt, but the Provincial government has made it clear that they are not interested in protecting the current Greenbelt we have. If elected I would do my best to work with the Province to protect the Greenbelt we currently have.**

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

ANSWER

**Innisfil currently does not have a proper transit system in place. There are plans to introduce a transit system, and I would encourage that we use Hybrid busses, and electric cars as much as possible. In the warmer weather, I would encourage the use of bicycles, electric scooters, and walking as much as possible to help reduce our carbon footprint.**

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

**The majority on the current Innisfil Council have used MZO to by-pass the environmental process to speed up development. I would fight to ensure that MZO are not used, and I would work with the Province to reduce our growth numbers for the area. Innisfil is**

**currently slated to grow by over 100,000 people in the next 30 years, and that would destroy Lake Simcoe. We do need growth, but it needs to be measured taking into account our local environment.**

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

**Both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor sit on Simcoe Council, and I would work with them to make sure that our land that’s zoned Agricultural is protected. There’s plenty of land that’s zoned industrial in Simcoe County that can house a waste handling facility, and that needs to be looked at in more detail.**

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

ANSWER

- 1. Protecting our parks and beaches from development**
- 2. Developing a proper transit plan for Innisfil**
- 3. Traffic safety surrounding our schools.**

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.