

PICKERING ELECTION 2026 — CANDIDATE COMPARISON CHART

Candidates who have submitted campaign material to szpin.ca. Each entry is a summary of that candidate's own stated platform. Election day: Monday, October 26, 2026.

ISSUE	MAYOR			WARD 1 — CITY COUNCILLOR		WARD 2 — CITY COUNCILLOR	
	Doug CORNELL	Janice FRAMPTON	Lisa ROBINSON	Michael SAMLALSINGH	Priya VADIVEL	John MELOCHE	Vince VIAPIANA
Background	25-year resident and entrepreneur; represented GM auto workers on benefits and contract negotiations. Resident-funded campaign, no developer money.	Describes herself as a fighter for better, more accountable local government.	Current Ward 1 City Councillor. Running on a 13-point "Pickering Recovery Plan."	CPA with an MBA; owns a local accounting firm; 20+ years as a Director of Finance. Family in Pickering 39 years.	Two master's degrees (IT, Business); 20+ years in corporate leadership. Founder and president, Highbush Neighbourhood Association.	Resident since 2010; tech entrepreneur for 18+ years. Co-founder and president, Lynn Heights Neighbourhood Association. Small-c conservative.	Nearly 19 years as a public-facing TTC employee; on unpaid leave to campaign full-time.
Taxes & spending	Independent cost check on the \$213.8M Seaton Recreation Complex borrowing before tender. Plain-language financial dashboard. Keep the City's tax portion as low as responsibly possible, with a published plan.	Disciplined budgeting, clear financial reporting and strong supervision of spending to address rising property taxes.	Work to freeze property taxes for her full term. No unaffordable megaprojects or unnecessary debt. Keep casino revenue in Pickering. Online Taxpayer Dashboard.	Budget reviews to cut waste. Weigh the "opportunity cost" of every major spend. Fight unfunded mandates; press for stable provincial and federal funding.	Fight unreasonable tax increases. Cut waste and use technology to make City Hall efficient. Grow the commercial tax base to keep taxes affordable.	Scrutinize every dollar; line-by-line review of the next budget. Real numbers and an exit plan on big calls such as the hotel purchase.	Will not promise a tax freeze. Question spending and value: "Every taxpayer dollar deserves a job." Look for efficiencies before asking taxpayers for more; no cuts just to make a number look better.
Growth & development	"Roads before rooftops": tie new development to the roads, transit, stormwater and recreation it needs. Work with school boards to open schools as families arrive.	Development matched by the infrastructure and services it requires. Complete, connected communities that respect existing neighbourhoods.	Infrastructure first; real consultation before construction. Finish Seaton before opening new lands. Opposes the 100-plus condo towers proposed.	Mixed-use development on the airport lands (agri-food, aerospace, technology, education). Developers and senior governments share infrastructure costs. Low-rise, senior-friendly, affordable housing for Ward 1.	Roads, parks, transit and services delivered as growth happens, not after. Protect the character of existing neighbourhoods.	Rezoning "earned, not assumed"; density to corridors, not quiet streets. Full development charges, community benefit and affordable units.	"Reasonable growth," not anti-growth. Examine traffic, water, parking, height and cumulative effects of proposals. Growth must be funded and matched by infrastructure.
Openness & accountability	Resident town halls before major decisions, not after. Yearly public reporting; file the City's financial returns on time.	More accessible, responsive City Hall. Residents able to speak to Council, ask difficult questions and get answers.	Restore public question periods. Ban closed-door meetings not legally required. Publish voting records; limit sole-source contracts. Pledges not to use strong-mayor powers to override council.	Regular, transparent public reporting on municipal finances. Running a resident survey.	Accessible, responsive councillor who shows up and follows through. Listen to residents, including those who disagree.	Ward 2 contact channel where every resident gets a response. Listening tour. Plain-language report card at 100 days.	"Listen. Take action. Report back." Vince Listens Program: monthly coffee conversations, office hours, walkabouts. Explain significant votes.
Roads, transit & traffic	Repair existing roads first: multi-year resurfacing program. Coordinate construction with Region, Province and Metrolinx. Push for daytime bus service in established neighbourhoods and Seaton service from day one.	Plan for roads and transportation alongside growth.	Spending priority on roads and infrastructure.	Traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures. Advocate for expanded transit. More efficient snow removal.	Traffic calming, better street lighting, safer sidewalks, and safe routes to schools and parks.	Support ALTO high-speed rail only if Pickering gets a station. Convene City staff, Region and Metrolinx on congestion and transit.	Bring frontline transit experience to talks with the Region and DRT: reliability, routes, accessibility. Safer school zones, crossings and traffic calming.

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Community safety	<i>Not addressed in submitted material</i>	<i>Not addressed in submitted material</i>	<i>Not addressed in submitted material</i>	Increase police presence; partner with mental health and social services.	Community safety groups working with residents, Durham Regional Police, neighbourhood associations and City staff.	Back police and first responders, including the drone pilot. Crack down on dangerous e-scooter and e-bike riding. Coordinated homelessness and mental health plan.	Work with the Region and police where issues fall outside City authority; honest about jurisdiction. Compassionate but practical response to homelessness.
Environment & land	Stormwater upgrades in flood-risk neighbourhoods, including Claremont. Protect Duffins Creek and the waterfront; complete the Waterfront Trail to Ajax. Climate resilience in major projects.	Protect natural environment and farmland. Revitalize vacant commercial properties before using green space. Engage residents and Indigenous communities.	Protect Northeast Pickering and the Federal Lands: farmland, forests, headwaters and green spaces.	Protect Rouge National Urban Park farmland and green spaces.	Protect parks, the waterfront and green spaces.	Protect the Frenchman's Bay waterfront from overdevelopment. Protect trees and greenspace.	Weigh trees, greenspace, stormwater and drainage when development proposals are reviewed.
Seniors, youth & community	Double the Low-Income Seniors Property Tax Grant from \$620 to \$1,240. Advance "Pickering for a Lifetime" seniors housing.	<i>Not addressed in submitted material</i>	Affordable recreation for seniors. A city where the next generation can afford to live, work and buy a home.	Expand senior housing, mobility support and recreation. Youth STEM and business training. Parks, community centres and multicultural events.	Expanded seniors' property tax relief. Independent seniors' living options. Seniors' needs considered in major Council decisions.	Help seniors stay digitally connected. Framework and grants for resident-led neighbourhood associations. Raise the garbage bag limit.	Accessible parks, recreation and facilities. Programs for families, youth and seniors. Home visits for residents with mobility challenges.
Business & jobs	One City point person per permit file; published approval times; simpler patio permit. Local hiring and apprenticeship pipeline for the nuclear refurbishment.	<i>Not addressed in submitted material</i>	Protect local businesses and employment lands from unchecked high-rise development.	Support local businesses to diversify the tax base and ease the burden on homeowners.	Strengthen the commercial tax base, support local business and help create local jobs.	Attract tech, medical, finance and clean-energy employers; employer-attraction strategy with targets.	Support local businesses and commercial and employment growth.
Campaign slogan	"Infrastructure built with you. Not around you."	"Open City Hall & Rebuilding Public Trust."	"Return City Hall to the People."	"Trust Accountability Service."	"Strong leadership. Fresh ideas. Residents first."	"Practical leadership. Real opportunity. A city our kids can come home to."	"Leadership Starts with Listening."

Source: each candidate's "platform, policies and promises" post on szpin.ca. "Not addressed" means the topic did not appear in the material submitted; it does not mean the candidate has no position. Compiled October 2, 2026.