

PICKERING ELECTION 2026 — WARD 2 CITY COUNCILLOR COMPARISON CHART

All five certified Ward 2 City Councillor candidates, A to Z. Each entry is a summary of that candidate's own stated platform. Election day: Monday, October 26, 2026.

WARD 2 — CITY COUNCILLOR					
ISSUE	Stacey LEPINE-FISHER	John MELOCHE	Mara NAGY*	Sam SNYDERS*	Vince VIAPIANA
Background	Ward 2 resident 20+ years; family in Pickering since 1998. Executive Director, Ignite Durham Learning Foundation; former YMCA and DDSB senior manager. Past President, College of Early Childhood Educators.	Resident since 2010; tech entrepreneur for 18+ years. Co-founder and president, Lynn Heights Neighbourhood Association. Small-c conservative.	Current Ward 2 City Councillor, first elected October 2022; seeking re-election. Grew up in Pickering. Occasional teacher with the Durham and Toronto school boards. Master of Education; pursuing a PhD at York University.	Pickering resident 45+ years; attended Dunbarton High School. Telecommunications career, then President of Unifor Local 1996-O; national union representative since 2017 with 60+ agreements negotiated. Four years on the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee.	Nearly 19 years as a public-facing TTC employee; on unpaid leave to campaign full-time.
Taxes & spending	Scrutinize budgets, look for efficiencies, pursue partnerships and funding. Ask Council to revisit strategic priorities and performance measures so commitments are realistic, funded and accountable.	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.	<i>Not found on campaign website</i>	Make affordability central to budgeting. Find 1–2% staffing-cost efficiencies by reviewing vacancies, not cutting services. Keep all casino revenue in Pickering instead of automatically renewing the sharing deal with Durham Region. Maintain existing infrastructure before “nice-to-have” projects.	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	Thoughtful growth that accounts for roads, transit, water and sewer capacity, services, green space and neighbourhood character. Clear, current evidence on capacity and costs; growth-related costs fairly funded.	Rezoning “earned, not assumed”; density to corridors, not quiet streets. Full development charges, community benefit and affordable units.	<i>Not found on campaign website</i>	“Growth pays for growth.” Hold off on major density increases above current zoning until the City Centre Transportation Master Plan is finished. Clear infrastructure plans showing what is needed, when, who pays. Health-care capacity must grow with population.	“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	Quarterly community conversations. Clear communication about decisions. Meaningful resident input early in planning. Assess proposals on their merits.	Ward 2 contact channel where every resident gets a response. Listening tour. Plain-language report card at 100 days.	Bridge communication between City Hall and the community; make City resources more visible to residents. Supports establishing new Pickering advisory committees.	Give residents more reasonable speaking time and more notice to register as delegations. Add a Community Comment Period for issues not on the agenda. Explain not just how he voted, but why.	“Listen. Take action. Report back.” Vince Listens Program: monthly coffee conversations, office hours, walkabouts. Explain significant votes.
Roads, transit & traffic	Practical traffic-calming measures; safer walking and cycling routes.	Support ALTO high-speed rail only if Pickering gets a station. Convene City staff, Region and Metrolinx on congestion and transit.	<i>Not found on campaign website</i>	Evidence-based traffic calming using speed and volume data; pilot measures before permanent ones; stop signs are not speed control. Transportation planned before or alongside development, with cumulative impact studies. No specific transit commitments.	Bring frontline transit experience to talks with the Region and DRT: reliability, routes, accessibility. Safer school zones, crossings and traffic calming.
Community safety	Safe streets and responsive attention to neighbourhood concerns. Consistent enforcement of property standards and municipal by-laws.	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.	Safe neighbourhoods listed as a priority; no specific measures found.	Support the City's Community Safety & Well-Being Plan. Emergency-services staffing that keeps pace with density. Better safety communication with residents.	Work with the Region and police where issues fall outside City authority; honest about jurisdiction. Compassionate but practical response to homelessness.

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Environment & land	Weigh green space and environmental impacts when development decisions are made.	Protect the Frenchman's Bay waterfront from overdevelopment. Protect trees and greenspace.	End the Pickering Airport "once and for all." Background in environmental protection groups.	<i>Not found on campaign website</i>	Weigh trees, greenspace, stormwater and drainage when development proposals are reviewed.
Seniors, youth & community	Accessible recreation and welcoming community spaces for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.	Help seniors stay digitally connected. Framework and grants for resident-led neighbourhood associations. Raise the garbage bag limit.	Bring more festivals and community events to Pickering. Accessible parks and strong community support for young families and long-time residents.	Strengthen the \$620 low-income seniors and persons-with-disabilities property tax grant, possibly with retained casino revenue. Better access to recreation programs; facilities that keep pace with population.	Accessible parks, recreation and facilities. Programs for families, youth and seniors. Home visits for residents with mobility challenges.
Business & jobs	Listen to local businesses and community organizations and strengthen their connection with the City. Build partnerships between the City, businesses and community groups.	Attract tech, medical, finance and clean-energy employers; employer-attraction strategy with targets.	Support the local economy and small businesses.	Pursue employers for the Innovation Corridor to shift the tax load off homeowners (residential share from 81.7% toward 78%). Support the Pickering Nuclear refurbishment and ensure OPG pays its full fair share.	Support local businesses and commercial and employment growth.
Campaign slogan	<i>No slogan in submitted material</i>	"Practical leadership. Real opportunity. A city our kids can come home to."	"Promise Made. Promise Kept."	"Residents First."	"Leadership Starts with Listening."

Source: for Lepine-Fisher, Meloche and Viapiana, each candidate's "platform, policies and promises" post on szpin.ca. *Nagy and Snyders have not submitted material to szpin.ca; their entries are summarized from their own campaign websites (maranagypickering.ca and samsnyders.ca) and, for Nagy, her City of Pickering councillor biography. "Not found" or "not addressed" means the topic did not appear in the material reviewed; it does not mean the candidate has no position. Compiled October 6, 2026.