

# 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.

|                                      | MAYOR                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | WARD 1 — CITY COUNCILLOR                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                    | WARD 2 — CITY COUNCILLOR                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| ISSUE                                | Doug CORNELL                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Janice FRAMPTON                                                                                                                           | Lisa ROBINSON                                                                                                                                                                                    | Michael SAMLALSINGH                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priya VADIVEL                                                                                                                                      | Stacey LEPINE-FISHER                                                                                                                                                                                                | John MELOCHE                                                                                                                                  | Vince VIAPIANA                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Background</b>                    | 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.                 | 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. | Nearly 19 years as a public-facing TTC employee; on unpaid leave to campaign full-time.                                                                                                                |
| <b>Taxes &amp; spending</b>          | 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 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.       | 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. |
| <b>Growth &amp; development</b>      | "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.                       | 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.    | "Reasonable growth," not anti-growth. Examine traffic, water, parking, height and cumulative effects of proposals. Growth must be funded and matched by infrastructure.                                |
| <b>Openness &amp; accountability</b> | 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.                             | 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.                          | "Listen. Take action. Report back." Vince Listens Program: monthly coffee conversations, office hours, walkabouts. Explain significant votes.                                                          |
| <b>Roads, transit &amp; traffic</b>  | 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.                                                    | 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.            | Bring frontline transit experience to talks with the Region and DRT: reliability, routes, accessibility. Safer school zones, crossings and traffic calming.                                            |

|                                       | MAYOR                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                              | WARD 1 — CITY COUNCILLOR                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                   | WARD 2 — CITY COUNCILLOR                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>Community safety</b>               | <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.                | 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. | Work with the Region and police where issues fall outside City authority; honest about jurisdiction. Compassionate but practical response to homelessness. |
| <b>Environment &amp; land</b>         | Stormwater upgrades in flood-risk neighbourhoods, including Clarendon. 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.                                                                                   | Weigh green space and environmental impacts when development decisions are made.                                                                                            | Protect the Frenchman's Bay waterfront from overdevelopment. Protect trees and greenspace.                                                                         | Weigh trees, greenspace, stormwater and drainage when development proposals are reviewed.                                                                  |
| <b>Seniors, youth &amp; community</b> | 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. | 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.                              | Accessible parks, recreation and facilities. Programs for families, youth and seniors. Home visits for residents with mobility challenges.                 |
| <b>Business &amp; jobs</b>            | 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.                                            | 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 local businesses and commercial and employment growth.                                                                                             |
| <b>Campaign slogan</b>                | "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."                                                                                | No slogan in submitted material                                                                                                                                             | "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; updated October 4, 2026.