

Candidate Details

Ken Roche

Mayor of Cambridge

What is your motivation for running for election?

I believe in a government for the people, but recently concerned our government isn't working for our people. After years of watching and listening to community issues, I think there's a better way and I'm willing to lead the change I believe necessary. Growth is inevitable, necessary and beneficial, but I'd prefer seeing the intense growth along Highway 24 corridor allowing us to modestly grow historic core areas, protect sensitive farm, watersheds and green spaces. Given the chance I intend to create positive attitude and policies at city hall towards all residents of Cambridge starting with general taxpayers who deserve to see results delivered in a high value, cost responsible and timely fashion, our many valued employees and contractors, special interest groups such as seniors, persons with a disability, 2SLGBTQ, Indigenous as well as our homeless, mentally and financially challenged and/or active drug users. I'm Regionally minded and would like input on Regional council and issues that affect everyone in the region including water supply, quality and delivery, current waste management safely and effectively containing its contents, managing its fill rates and developing an effective plan post current site reaching its capacity. I support good ideas around developing community first and think Cambridge and the greater Waterloo Region would significantly benefit from my Therapist's point of view."

What are your top three priority issues you want to address at Regional Council?

General affordability, delivering high-value tangible benefits for every tax dollar and everything associated with stabilizing and reducing our homeless and addiction crisis

What is your vision for each of the issues you identified above?

This is a difficult question as my vision for these issues is simply to intelligently collaborate and improve any and every aspect as quickly and financially responsibly as possible.

What tangible steps would you take to increase the supply of affordable housing across the Region?

- Initiate and support:
minimum building standards to include a higher percentage of 2-3-4 and 5 bedroom units in general private development.
- Increasing scope of public affordable housing projects to be more in line with the general larger design of private development.
- work with non and limited for profit organizations to regularly start cooperative housing opportunities, ideally one in each area of the region annually
- encourage council and developers to maximize provincially allowable percentage of less than market value units in projects along the mass transit corridor.
- lobbying provincial government to increase allowable less than market value units along mass transit corridor and in other designated high density areas in the region.
- establish higher and mixed density zoning at entrance to residential development and around school zones
- incorporating housing components above regional and municipal developments utilizing opposite side shared parking and independent entrances to keep function separate

What is your plan to expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and create additional child care spaces?

This is an important and an under delivered initiative through the federal government that has created a significant issue with our many working parents. I would certainly support the development, maintenance and expansion of any locations and places as able, but don't have many specific ideas of how or where, other than suggesting the potential in underutilised government owned buildings. Saying this, I'd also like to see extending currently available care opportunities to include evening/night and weekend availability for shift working families. Additionally, I'd like to explore the possibility of at cost or modest profit child care for general public to use for social opportunities by organizing 4 hour block sessions Thursday through Saturday evenings that incorporate fun physical, craft activities and movie watching for kids to participate in while parents are free to pursue personal interests.

What is your position on the Provincial government's efforts to increase private sector involvement in drinking water and wastewater services

I am directly opposed to any private involvement in public essential assets and/or service which I consider water to be a high priority. Maybe with the exception of arms distant investment with no control interest other than, whatever modest interest return on investment that may be publicly negotiated. Along these lines, I would support the creation of mutual funds for general citizens directly involved to invest, contributing to essential service expansion and their provision while also benefiting from the financial rewards associated.

What role should the Region play in protecting publicly owned water services?

I believe it's the people's government's responsibility to structure , manage and protect legislation that supports the safe, effective and sustainable ownership and provision of publicly owned and managed essential services like water supply and distribution.

What forms of inequity do you believe are the most significant challenges in our community? How would you address them?

Education that may allow or limit employment opportunities. General trend away from traditional labour related employment resulting in a higher percentage of unemployment and under employment, especially with in populations of the older part of the work force or recent immigration. The high cost of living not allowing everyone Financial ability to participate in investment opportunities

What organizations, initiatives, or movements have you supported that work to address systemic discrimination or oppression? Please describe your involvement.

none to date ...

Can you commit to publicly speaking up in favour of these demands, including at Council meetings?

Yes