

Candidate Details

Lindsay Manary
Regional Councillor

What is your motivation for running for election?

I am running because Waterloo Region needs leadership that listens and acts with purpose. Leadership that understands the challenges facing our residents, supports the essential services people rely on, and works together on solutions that are practical, responsible, and sustainable to build a stronger future! Listening to residents is at the core of my approach. I believe good decisions start with listening and understanding the lived experiences of the people they affect, and I am committed to creating clear, accessible ways for residents to share their priorities, concerns, and ideas.

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

Responsible budget, housing and affordability, Safer roads and neighbourhoods

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

1) People should be able to live, work, study, and build their lives here without being pushed out by rising costs or barriers to access. My approach focuses on practical, community-driven solutions that strengthen affordability, improve access to services, and support long-term wellbeing. I want clear, transparent and responsible budgets so that residents understand how and why decisions are made, where their money is actually going and protection of the services we all rely on. 2) I will advocate for stable and practical housing solutions. Support income-based affordability models, advocate for delayed housing projects to be back on track, push for unused regionally owned land to be used for housing, encourage developers to build mix housing options. 3) My approach focuses on prevention, smart design, enforcement, and collaboration. I will advocate for better infrastructure in high-risk areas, traffic calming measures around schools/student dense areas, work with key partners to address on-going issues and practical solutions that will work (speed, student driving, mental health and other supports for community members that are unhoused, addictions), support active transportation plans that ensure safety.

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

My focus is on smart planning, partnerships, and long-term affordability. Support mixed-income buildings that include affordable units. Push for utilizing unused Regionally owned land as housing, fast track delayed housing projects, work with developers to encourage mix income housing.

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

My approach focuses on expanding capacity by lobbying to the province for more spots in the CWELCC, strengthening partnerships, and removing barriers so more families can access safe, affordable, high-quality care. I will work with schools and companies to include child care hubs, encourage developers to build child cares in new housing developments and Support wage enhancement programs, recruitment in the ECE program. I will also

Support fee-reduction programs and subsidies and encourage child care owners to keep child care affordable.

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

Our services should remain publicly owned! This ensure that there is a level of accountability and protect the services we rely on from being influenced by profit-driven decision-making and resulting in service hikes that will cost tax payers.

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

The Region needs to protect these vital services by keeping them publicly owned. The Region needs to ensure transparent decision-making and budgeting, prevent cost escalation tied to privatization and invest in climate ready infrastructure.

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

1)Housing/cost of living 2)Food Insecurity 3)Resident representation on decisions that affect them directly!

1) Utilizing unused Regionally owned land as housing, fast track delayed housing projects, work with developers to encourage mix income housing.

2) I would heavily advocate for increased funding to the Food Bank WR and work with community partners to increase food pick up locations across the Region (community centres, areas close to transit and within neighbourhoods that are lower income). I will work with the school boards to strengthen food insecurity programs at school so that children can have food that is healthy and nutritious.

3)Every resident deserves to have their voice heard regardless of income, race, gender, worker/student etc. I would push for more public engagement, public meetings, townhalls, various forms of communication to provide all residents with options to voice their ideas, concerns, suggestions on decision that affect them directly. I am committed to listening to residents and acting on their behalf to involve them in decisions, and be clear, transparent and accountable on decisions. I will push for what the community wants and needs.

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

I am a proud supporter of the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, helping organize community food drives and participating in fundraising events. Food insecurity is a systemic issue that affects low-income families, newcomers, students, and seniors. Supporting the Food Bank helps ensure equitable access to healthy food and reduces barriers created by poverty. I support various programs specifically related to children and youth food insecurity.

I participate in and supported Indigenous-supporting events, recognizing the importance of reconciliation, cultural respect, and addressing the systemic inequities faced by Indigenous communities. These events help raise awareness, build relationships, and support community-driven initiatives. I am currently involved in advocating for Indigenous Veterans Day (Nov. 8) to be honored and recognized more widely across the Region. I also support many fundraising initiatives in support of SHOW (supportive housing) such as Coldest Night of the Year, "

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

Yes