



LET ME BE YOUR VOICE FOR

SCHESHAWNA LEMAIRE

CITY COUNCILLOR

WARD 5 OSHAWA



Being a resident of Ward 5 for the past 51 years, I have seen many economic and social changes within southern Oshawa.

As your City Councillor for Ward 5, I will work to strengthen community programs that support families, seniors, and youth.

I respect the efforts made by those serving. **BUT IT IS TIME FOR CHANGE.**

- ✓ A NEW VOICE THAT CARES ABOUT YOU.
- ✓ WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR EVERYONE.
- ✓ NO MORE ECONOMIC SUFFERING. NO MORE EXCUSES FOR FAILURE.



Please get involved by volunteering, ordering a sign, or donating to our community through my campaign. Please call me any time.

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Lisa Robinson

PICKERING CITY COUNCILLOR

Public Input Should Come Before the Decision

Imagine someone asking for your opinion about a major purchase after they have already signed the agreement. You might reasonably ask: What, exactly, can my opinion change now? Residents should ask the same question when governments make decisions involving public money, public land and public assets. Public input belongs at the beginning of the process, while options remain open and residents can still influence the outcome. When consultation comes after important commitments, people are left responding to a decision instead of helping shape it. There is a significant difference between informing the public and consulting the public.

A presentation announcing what will happen provides information. Meaningful consultation gives residents a chance to question whether it should happen, what it should cost and what alternatives deserve consideration.

That distinction matters because the consequences can last for decades. A major purchase can create borrowing costs, maintenance expenses and operating obligations. The sale of a public asset can permanently change what a community owns and controls. A development decision can affect roads, services, farmland and neighbourhoods long after the council that approved it has left office.

Before those commitments are made, residents deserve clear answers. What is the full cost? What independent information supports the price? What conditions must be satisfied? What happens if anticipated funding does not arrive? Who pays for ongoing operations? What other options were considered? These questions should guide the decision from the outset.

A conditional agreement also deserves careful explanation. Calling an agreement “conditional” does not tell residents how much flexibility remains. People deserve to understand the significant conditions, the deadlines and what obligations may already exist. My standard is straightforward: establish and understand the conditions upfront, obtain the information needed to assess the price, and seek meaningful public input before making major commitments.

There are circumstances where confidentiality serves a legitimate purpose. Residents do not need every negotiating detail published while negotiations are underway. But confidentiality should have a clear purpose and a limit. The public deserves as much information as can responsibly be released, along with an explanation of what remains confidential and why.

What residents hear publicly may not capture everything discussed behind closed doors. That makes accurate public explanations especially important. People need enough information to assess the decision, its costs and its consequences.

Funding announcements deserve the same scrutiny. We often hear that another level of government will help pay for a project. That can be valuable, but the money still comes from taxpayers. The same taxpayer pays at every level.

Funding can also carry conditions. Before accepting it, a municipality should explain the obligations attached to it and whether local taxpayers will inherit expenses after the initial contribution has been spent. Council should also be cautious about approving projects before outside funding is secured and its conditions are understood.

Otherwise, taxpayers can end up paying for consultants and preliminary work, only to face a choice between abandoning the project or covering the funding shortfall themselves. Money already spent can become an argument for spending even more. That is why the funding plan and its conditions should be examined before costly commitments begin.

Residents deserve the complete financial picture.

Public participation also improves decisions. A resident may identify a practical problem that was overlooked.

A business owner may explain an impact that does not appear in a staff report. Someone who uses a service every day may offer a solution that deserves consideration. Listening does not require council to agree with every opinion. It requires council to take those opinions seriously, consider them before deciding, and explain its eventual choice. That is how trust is earned.

As an elected representative, I believe our responsibility includes making decisions that residents can understand and examine. When we ask people to pay for something, we owe them a clear explanation of its value, its risks and its long-term cost.

The people of Pickering deserve a meaningful voice in decisions about the community they live in and help fund. Their questions deserve answers while those answers can still affect what happens next. Public input should never be reduced to an invitation to comment on a finished plan. If we want residents to trust City Hall, we must give them a place in the process before commitments are made. Ask first. Explain the costs. Understand the conditions. Consider the alternatives. Then make the decision.

VOTE

KEVIN TAYLOR

Regional Councillor, Wards 3 & 4

SHOW UP. LISTEN. GET IT DONE.

Stronger. Smarter. Together.

A practical voice for Clarington.

CALL ME ANYTIME ALWAYS AVAILABLE

905-424-4177







CITY COUNCIL • WARD 2 • PICKERING

A city our kids can come home to

Practical leadership. Real opportunity.

A neighbour at the council table.

See my full platform →

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* VOTE OCTOBER 26