

Municipal Election 2026 - Meet the Ward 1 Local Councillor Candidates

As in every election, the BTC is providing candidates with free space to publish their ideas.

For this issue, we emailed all three Ward 1 councillor candidates: Anastasia Brown,

Steve Lee and Jay White.

They were given three questions to answer in 500 words or less.

1 - What are your two highest priorities for this ward over the

next four years? Why?

2 - What specific areas of municipal spending would you seek to reduce, maintain, or increase? Why?

3 - What is one popular idea in the ward right now that you personally disagree with, and why?

See page 7 for their responses and contact information:



WHITBY NORTH WARD 1 LOCAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES



Anastasia BROWN

be a strong voice for residents by fighting to keep taxes affordable, improve neighbourhood safety, responsibly manage growth, and restore Express GO Train service to Whitby.

I will vote to reduce the Mayor's \$318,666 annual compensation.

But my campaign is centred on four key priorities:

1 - What are your two highest priorities for this ward over the next four years? Why?

"I will fight against the proposed 10% Durham Regional property tax hike"

With that pronouncement community advocate **Anastasia Brown** officially announced her candidacy for **Whitby Town Councillor for North Ward One on May 1, 2026**, pledging to

- **Keeping taxes down** by eliminating wasteful spending and protecting taxpayers.
- **Improving neighbourhood safety** by working closely with Durham Regional Police and supporting initiatives that make communities safer for families and seniors.
- **Standing up for Brooklin** by responsibly managing development pressures and ensuring growth is balanced with the infrastructure and services residents expect.
- **Supporting the return of Express GO Train service** to Whitby to improve commuting options and strengthen the local economy

3 - What is one popular idea in the ward right now that you personally disagree with, and why?

I disagree with the popular idea that tax hikes are inevitable.

I am running because residents deserve a councillor who will put their interests first and focus on practical solutions to the challenges facing Whitby families.

Brooklin and North Ward residents deserve a councillor who listens, works hard, and stands up for taxpayers. I am committed to making responsible decisions that keep our community safe, protect our

quality of life, and ensure residents receive real value for every tax dollar. Affordability remains one of the biggest concerns she hears from residents while campaigning throughout the community. Brooklin residents can't afford a 10 per cent property tax hike in 2027 and beyond. I will work with the next mayor and my colleagues on Council to keep taxes and the cost of living down while continuing to deliver the essential services residents rely on.

I believe local government must focus on fiscal responsibility while ensuring Whitby continues to grow in a thoughtful and sustainable manner.

Residents expect their elected representatives to make decisions that put people first. That means protecting neighbourhoods, managing growth responsibly, investing in community safety, and respecting taxpayers. Those will be my priorities every day on Council."

Over the coming weeks, I will be meeting residents across North Ward One to hear their ideas, discuss local priorities, and earn their support.

Residents can learn more about my campaign, watch videos about my priorities, and follow the campaign by visiting my campaign website and social media channels at **VoteBrown.ca**.



Steve LEE

concern, particularly through Brooklin and along major routes such as Winchester Road. I would continue working with Town staff, Durham Region and the Province to improve roads, expand transportation options, advance the Mid-Block Arterial Road and introduce appropriate traffic-calming measures. Growth should not mean residents spending more time stuck in traffic or feeling unsafe on neighbourhood streets.

At the same time, growth and services the town provides must be financially sustainable. Residents

1. What are your two highest priorities for this ward over the next four years? Why?
My two highest priorities for North Ward are fiscal responsibility and taxes, and **responsible growth and traffic**.

Whitby and Brooklin continue to grow rapidly, and growth needs to be matched with the infrastructure and services residents need. Traffic congestion is already a significant

deserve high-quality municipal services without unchecked increases to their property taxes. I would continue looking for efficiencies, reviewing core municipal services and pursuing commercial and industrial development that expands the tax base and helps reduce pressure on residential taxpayers.

2. What specific areas of municipal spending would you seek to reduce, maintain, or increase? Why?
I would seek to **reduce unnecessary administrative costs and identify efficiencies through the Town's core services review**. Before asking residents for additional tax dollars, Council should be able to demonstrate that existing resources are being used effectively. Every dollar must count and not be wasted. We should be making sure they the for services we all need.

I would **maintain or protect spending on essential services**, including roads, snow removal, fire services, parks and community safety. These are services residents depend on every day.

I would also **increase strategic investment in infrastructure that supports growth**, particularly transportation, road capacity, trails and connectivity. I would support economic-development investments that attract businesses and good-paying jobs because expanding the commercial and industrial

tax base can help offset the residential tax burden.

3. What is one popular idea in the ward right now that you personally disagree with, and why?
I disagree with the idea that the answer to every problem created by growth is simply to **stop or significantly restrict development**.

I understand why residents are frustrated. Growth can put pressure on roads, traffic, schools and municipal services. However, Whitby is going to continue growing, and honestly we can't stop this. Simply saying "no more development" does not solve those problems. Instead, I believe we need to make sure growth happens responsibly and that infrastructure keeps pace with it.

That means better planning, stronger transportation infrastructure, appropriate traffic management, investment in community services and making sure developers contribute appropriately to the infrastructure required for new communities. Growth should be managed, not ignored, and it should make Whitby stronger rather than place an unfair burden on existing residents.

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Jay WHITE

providing valuable experience and perspective while reinforcing something equally important - there really is no place like home.

My experience includes budgeting, forecasting, contract negotiation, and operations, while working with diverse stakeholders, managing competing priorities and delivering projects within financial and operational constraints. I believe this combination of professional experience and strong community connection would bring a practical, analytical, and accountable perspective to Whitby Council.

1. My two highest priorities are Fiscal Responsibility and Community Safety.

Residents continue to face affordability pressures, making careful evaluation of spending, project costs and long-term financial forecasts more important than ever. My experience has reinforced the importance of planning, cost control, and accountability. We need to identify efficiencies and prevent unnecessary spending while protecting core services.

Community safety is equally important. As North Ward grows, infrastructure has not always kept pace. Delays to major road improvements and limited arterial routes can push additional traffic onto residential streets. Addressing this requires better infrastructure planning, appropriate traffic-calming measures, safer pedestrian connections and collaboration with police, Town staff and residents.

2. I would seek to reduce costs through operational efficiencies and a focus on procurement, project scope, contracted services, duplication and lifecycle projects, reassessing projects based on actual condition, need and value.

I would maintain core resident-facing services. Fiscal responsibility should not automatically mean reducing the services residents and families rely on.

Where a demonstrated need exists, I would support

targeted increases in infrastructure and community safety investment, particularly in growing areas. Roads, traffic and pedestrian safety, and emergency services must keep pace, while funding from other levels of government should be pursued to reduce pressure on taxpayers.

3. One issue that has residents divided is the increasing number of speed bumps.

I support traffic calming measures, but not a one-size-fits-all approach. Traffic data, road conditions, and resident feedback should help determine the appropriate solution, whether that involves speed bumps, pedestrian crossings, road design, signage, enforcement, or other measures. Community safety should be the objective, with solutions reflecting the needs and characteristics of each neighbourhood.

I encourage residents to reach out to learn more, clarify a response or share their perspective. Effective representation starts with listening, and I welcome those conversations. I am committed to being engaged, accountable and clear about the decisions being made on residents' behalf.

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