

Municipal Election 2026 - Meet the Ward 1 Regional Councillor Candidates

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

For this issue, we emailed all four Ward 1 Regional Councillor candidates: Tracy Brown, Ikramah Mohhy-Ud-Din, Rhonda Mulcahy, and Christine Thatcher. Please note that Ikramah Mohhy-Ud-Din did not

reply.

They were provided four questions to answer in 500 words or less.

1 - With regional councillors running only in their wards, how will you work with the ward councillor in providing the north

ward what it needs?

2 - What will be the challenges in Whitby council as a representative of just this ward?

3 - Regional Council involves making difficult choices when there may not be enough money, staff, or political agreement to do everything people want. How would you decide what

gets done first?

4 - Four years from now, what would you want residents to say you actually accomplished—and why should voters believe you are the person who can deliver it?

Turn to page 7 for their responses and contact information:



WHITBY NORTH WARD 1 LOCAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES



Tracy BROWN

receive clear, consistent information. Whether the matter involves local services such as roads and parks, or regional responsibilities such as transit, policing and affordable housing, or cooperation across governments, my focus will be on practical solutions. North Ward 1 deserves representatives who communicate clearly, collaborate effectively and deliver results.

2. The greatest challenge will be advocating strongly for North Ward 1 while helping to make decisions that benefit Whitby/Brooklin and Durham as a whole. Rapid growth is placing pressure on infrastructure, traffic, transit, housing, recreation

1. Residents expect their elected representatives to work together. I would build a strong, respectful partnership with the North Ward 1 Local Councillor through regular meetings, joint community consultations and coordinated advocacy. We would identify shared priorities, clarify government responsibilities and ensure residents

and essential services. At times, North Ward's 1 needs may compete with priorities elsewhere. I will present clear evidence, build support among colleagues, and show how timely investment in our growing community benefits the entire municipality. I will remain closely connected to residents, so their lived experiences inform every decision I make.

3. I would use a transparent and disciplined process. Public safety, legislated responsibilities and essential services must come first. I would then assess proposals based on urgency, community impact, equity, readiness, long-term value and the cost of delaying action. I will prioritize initiatives that address the greatest needs, deliver measurable results and use public funds responsibly. I would also pursue partnerships and additional funding sources wherever possible. I will explain difficult choices openly, and residents deserve to understand both what was decided and why.

4. Four years from now, residents should be able to point to real results: a stronger voice for North Ward 1, better managed growth, more responsive services and meaningful progress on transportation, infrastructure and community safety. They should know their Regional Councillor was present, accessible and accountable and that I delivered for every generation. Voters do not have to take my leadership on

faith. I have demonstrated the discipline, sound judgment and commitment this role demands. While maintaining a full-time career and keeping my family at the centre of my life, I have served for four years as an elected Durham District School Board Trustee for Whitby and have twice earned my colleagues' confidence to serve as Chair of the Board.

I know how to manage competing priorities, lead through complex challenges, build consensus and make responsible decisions under pressure. My family keeps me grounded and reinforces why this work matters. I want North Ward 1 to be a community where families of every kind and residents at every stage of life can thrive.

I have been trusted to help lead the next generation. - Now, I am ready to represent and deliver for every generation.

Tracy Brown- Candidate for Whitby North Ward 1 Regional Councillor

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Rhonda MULCAHY

councillors can pool council expenses for regular ward meetings and communication. The Brooklin Town Crier has always offered space to the Ward Councillor upon their wish to participate. Moving forward I now have the same opportunity as a dedicated ward representative. I will ensure the community is aware of what is happening in the chambers along Rossland Road and the local councillor is welcome to collaborate to share that responsibility in the paper and beyond with a combined newsletter.

1. I am who motioned to elect our Regional Councillor by ward this election. This offers you less confusion of who you are to contact. Being dedicated to one Ward, I will address more local issues in tandem with your local Councillor offering collaborative solutions in the community. This presents new opportunities for communication from the Region and the Town to you. Two

2. The challenge will be to work closely with the other three wards to be reasonable in our asks of each other. I believe this is a good thing as it will curb spending as you no longer will have 6 of 9 councillors (majority of council) competing for support in future elections. (This has happened too often). Reasonable decisions will be made through good relationships and sensible spending.

3. Public safety first:

- water
- sewer
- paramedics
- health
- police

Priority items must serve ALL communities - not singularly for one community over others. Amalgamated governments are meant to share costs. We must as Regional Council determine the priorities to protect cores services for all of us across the Region. We are currently doing that review. Having said that, my record already shows I have voted against big tax increases at the Region and I am very aware that there needs to be serious changes. We have some hard decisions ahead. The provincial government hasn't addressed the financial framework imbalance and the \$6B gap annually that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) have identified across the

province. We are treated unfairly comparably with other provinces in what unsustainably falls on our property taxes. As the Durham representative on the AMO Board I will continue that advocacy for all of us in Ontario.

4. This term:

- Remove trucks out of our downtown
- Create a Ward strategic plan
- Form a working downtown business group to protect our 'heart' in the community
- Achieve next steps for the hospital
- Be known as accessible, open and respectful

Why should you believe me? I'm proven - especially for my advocacy with the MTO regarding the downtown's future. I am the Whitby This Week (Sorry BTC) "Newsmaker of the Year, 2025" for the removal of the 407 tolls. Our current 62 item Whitby Strategic Plan is near complete from this term. I know and support our local business owners already and I believe being back in my hometown ward we can do some great things together. Are you with me?

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Christine THATCHER

My priorities include protecting taxpayers, investing in essential services and infrastructure, improving roads and traffic safety, protecting Brooklin's quality of life, and ensuring our community gets the hospital and other services it needs. I will build relationships with Town Council, Regional staff and our community organizations so that North Ward's priorities don't fall through the cracks

1. The North Ward needs representatives who understand that residents don't care which level of government is responsible—they simply want problems solved. I will work closely with the Town Councillor for North Ward as a team, maintaining regular communication and presenting a united voice on issues affecting our community.

2. The biggest challenge will be balancing North Ward's needs with the broader interests of Whitby and Durham Region. North Ward has experienced significant growth, and that means pressure on roads, traffic, infrastructure, recreation, libraries and other services.

I will be a strong advocate for North Ward, but Regional Council requires councillors to think beyond their own boundaries. Good regional government means making decisions that strengthen Whitby as a whole while ensuring that growth pays its fair share and existing residents are not forgotten.

3. Core services, public safety, infrastructure and responsible growth must come first. I would scrutinize spending, look for efficiencies and insist on accountability before asking taxpayers for more money.

That is why I oppose a 10% Regional tax increase. Taxpayers deserve to know that every reasonable effort has been made to control spending before taxes are increased.

4. I want residents to say: Christine Thatcher stood up for North Ward, protected our quality of life and made sure Whitby received its fair share.

I want to see progress on the hospital, better infrastructure and traffic management, protection of important community institutions such as the Brooklin Library, and responsible management of growth. I also want residents to know that their Regional representative respected their tax dollars. Voters can look at my record rather than simply take my word for it. I have served Whitby families as a DDSB trustee since 2018 and have served as both Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board. That experience taught me how to manage a large public budget, work with people who don't always agree, listen to communities and turn priorities into action.

I will bring that same approach to Regional Council: listen, advocate, negotiate and deliver.

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