

ERIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**All Candidates Event — Updated Question Review**

Submission

Total of 100 questions received (1 question was a test by admin)

Theme	Submission Count
Candidate Qualifications	3
Community Services & Recreation	6
Community Services & Social Supports	6
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	16
Environment & Climate Resilience	4
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	11
Housing, Growth & Development	8
Local Business & Economy	11
Public & Community Engagement	6
Roads & Infrastructure	10
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	9
Transportation & Mobility	1
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	8

Submission #	Theme	Timestamp	Submitted Topic (verbatim)	Original Question (verbatim)
1	Administrative / Test	2026/08/04 12:00:13 PM AST	Testing	Testing
2	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/04 12:31:20 PM AST	Local business & economy	What is your position and approach should an AI data centre be proposed for the Erin area?
3	Candidate Qualifications	2026/08/04 1:39:09 PM AST	Describe how your education and other qualifications would make you a good fit for council consideration	Describe your education and other qualifications that make you a good fit for council consideration.
4	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/08/05 1:16:23 PM AST	Housing & Development	When would new sub division would be considered part of Erin to SERVE by town office?
5	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/08/05 1:20:37 PM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	The quality of the roads needs improvement. In addition, it would greatly enhance public safety to install street lights along the main roads connecting Erin to neighbouring communities such as Guelph, Caledon, and Belfountain. Even if the lights are installed at reasonable intervals rather than continuously, they would significantly improve visibility and help ensure the safety of residents and motorists, especially during nighttime and adverse weather conditions.
6	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/08/05 1:25:02 PM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	We have Road Safety hazard due to people park their vehicles on streets. Vehicles are regularly parked throughout residential streets, creating visibility and traffic safety concerns. There is no enforcement in place and people misuse that. Also, due to the absence of parks and recreational areas, children are often forced to play on roadways, increasing the risk of accidents.
7	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/08/05 1:27:21 PM AST	Subdivision assumption by town	When residents raise concerns regarding safety, maintenance, and infrastructure, we are often informed that the subdivision has not yet been assumed by the Town. At the same time, residents are paying municipal property taxes and expect basic municipal oversight and accountability. We request clarification regarding the current status of the subdivision assumption process, any outstanding requirements, and the anticipated timeline for completion.
8	Community Services & Recreation	2026/08/05 1:30:20 PM AST	Community services & Recreation	Parks & recreation centers are not available. In new subdivision, more than 400 new families have started living since almost 2 years. There are no parks or proper recreational areas for children or seniors, which are essential for physical and mental well-being.
9	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/08/05 1:31:55 PM AST	Incomplete or inadequate drainage system:	The area lacks a fully functional drainage system, raising concerns about flooding, sanitation, and long-term infrastructure sustainability. The Storm water storage is missing fountain and due to that the area is stinking and making difficult to pass by or live.
10	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/08/05 1:35:29 PM AST	Taxes	Despite having limited municipal services available, property taxes are comparable to those in much larger cities that offer significantly more amenities and public services, such as public transit, recreation centres, swimming pools, and other community facilities. Residents would appreciate seeing better value for the taxes they pay through improved services and infrastructure.
11	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/06 7:23:23 AM AST	Local business & economy	Regarding courses being good for Erin economy, what will you do to promote this as an economic driver and protect farmland within our community?
12	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/06 1:57:37 PM AST	Environment	What is your position regarding fireworks? Are you prepared to ban them given their impact on the environment, wildlife, farm animals, pets and veterans?!
13	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/06 2:00:50 PM AST	Environment	What will you do to apprehend and penalize those who illegally dump on roadsides, property etc? !
14	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/07 10:03:12 AM AST	Community services & Recreation	Economic drivers of visitor growth have been identified as an important part of a diversified local economy in the Town of Erin. The biggest opportunity listed in the official strategic plan adopted by the current council is "Trails & Outdoors". The Elora Cataract Trailway has long been a corridor through which locals and visitors alike can connect with nature and explore many parts of our beautiful town and beyond. What is your plan to ensure that service levels for repairs/maintenance, wayfinding signage and connections to new developments are prioritized among so many other competing priorities?
15	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/08/07 1:47:23 PM AST	Housing & Development	Is grown going to slow down or are we becoming part of the gta?
16	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/08/08 8:11:30 PM AST	Housing & Development	For Rob Smith: You spent eight years on council while Erin planned and approved the wastewater system, and you were there when council awarded the \$114-million construction contract. You publicly defended the roughly 20% increase from the earlier estimate as not being out of line.
17	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/08/08 8:12:39 PM AST	Housing & Development	Looking back now, what specifically did council, including you, get wrong about the cost, risk or consequences of that project, and name one decision you personally would change? For Rob Smith: In 2022, you said you wanted a system where existing residents would not have to 'pay a single cent' for wastewater, and you introduced the motion saying residents shouldn't be required to connect until substantial government funding was secured. You're running for mayor four years later. Will you make the same commitment today: No existing Erin resident will be forced to pay connection costs or wastewater costs arising from growth? If not, what changed?

18	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/08/08 8:13:34 PM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	For Rob Smith: Council supported a wastewater financing structure under which developers would front roughly \$94 million in development charges, while the wastewater system simultaneously made large-scale development possible. You were part of the council that advanced that arrangement What evidence can you give existing residents that council negotiated the best possible deal for them rather than the deal necessary to unlock development for developers? For Rob Smith: Erin is changing because wastewater servicing enables a scale of development that wasn't previously possible. Saying you support 'responsible growth' is easy. Give residents a measurable answer: What population should Erin have in 10 years, and at what point would you say growth is happening too quickly? If you won't name a number or threshold, how can voters determine whether your definition of responsible growth means anything? There are currently a dozen or more pits and quarries in Erin Township. Some are active, some depleted. Erin has no formal policy on how these lands are used after they are depleted of sand and gravel. For example, Erin council approved a commercial fill operation at the former Hillsburgh Pit. Do you believe the town needs to develop a policy governing how these lands are used after licences are surrendered? What is your vision for former aggregate lands? Do you support commercial fill operations in the the town or Erin? Do you support the current approved commercial fill operation in Hillsburgh? Why? Would you pledge to support reopening or renegotiating the 2-year agreement if elected? Do you believe 300 trucks a day, six days a week, is appropriate for a residential community? What specific steps would you take to protect residents' wells and groundwater from potential contamination? Do you believe residents were adequately consulted before the 20 year agreement was approved? If not, what should have been done differently? Would you support a public meeting specifically dedicated to the commercial fill operation outside regular council hours? Would you commit to making all relevant studies, agreements, monitoring reports and correspondence publicly accessible? What does transparency mean to you in practical terms? Would you commit to proactively publishing important agreements and supporting documents before Council votes on them? How would you handle a situation where the Mayor or another Councillor has a personal or previous relationship with a proponent before Council? Would you support stronger conflict-of-interest and recusal practices than the minimum required by law? How would you handle a situation if you disagreed strongly with the Mayor or the rest of Council? Would you support evening public meetings for major issues so working residents can participate? Would you pledge to strengthen the public notification process to personally notify every impacted resident on issues that directly impact the quiet enjoyment of their property? Would you commit to establishing a Hillsburgh Pit Community Liaison committee and a dedicated reserve fund under its oversight (potentially led by the Erin Citizens Coalition)? What is one thing you would absolutely do differently from the current Council? Can you give me a specific example of a decision where you would have voted differently and explain why? If elected, what thee specific commitments are you willing to make to Erin residents that we can hold you accountable for four years from now? What is your opinion about the increase in staffing costs and the 46% raise given to our CAO after he was from his last position and during a time when most people are cutting back on expenses? Do you feel this was appropriate? How will you ensure we are more fiscally responsible going forward? If elected to the position how will you ensure that residents of Erin are kept fully informed of the decisions and processes unfolding at town council meetings? If elected how will you ensure that the people of Erin have a voice in making decisions that impact this community? Will you help to keep the Upper Credit Humane Society in Erin at its current location Our infrastructure is crumbling and will only get worse with anticipated growth. However, the Province has cut DCs and downstream funding. How do you plan to meet infrastructure needs with less funding. Growth rates are lower than anticipated therefore revenues are lower than forecast. What expenditures will you reduce to balance the budget.
19	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/08/08 8:15:32 PM AST	Housing & Development	
20	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/09 9:06:28 AM AST	Bylaws & Zoning (?)	
21	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:11:19 PM AST	Environment	
22	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:12:09 PM AST	Environment	
23	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:12:49 PM AST	Environment	
24	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:14:04 PM AST	Environment	
25	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:15:22 PM AST	Environment	
26	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:16:20 PM AST	Environment	
27	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:17:14 PM AST	Environment	
28	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/10 4:18:05 PM AST	Transparency and accountability	
29	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/10 4:19:04 PM AST	Transparency and accountability	
30	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/10 4:20:07 PM AST	Transparency and accountability	
31	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/10 4:21:13 PM AST	Transparency and accountability	
32	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/10 4:22:03 PM AST	Transparency and accountability	
33	Public & Community Engagement	2026/08/10 4:23:31 PM AST	Public engagement	
34	Public & Community Engagement	2026/08/10 4:26:42 PM AST	Public engagement	
35	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/08/10 4:28:37 PM AST	Environment	
36	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/10 4:29:31 PM AST	Local business & economy	
37	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/10 4:30:21 PM AST	Local business & economy	
38	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/10 4:31:14 PM AST	Local business & economy	
39	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/08/10 6:50:48 PM AST	Local business & economy	
40	Public & Community Engagement	2026/08/10 8:12:31 PM AST	Community Involvement and Engagement	
41	Public & Community Engagement	2026/08/10 8:13:54 PM AST	Community involvement	
42	Community Services & Recreation	2026/08/15 9:19:59 PM AST	Community services & Recreation	
43	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/08/17 8:45:38 AM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	
44	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/08/17 8:52:15 AM AST	Budget Management	

45	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/08/17 5:24:29 PM AST	Housing & Development	What do the current councillors who have been sitting for years (Cheyne, Brennen) and the past councillor who is currently running for Mayor (Smith) have to say about all of the growth they voted in years ago? What do they have to say about the sewer hook up and fees associated with that for the people of the community. There seems to be a lack of accountability for those councillors who clearly say on council for years, when these decisions were being made.
46	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/08/18 10:24:56 AM AST	If Elected to council what are you going to do about affordable housing and renting.	
47	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/08/18 10:26:50 AM AST	If elected what are you going to do to make sure we dont raise taxes.	MAYORS
48	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/08/19 8:03:43 AM AST	Reserve fund	What is your plan to rebuild the reserve fund that has been exhsuted.
49	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/08/19 8:04:52 AM AST	Reserve fund	Your plan to rebuild the exhausted reserve fund
50	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/20 6:11:01 PM AST	Personal liablity	Do you personally have any financial liability that you have not faithfully complied with which would question your ability to run for council as scrutinized by the integrity commission?
51	Community Services & Recreation	2026/08/21 11:35:21 AM AST	Community services & Recreation	What is your position on the Town of Erin's decision not to renew the Upper Credit Humane Society's lease, and do you believe the Town should work toward allowing the organization to remain at its current location?
52	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/08/23 3:39:02 PM AST	Housing & Development	Is there going to be anything looked into to help the existing residents offset the cost of hooking up to sewer? As a homeowner in town who lives off of a single income I don't think that there's a chance that I will be able to afford to pay 30+ thousand dollars to hook up to a sewage system. I am someone who is happy to have sewage but if it means I'm gonna have to spend \$30 - \$40,000. I'm going to have to sell my house and move to another town. To ask people to create more debt for themselves in this economy is crazy to me. And I feel like it's being forced upon us.
53	Community Services & Recreation	2026/08/23 9:05:45 PM AST	Animal welfare	Can you share the towns budget line for local animal care or low-cost spay-neuter programs. What is the Towns plan to sup
				Are you able to share shelter events on official social media pages and websites
				Are there strong animal welfare laws in place to protect the vulnerable strays and surrenders
54	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/08/25 11:01:04 AM AST	Housing & Development	In light of new legislation geared to building more homes faster, Erin was tasked with designating several heritage homes and other structures to protect them against demolition and redevelopment in order to maintain the heritage character of our downtowns. Residents with designated properties are facing significant challenges with obtaining insurance and higher insurance costs. The letter provided by the Town has done nothing to assist designated property owners with this conundrum. Other municipalities have implemented property tax rebates and/or grants to offset the high costs associated with maintaining, repairing or retrofitting heritage properties. Do you support bringing forward a motion to implement similar programs, rebates and/or grants to assist designated property owners in Erin and Hillsburgh?
55	Local Business & Economy	2026/08/26 1:57:56 PM AST	Local business & economy	This is a question only for incumbents and especially the mayor What have been your most notable contributions to our Town during your tenure as Councillor or Mayor? What would you do differently if given the opportunity?
56	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/08/26 2:00:36 PM AST	Integrity	A question specifically for Mayor Dehn. Why didn't you disclose your past relationship with Jay Fieger to your colleagues an the public prior to their vote for the commercial fill operation at the Hillsburgh Pit? Why would you aware an unconditional 20 year Agreement to someone you have a past relationship with? If you lived on Eighth Line, would you still have approved this 20 year agreement?
57	Community Services & Recreation	2026/08/30 12:46:37 PM AST	Community services & Recreation	When will bi-laws be enforced in the new development? Specifically around parking in the same spot for 24+ hours, parking in opposite directions (disobeying traffic laws) and parking on sidewalks/overhanging?
58	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/09/01 12:09:32 PM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	Daniel Street is a disaster to drive on. When will this road be repaired? School starts shortly and this street is impossible to navigate. Thank you for your responses.
59	Local Business & Economy	2026/09/01 5:40:18 PM AST	Local business & economy	Back in 2000, after the road reconstruction through the Village of Erin, there was a concerted effort to draw people back to the town. Resulting in a thriving Main St that became the envy of many other communities.
60	Local Business & Economy	2026/09/02 3:04:07 PM AST	Local business & economy	The Towns future plan includes increasing the visitor traffic/experience, by becoming a destination. Do you have any ideas on how that can be done, and do you feel bringing more retail (not commercial) businesses to the town could help achieve this goal. Tell us about how you view the dynamic relationship between protection of our agricultural land base and creating a positive environment for entrepreneurial activities. To provide some historical context, companies like Magna and Linamar started as machine shops located in sheds on farm properties. Current legislation makes this difficult, if not impossible. Even what are called on-farm diversified uses require planning justifications that are very financially difficult for small operations that are just starting.
61	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/09/04 11:52:01 AM AST	Hillsburgh Pit	For current council members. Do you think a commercial fill operation should have been approved for 20 years. Given the current pit owners multiple violations with the MNR how do you think the soil testing will go to keep our water safe.
62	Local Business & Economy	2026/09/05 10:51:41 AM AST	Local business & economy	How can you ad commercial space in hillsburgh
63	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/09/05 10:56:52 AM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	Solmar development narrow roads should have no parking during day for traffic, emergency trucks.
64	Public & Community Engagement	2026/09/05 10:59:29 AM AST	Town hall meetings should have a yearly evening meeting after fall fair	Better communication needed
65	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/09/05 11:00:42 AM AST	Town debt	How will you reduce the debt
66	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/09/05 12:49:29 PM AST	Environment	Aggregate production is not a benign activity and causes the destruction of farmland and the natural environment. Industry published data does not support the need for new aggregate. If elected before approving a new application will you require the proponent to demonstrate the "need" through consideration of existing licensed aggregate reserves and unused extraction capacity. yes or no
67	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/09/08 1:34:27 PM AST	Administration	One of the most important decisions of a council and mayor can make is the management and hiring of a CAO to carry out your vision. What qualities are important to you in hiring a CAO to lead staff at the town of Erin?

68	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/09/08 7:19:38 PM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	How do you plan to address the much needed infrastructure in the new Erin Glen community to include parks, schools, and recreation? With builders, developers, and the town seemingly disconnected, residents struggle to see progress or have clear communication on these matters.
69	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/09/09 9:47:30 PM AST	Environment	Roadway clearing, garbage pick up, and bylaw enforcement for items such as illegal parking are limited at best. In light of serious environmental concerns expressed by many citizens in the Town of Erin and organizations including Water Watchers, Coalition for the West Credit River, and the Ontario Headwaters Institute about the impact of unprecedented development in the Erin/Hillsburgh area, how will you address current issues of drinking water, sewage systems, and storm water management?
70	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/09/10 8:57:17 AM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	For the town's rural roads, would you support the Town of Erin following the higher snowplowing standards used by Wellington County?
71	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/09/10 9:16:53 AM AST	taxes	Will you find ways to reduce spending instead of raising taxes for the duration of your term?
72	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/09/10 9:19:13 AM AST	Housing & Development	Will you put the brakes on rural residential development by stopping lot severances off agricultural zoned lands?
73	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/09/10 9:20:59 AM AST	Council	Will you acknowledge and improve the ability of council to act on issues in a timely manner? We're seeing that things CAN get done quickly in other jurisdictions where there is a will to do so.
74	Community Services & Recreation	2026/09/10 9:22:36 AM AST	Community services & Recreation	Do you support the use of motorized/e-vehicles on public trails and sidewalks?
75	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/09/10 9:26:14 AM AST	Provincial reach	Are you in favour of using strong mayor powers?
76	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	2026/09/10 12:19:44 PM AST	Fiscal responsibility	I do not have a problem paying taxes for programs that benefit our community. I do have a problem when I see the money wasted on mismanagement and poor budgeting as with our new sewage system. What will you do to make sure all our tax dollars are spent as they were meant to be spent and that budgets are more than just guesstimates?
77	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/09/11 9:42:40 AM AST	Housing & Development	As Erin continues to grow, we are very likely to start to see more housing affordability issues including homelessness. Even though this is a county responsibility, what actions would you take at the town level to help deal with homelessness in a proactive manner?
78	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/09/13 9:04:47 AM AST	taxation	Last election, all candidates stated that rural residents will not pay for either the construction of the new water/sewer system or the cost of connecting to it. It was also stated that water and wastewater finances are maintained separately from general tax revenues.
79	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/09/15 1:57:28 AM AST	Housing & Development	Will you commit to making the complete accounting for this project publicly available each year—including capital costs, financing and interest, operating costs, reserves, development charges, connection charges, user rates, grants and any municipal contributions—so that residents can independently verify that no portion of these costs is being transferred to the general tax base paid by rural residents?
80	Community Services & Social Supports	2026/09/15 1:39:33 PM AST	Community services & Recreation	And, if the system does produce a deficit or costs exceed the amounts recovered from users and development, will you commit that rural taxpayers will not be required to make up that shortfall?"
81	Housing, Growth & Development	2026/09/15 1:41:10 PM AST	Housing & Development	"Does 'rural residents will not pay' mean that rural residents will pay absolutely nothing through the general municipal tax levy for this system, including indirect costs, debt, financing, operating shortfalls or infrastructure that benefits future development? What infrastructure is being put in place to support the new growth in Erin and Hillsburgh such as medical care, labs, nurses, doctors, roads, policing, hospital care etc. We are always putting the cart before the horse when it comes to planning what is in place to support the new growth without impacting existing residents?
82	Transportation & Mobility	2026/09/15 1:42:43 PM AST	Transportation	Community organizations provide essential services that help residents stay healthy, connected, and housed. How will you strengthen partnerships between the municipality and local non-profit organizations to address social challenges and improve quality of life?
83	Community Services & Social Supports	2026/09/15 1:44:09 PM AST	Senior Population	Housing affordability and homelessness are growing concerns in our community. What specific actions will you take to increase affordable housing options and support residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness?
84	Community Services & Social Supports	2026/09/15 1:46:29 PM AST	Social Challenges facing Erin	Many seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income residents struggle to access healthcare, employment, and community services because of transportation barriers. What role should the Town of Erin play in improving transportation and mobility for residents?
85	Community Services & Social Supports	2026/09/15 1:54:10 PM AST	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	Erin has a growing senior population. What will you do to help older adults age safely, independently, and with dignity in the community they call home?
86	Community Services & Social Supports	2026/09/15 1:55:15 PM AST	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	What do you see as the greatest social challenge facing Erin over the next four years, and what specific actions would you take to improve the lives of vulnerable residents and families?
87	Community Services & Social Supports	2026/09/15 1:57:18 PM AST	Community services & Recreation	Equity, diversity, and inclusion require more than statements of support. What practical measures would you implement as a member of Council to ensure municipal policies, programs, and community planning reflect the needs of all residents, including newcomers, seniors, low-income households, people with disabilities, and historically marginalized groups?
88	Public & Community Engagement	2026/09/15 4:05:25 PM AST	Engagement with Residents	Some residents and community organizations have raised concerns about exclusion, bias, and barriers to participation faced by certain groups in our community. As a municipal leader, what responsibility do you believe Council has in addressing these issues, and what actions would you take to create a more inclusive Erin?
89	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/09/15 4:06:54 PM AST	Pits	Non-profit organizations are increasingly delivering essential services that municipalities rely on, yet funding remains challenging. How will you support the long-term sustainability of community service organizations in Erin?
				Will you support public meetings being held after 6PM so residents are able to attend?
				Given the new MNR information that has come out about the Hillsburgh Pit will you commit to consulting with the towns legal team to rescind the contract?

90	Candidate Qualifications	2026/09/15 7:22:00 PM AST	Candidate Qualifications	What skills, education and experience do you have that have prepared you, for assisting in governing the Town of Erin, and in making critical decisions related to finance, marketing, growth, municipal law, the environment and the longterm viability of the township?
91	Environment & Climate Resilience	2026/09/15 11:56:11 PM AST	Environment	Climate change and extreme weather events – floods, life-threatening storms, wildfires, and so on - are increasing in frequency and intensity virtually around the world. Few Canadian municipalities are sufficiently prepared. If elected, how will you act to strengthen the Town's resilience, and to ensure that staff and residents are ready for urgent weather emergencies?
92	Local Business & Economy	2026/09/16 12:04:34 AM AST	Local business & economy	Acceptance of AI data centres has been paused in several Canadian municipalities including Centre Wellington, Oakville and Mississauga. What is your position if a data centre is being proposed in the Town of Erin? Would you recommend a pause until there is a better grasp of how such a data centre would impact - among other issues - local water and electricity demand?
93	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	2026/09/16 10:56:29 AM AST	Holding town staff accountable	The team we are going to elect do not actually control the execution, nor do they own accountability of any of the actual staff executing the work day to day. That is the role of the CAO, which is the only role council can hold accountable for anything. This is at the root of our town's transparency and operating expense issue. How will you structure the relationship with the CAO, and revise their goals and objectives and operating package, to ensure that the outcomes we need are aligned with the way the town's staff is compensated as a whole?
94	Environment & Climate Resilience	2026/09/16 2:16:19 PM AST	Environment	Water issues are vitally important in this fast-growing Town. Our new wastewater treatment facility is a huge infrastructure project, and the environmental impacts of the plant's effluent on the West Credit River are a critical concern. As you may know, the West Credit River is one of few remaining spawning grounds for native Brook Trout in southern Ontario, and this species requires a cold-water habitat to reproduce. The Town and the provincial Ministry of Environment have promised that a 'chiller' be installed to ensure that sewage-effluent from the plant is sufficiently cool for Brook Trout to propagate, but – to date – this has not happened. What will you do, if elected, to ensure the cooling system will be installed before the plant is fully commissioned, and to improve communications and transparency about this issue, which has been lacking to date. What is your position on the sewage-effluent thermal mitigation cooling system – for the Town of Erin's wastewater treatment plant; including transparency of communication and information sharing, plus how the Town will monitor whether it is delivering on it?
95	Environment & Climate Resilience	2026/09/16 3:15:31 PM AST	Environment	If elected, how will you tackle the climate crisis, including efforts to reduce climate change's progression and to prepare for urgent weather emergencies?
96	Environment & Climate Resilience	2026/09/16 5:50:09 PM AST	Environment	The burning of natural gas is a major source of carbon dioxide that is driving climate change. Producing natural gas can cause methane leaks, and methane is a very potent greenhouse gas. Are you in favour of requiring all new buildings to be heated and cooled with heat pumps and to remove the requirement for natural gas pipelines to be included in the preparation of new subdivisions?
97	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	2026/09/16 7:11:23 PM AST	Contract to fill gravel pit on sideroad 22	Rob Smith Will you cancel the 20 year contract the town made with 1772853 owned by Jay Fieger who was a personal friend of our Mayor
98	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	2026/09/17 3:07:53 PM AST	Housing & Development	Regarding the \$11k per household that the town collects in development fees per house, in any new development in Erin, that was to be allotted to the sewer connections of the existing residents. It's estimated it should be worth about \$28-29 million with interest by now. Plus the Canadian government has since given the town another \$29ish million towards the infrastructure connections as well. That's \$56-57million less the \$5million we were sued for, leaves \$52 million
99	Candidate Qualifications	2026/09/17 3:43:14 PM AST	Background	Where is it all?
100	Roads & Infrastructure	2026/09/17 5:45:28 PM AST	Roads & Infrastructure	Could all candidates please tell us how long they have lived in the community What do you propose to do about the speeding in Erin. Speed bumps would be helpful. Dundas Winston Churchill, 10th line and Wellington road 124. It's loud and dangerous! It needs to stop. Flying in and out of new subdivision at high speeds. Either not using or not stoping for the new four way stop signs!

Theme	Consolidated Question	Original Submission #s Represented
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	What will you do to ensure existing residents understand and can manage the costs of connecting to the wastewater system, including what funding, grants, development-charge revenues or other assistance may be available?	17, 45, 52, 78, 98
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	How will you ensure full public transparency and accountability for wastewater-system finances, including capital costs, debt and interest, operating costs, reserves, development charges, connection charges, user rates, grants and any impact on the general tax base?	16, 18, 45, 78, 98
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	For candidates who participated in previous wastewater and growth decisions: looking back, what would you have done differently, and what commitments will you make now regarding costs, risk and accountability?	16, 17, 18, 45
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	How should Erin balance wastewater capacity, infrastructure costs and the pace of future growth, and what measurable indicators would you use to determine whether growth is proceeding responsibly?	19, 43, 45, 78
Housing, Growth & Development	What pace and scale of growth do you believe is appropriate for Erin and Hillsburgh, and how will you ensure infrastructure and municipal services keep pace with new development?	4, 15, 19, 43, 68, 79
Housing, Growth & Development	What actions would you support to improve housing affordability, rental options and supports for residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness?	46, 77, 81
Housing, Growth & Development	What is your position on rural residential development and lot severances from agriculturally zoned land, and how would you balance housing needs with protection of farmland and rural character?	11, 65, 72
Housing, Growth & Development	How should the Town address the needs of residents in new subdivisions before municipal assumption is complete, including parks, roads, drainage, bylaw enforcement and communication about timelines?	4, 7, 8, 9, 68
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	What is your position on the Hillsburgh commercial fill operation and its long-term agreement, and would you support reviewing, renegotiating or seeking legal advice about the agreement based on current information?	20, 21, 22, 25, 56, 61, 89, 97
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	What measures should be required to protect wells, groundwater, air quality, roads and nearby residents from aggregate extraction and commercial fill operations, including appropriate soil testing, monitoring and enforcement?	23, 24, 27, 61, 66, 89
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	How will you improve transparency and public participation on aggregate and fill proposals, including access to studies and monitoring reports, public meetings, notification of affected residents and community liaison?	25, 26, 27, 34, 35
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Should Erin develop a formal policy for the future use and rehabilitation of depleted pits and quarries, and what principles should guide decisions about former aggregate lands?	20, 66
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	What is your approach to other environmental and community concerns raised by residents, including illegal dumping and fireworks?	12, 13
Environment & Climate Resilience	What specific actions should the Town take to prepare for floods, severe storms, wildfires and other climate-related emergencies, and how would you improve emergency readiness for staff and residents?	91, 95
Environment & Climate Resilience	What municipal actions do you support to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and address climate change, including standards for new development and building energy systems?	95, 96
Environment & Climate Resilience	How will you protect local water systems and the West Credit River as Erin grows, including oversight of wastewater effluent, stormwater and environmental mitigation measures?	69, 94
Roads & Infrastructure	What are your priorities for repairing and upgrading Erin's roads, and how will you fund infrastructure needs as the community grows and funding sources change?	5, 43, 58, 68
Roads & Infrastructure	What specific measures would you support to improve road safety, including speeding, parking, street lighting, stop-sign compliance and safe access for emergency vehicles?	5, 6, 57, 63, 100

Roads & Infrastructure	Would you support changes to winter maintenance and snowplowing standards on rural roads, and how would you determine an appropriate service level?	70
Roads & Infrastructure	How will you ensure drainage, stormwater systems and other core infrastructure in new and existing neighbourhoods are maintained and upgraded as needed?	7, 9, 68, 79
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	What is your plan to control municipal spending and taxes while maintaining the services and infrastructure residents expect?	10, 44, 47, 71, 76
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	What is your plan to rebuild municipal reserves and reduce debt, and what timeline or targets would you use to measure progress?	48, 49, 65
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	How will you improve budgeting, financial forecasting and oversight of staffing and administrative costs to ensure residents receive value for their tax dollars?	10, 39, 44, 76, 93
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	What does transparency mean to you in practice, and what information should the Town proactively publish before and after major Council decisions?	27, 28, 29, 40
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	What standards should Council follow for disclosure and recusal when a member has a personal, prior or financial relationship that could create a real or perceived conflict of interest?	30, 31, 50, 56
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	How will you work with the CAO and Town staff to set clear goals, measure performance, control operating costs and hold administration accountable for results?	39, 67, 93
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	How would you handle strong disagreement within Council, and what would you do to help Council make timely decisions while maintaining appropriate debate and oversight?	32, 73, 75
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	What specific commitments or changes would you make that residents could use to assess your accountability over the next four years?	36, 37, 38, 55
Local Business & Economy	What is your position on a potential AI data centre in Erin, and what factors—including water, electricity, land use, economic benefits and community impacts—should be evaluated before a decision is made?	2, 92
Local Business & Economy	How will you support local businesses, commercial development and entrepreneurship while protecting Erin's agricultural land base and rural character?	11, 60, 62
Local Business & Economy	How will you strengthen tourism and visitor-based economic development, including trails, outdoor assets and the vitality of Erin's downtowns?	14, 59
Local Business & Economy	What would you do differently from the current Council to improve Erin's economic and community outcomes?	36, 37, 38, 55
Community Services & Recreation	How will you address the need for parks, recreation and community amenities as Erin's population grows, particularly in newer neighbourhoods?	8, 68, 79
Community Services & Recreation	What is your position on the Town of Erin's decision not to renew the Upper Credit Humane Society's lease at its current location, and would you support working toward allowing the organization to remain there?	42, 51
Community Services & Recreation	What role should the Town play in supporting local animal welfare, including funding for animal care and low-cost spay/neuter programs, protections for stray and surrendered animals, and using Town communication channels to promote local shelter initiatives?	53
Community Services & Recreation	What rules and enforcement do you support for motorized or electric vehicles on public trails and sidewalks?	74
Community Services & Social Supports	How will you strengthen partnerships with local non-profit and community organizations, including their long-term sustainability, as they provide services residents rely on?	80, 87
Community Services & Social Supports	What should the Town do to help seniors age safely and independently and to improve access for people with disabilities, low-income residents and others facing barriers?	82, 83, 84

Community Services & Social Supports	What practical steps would you take to make municipal policies, programs and public participation more inclusive and responsive to newcomers, seniors, low-income households, people with disabilities and other residents who may face barriers?	85, 86
Transportation & Mobility	What role should the Town play in improving transportation options for residents who have difficulty accessing healthcare, employment and community services?	82
Public & Community Engagement	Would you support holding major public meetings after 6 p.m. or at other accessible times so more working residents can participate?	33, 88
Public & Community Engagement	How will you improve public notification, communication and opportunities for residents to have meaningful input before decisions that directly affect them are made?	34, 40, 41, 64, 77
Public & Community Engagement	What specific steps would you take to make Council processes and major municipal decisions easier for residents to follow and understand?	28, 29, 40, 41, 64
Candidate Qualifications	What skills, education and experience have prepared you to help govern the Town of Erin and make decisions involving finance, growth, municipal law, the environment and long-term community planning?	3, 90
Candidate Qualifications	How long have you lived in the community, and what experiences have shaped your understanding of Erin and its residents?	99
Housing, Growth & Development	How should the Town balance heritage conservation with housing and redevelopment pressures, and what support or solutions should be considered when heritage designation creates practical challenges for property owners?	54
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	What is your position on the use of strong mayor powers, and under what circumstances, if any, would you use or support them?	75
Candidate Qualifications	What standards of personal financial responsibility, integrity and disclosure do you believe candidates and elected officials should meet, and how should concerns be addressed transparently?	50

Submission #	Theme	Original Question (verbatim)	Consolidated Question #	Coverage Status
				TEST ENTRY — not included in consolidated event questions
1	Administrative / Test	Testing		
2	Local Business & Economy	What is your position and approach should an AI data centre be proposed for the Erin area?	29	Covered
3	Candidate Qualifications	Describe your education and other qualifications that make you a good fit for council consideration.	44	Covered
4	Housing, Growth & Development	When would new sub division would be considered part of Erin to SERVE by town office? The quality of the roads needs improvement. In addition, it would greatly enhance public safety to install street lights along the main roads connecting Erin to neighbouring communities such as Guelph, Caledon, and Belfountain. Even if the lights are installed at reasonable intervals rather than continuously, they would significantly improve visibility and help ensure the safety of residents and motorists, especially during nighttime and adverse weather conditions.	5, 8	Covered
5	Roads & Infrastructure	We have Road Safety hazard due to people park their vehicles on streets. Vehicles are regularly parked throughout residential streets, creating visibility and traffic safety concerns. There is no enforcement in place and people misuse that.	17, 18	Covered
6	Roads & Infrastructure	Also, due to the absence of parks and recreational areas, children are often forced to play on roadways, increasing the risk of accidents. When residents raise concerns regarding safety, maintenance, and infrastructure, we are often informed that the subdivision has not yet been assumed by the Town. At the same time, residents are paying municipal property taxes and expect basic municipal oversight and accountability.	18	Covered
7	Roads & Infrastructure	We request clarification regarding the current status of the subdivision assumption process, any outstanding requirements, and the anticipated timeline for completion. Parks & recreation centers are not available. In new subdivision, more than 400 new families have started living since almost 2 years. There are no parks or proper recreational areas for children or seniors, which are essential for physical and mental well-being.	8, 20	Covered
8	Community Services & Recreation	The area lacks a fully functional drainage system, raising concerns about flooding, sanitation, and long-term infrastructure sustainability. The Storm water storage is missing fountain and due to that the area is stinking and making difficult to pass by or live.	8, 33	Covered
9	Roads & Infrastructure	Despite having limited municipal services available, property taxes are comparable to those in much larger cities that offer significantly more amenities and public services, such as public transit, recreation centres, swimming pools, and other community facilities. Residents would appreciate seeing better value for the taxes they pay through improved services and infrastructure.	8, 20	Covered
10	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	Regarding courses being good for Erin economy, what will you do to promote this as an economic driver and protect farmland within our community?	21, 23	Covered
11	Local Business & Economy	What is your position regarding fireworks? Are you prepared to ban them given their impact on the environment, wildlife, farm animals, pets and veterans?!	7, 30	Covered
12	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh		13	Covered
13	Pit	What will you do to apprehend and penalize those who illegally dump on roadsides, property etc? ! Economic drivers of visitor growth have been identified as an important part of a diversified local economy in the Town of Erin. The biggest opportunity listed in the official strategic plan adopted by the current council is "Trails & Outdoors". The Elora Cataract Trailway has long been a corridor through which locals and visitors alike can connect with nature and explore many parts of our beautiful town and beyond. What is your plan to ensure that service levels for repairs/maintenance, wayfinding signage and connections to new developments are prioritized among so many other competing priorities?	13	Covered
14	Local Business & Economy		31	Covered
15	Housing, Growth & Development	Is grown going to slow down or are we becoming part of the gta? For Rob Smith: You spent eight years on council while Erin planned and approved the wastewater system, and you were there when council awarded the \$114-million construction contract. You publicly defended the roughly 20% increase from the earlier estimate as not being out of line.	5	Covered
16	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	Looking back now, what specifically did council, including you, get wrong about the cost, risk or consequences of that project, and name one decision you personally would change?	2, 3	Covered

	For Rob Smith:		
	In 2022, you said you wanted a system where existing residents would not have to 'pay a single cent' for wastewater, and you introduced the motion saying residents shouldn't be required to connect until substantial government funding was secured.		
	You're running for mayor four years later.		
	Will you make the same commitment today:		
	No existing Erin resident will be forced to pay connection costs or wastewater costs arising from growth?		
17 Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	If not, what changed? For Rob Smith: Council supported a wastewater financing structure under which developers would front roughly \$94 million in development charges, while the wastewater system simultaneously made large-scale development possible. You were part of the council that advanced that arrangement	1, 3	Covered
18 Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	What evidence can you give existing residents that council negotiated the best possible deal for them rather than the deal necessary to unlock development for developers? For Rob Smith: Erin is changing because wastewater servicing enables a scale of development that wasn't previously possible. Saying you support 'responsible growth' is easy. Give residents a measurable answer: What population should Erin have in 10 years, and at what point would you say growth is happening too quickly?	2, 3	Covered
19 Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	If you won't name a number or threshold, how can voters determine whether your definition of responsible growth means anything? There are currently a dozen or more pits and quarries in Erin Township. Some are active, some depleted. Erin has no formal policy on how these lands are used after they are depleted of sand and gravel. For example, Erin council approved a commercial fill operation at the former Hillsburgh Pit. Do you believe the town needs to develop a policy governing how these lands are used after licences are surrendered? What is your vision for former aggregate lands? Do you support commercial fill operations in the the town or Erin?	4, 5	Covered
20 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit		9, 12	Covered
21 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Do you support the current approved commercial fill operation in Hillsburgh? Why/	9	Covered
22 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Would you pledge to support reopening or renegotiating the 2--year agreement if elected?	9	Covered
23 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Do you believe 300 trucks a day, six days a week, is appropriate for a residential community?	10	Covered
24 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	What specific steps would you take to protect residents' wells and groundwater from potential contamination? Do you believe residents were adequately consulted before the 20 year agreement was approved? If not, what should have been done differently?	10	Covered
25 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Would you support a public meeting specifically dedicated to the commercial fill operation outside regular council hours?	9, 11	Covered
26 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Would you commit to making all relevant studies, agreements, monitoring reports and correspondence publicly accessible?	11	Covered
27 Governance, Transparency & Accountability		10, 11, 24	Covered
28 Governance, Transparency & Accountability	What does transparency mean to you in practical terms?	24, 43	Covered
29 Governance, Transparency & Accountability	Would you commit to proactively publishing important agreements and supporting documents before Council votes on them?	24, 43	Covered
30 Governance, Transparency & Accountability	How would you handle a situation where the Mayor or another Councillor has a personal or previous relationship with a proponent before Council?	25	Covered

Governance, Transparency & Accountability	Would you support stronger conflict-of-interest and recusal practices than the minimum required by law?	25	Covered
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	How would you handle a situation if you disagreed strongly with the Mayor or the rest of Council?	27	Covered
Public & Community Engagement	Would you support evening public meetings for major issues so working residents can participate?	41	Covered
Public & Community Engagement	Would you pledge to strengthen the public notification process to personally notify every impacted resident on issues that directly impact the quiet enjoyment of their property?	11, 42	Covered
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Would you commit to establishing a Hillsburgh Pit Community Liaison committee and a dedicated reserve fund under its oversight (potentially led by the Erin Citizens Coalition)?	11	Covered
Local Business & Economy	What is one thing you would absolutely do differently from the current Council?	28, 32	Covered
Local Business & Economy	Can you give me a specific example of a decision where you would have voted differently and explain why?	28, 32	Covered
Local Business & Economy	If elected, what thee specific commitments are you willing to make to Erin residents that we can hold you accountable for four years from now?	28, 32	Covered
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	What is your opinion about the increase in staffing costs and the 46% raise given to our CAO after he was from his last position and during a time when most people are cutting back on expenses? Do you feel this was appropriate?		
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	How will you ensure we are more fiscally responsible going forward?	23, 26	Covered
Public & Community Engagement	If elected to the position how will you ensure that residents of Erin are kept fully informed of the decisions and processes unfolding at town council meetings?	24, 42, 43	Covered
Public & Community Engagement	If elected how will you ensure that the people of Erin have a voice in making decisions that impact this community?	42, 43	Covered
Community Services & Recreation	Will you help to keep the Upper Credit Humane Society in Erin at its current location	34	Covered
Roads & Infrastructure	Our infrastructure is crumbling and will only get worse with anticipated growth. However, the Province has cut DCs and downstream funding. How do you plan to meet infrastructure needs with less funding.	4, 5, 17	Covered
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	Growth rates are lower than anticipated therefore revenues are lower than forecast. What expenditures will you reduce to balance the budget.	21, 23	Covered
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	What do the current councillors who have been sitting for years (Cheyne, Brennen) and the past councillor who is currently running for Mayor (Smith) have to say about all of the growth they voted in years ago? What do they have to say about the sewer hook up and fees associated with that for the people of the community. There seems to be a lack of accountability for those councillors who clearly say on council for years, when these decisions were being made.	1, 2, 3, 4	Covered
Housing, Growth & Development		6	Covered
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	MAYORS	21	Covered
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	What is your plan to rebuild the reserve fund that has been exhsusted.	22	Covered
Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	Your plan to rebuild the exhausted reserve fund	22	Covered
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	Do you personally have any financial liability that you have not faithfully complied with which would question your ability to run for council as scrutinized by the integrity commission?	25, 48	Covered
Community Services & Recreation	What is your position on the Town of Erin's decision not to renew the Upper Credit Humane Society's lease, and do you believe the Town should work toward allowing the organization to remain at its current location?	34	Covered
Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	Is there going to be anything looked into to help the existing residents offset the cost of hooking up to sewer? As a homeowner in town who lives off of a single income I don't think that there's a chance that I will be able to afford to pay 30+ thousand dollars to hook up to a sewage system. I am someone who is happy to have sewage but if it means I'm gonna have to spend \$30 - \$40,000. I'm going to have to sell my house and move to another town. To ask people to create more debt for themselves in this economy is crazy to me. And I feel like it's being forced upon us.	1	Covered
	Can you share the towns budget line for local animal care or low-cost spay-neuter programs. What is the Towns plan to sup		
	Are you able to share shelter events on official social media pages and websites		
Community Services & Recreation	Are there strong animal welfare laws in place to protect the vulnerable strays and surrenders	35	Covered

	In light of new legislation geared to building more homes faster, Erin was tasked with designating several heritage homes and other structures to protect them against demolition and redevelopment in order to maintain the heritage character of our downtowns. Residents with designated properties are facing significant challenges with obtaining insurance and higher insurance costs. The letter provided by the Town has done nothing to assist designated property owners with this conundrum. Other municipalities have implemented property tax rebates and/or grants to offset the high costs associated with maintaining, repairing or retrofitting heritage properties. Do you support bringing forward a motion to implement similar programs, rebates and/or grants to assist designated property owners in Erin and Hillsburgh?	46	Covered
54 Housing, Growth & Development			
55 Local Business & Economy	This is a question only for incumbents and especially the mayor What have been your most notable contributions to our Town during your tenure as Councillor or Mayor? What would you do differently if given the opportunity?	28, 32	Covered
	A question specifically for Mayor Dehn. Why didn't you disclose your past relationship with Jay Fieger to your colleagues an the public prior to their vote for the commercial fill operation at the Hillsburgh Pit? Why would you aware an unconditional 20 year Agreement to someone you have a past relationship with? If you lived on Eighth Line, would you still have approved this 20 year agreement?	9, 25	Covered
56 Governance, Transparency & Accountability			
57 Community Services & Recreation	When will bi-laws be enforced in the new development? Specifically around parking in the same spot for 24+ hours, parking in opposite directions (disobeying traffic laws) and parking on sidewalks/overhanging?	18	Covered
58 Roads & Infrastructure	Daniel Street is a disaster to drive on. When will this road be repaired? School starts shortly and this street is impossible to navigate. Thank you for your responses.	17	Covered
	Back in 2000, after the road reconstruction through the Village of Erin, there was a concerted effort to draw people back to the town. Resulting in a thriving Main St that became the envy of many other communities.		
59 Local Business & Economy	The Towns future plan includes increasing the visitor traffic/experience, by becoming a destination. Do you have any ideas on how that can be done, and do you feel bringing more retail (not commercial) businesses to the town could help achieve this goal.	31	Covered
	Tell us about how you view the dynamic relationship between protection of our agricultural land base and creating a positive environment for entrepreneurial activities. To provide some historical context, companies like Magna and Linamar started as machine shops located in sheds on farm properties. Current legislation makes this difficult, if not impossible. Even what are called on-farm diversified uses require planning justifications that are very financially difficult for small operations that are just starting.	30	Covered
60 Local Business & Economy			
	For current council members. Do you think a commercial fill operation should have been approved for 20 years.		
61 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Given the current pit owners multiple violations with the MNR how do you think the soil testing will go to keep our water safe.	9, 10	Covered
62 Local Business & Economy	How can you ad commercial space in hillsburgh	30	Covered
63 Roads & Infrastructure	Solmar development narrow roads should have no parking during day for traffic, emergency trucks.	18	Covered
64 Public & Community Engagement	Better communication needed	42, 43	Covered
65 Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	How will you reduce the debt	7, 22	Covered
	Aggregate production is not a benign activity and causes the destruction of farmland and the natural environment. Industry published data does not support the need for new aggregate. If elected before approving a new application will you require the proponent to demonstrate the "need" through consideration of existing licensed aggregate reserves and unused extraction capacity. yes or no	10, 12	Covered
66 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit			
	One of the most important decisions of a council and mayor can make is the management and hiring of a CAO to carry out your vision. What qualities are important to you in hiring a CAO to lead staff at the town of Erin?	26	Covered
67 Governance, Transparency & Accountability			
	How do you plan to address the much needed infrastructure in the new Erin Glen community to include parks, schools, and recreation? With builders, developers, and the town seemingly disconnected, residents struggle to see progress or have clear communication on these matters.		
68 Roads & Infrastructure	Roadway clearing, garbage pick up, and bylaw enforcement for items such as illegal parking are limited at best.	5, 8, 17, 20, 33	Covered
	In light of serious environmental concerns expressed by many citizens in the Town of Erin and organizations including Water Watchers, Coalition for the West Credit River, and the Ontario Headwaters Institute about the impact of unprecedented development in the Erin/Hillsburgh area, how will you address current issues of drinking water, sewage systems, and storm water management?	16	Covered
69 Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit			
70 Roads & Infrastructure	For the town's rural roads, would you support the Town of Erin following the higher snowplowing standards used by Wellington County?	19	Covered
71 Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	Will you find ways to reduce spending instead of raising taxes for the duration of your term?	21	Covered
72 Housing, Growth & Development	Will you put the brakes on rural residential development by stopping lot severances off agricultural zoned lands?	7	Covered
	Will you acknowledge and improve the ability of council to act on issues in a timely manner? We're seeing that things CAN get done quickly in other jurisdictions where there is a will to do so.	27	Covered
73 Governance, Transparency & Accountability			
74 Community Services & Recreation	Do you support the use of motorized/e-vehicles on public trails and sidewalks?	36	Covered

75	Governance, Transparency & Accountability	Are you in favour of using strong mayor powers?	27, 47	Covered
		I do not have a problem paying taxes for programs that benefit our community. I do have a problem when I see the money wasted on mismanagement and poor budgeting as with our new sewage system. What will you do to make sure all our tax dollars are spent as they were meant to be spent and that budgets are more than just guesstimates?		
76	Taxes, Budget & Fiscal Responsibility	As Erin continues to grow, we are very likely to start to see more housing affordability issues including homelessness. Even though this is a county responsibility, what actions would you take at the town level to help deal with homelessness in a proactive manner?	21, 23	Covered
77	Housing, Growth & Development	Last election, all candidates stated that rural residents will not pay for either the construction of the new water/sewer system or the cost of connecting to it. It was also stated that water and wastewater finances are maintained separately from general tax revenues.	6, 42	Covered
		Will you commit to making the complete accounting for this project publicly available each year—including capital costs, financing and interest, operating costs, reserves, development charges, connection charges, user rates, grants and any municipal contributions—so that residents can independently verify that no portion of these costs is being transferred to the general tax base paid by rural residents?		
		And, if the system does produce a deficit or costs exceed the amounts recovered from users and development, will you commit that rural taxpayers will not be required to make up that shortfall?"		
78	Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	"Does 'rural residents will not pay' mean that rural residents will pay absolutely nothing through the general municipal tax levy for this system, including indirect costs, debt, financing, operating shortfalls or infrastructure that benefits future development?	1, 2, 4	Covered
79	Housing, Growth & Development	What infrastructure is being put in place to support the new growth in Erin and Hillsburgh such as medical care, labs, nurses, doctors, roads, policing, hospital care etc. We are always putting the cart before the horse when it comes to planning what is in place to support the new growth without impacting existing residents?	5, 20, 33	Covered
80	Community Services & Social Supports	Community organizations provide essential services that help residents stay healthy, connected, and housed. How will you strengthen partnerships between the municipality and local non-profit organizations to address social challenges and improve quality of life?	37	Covered
81	Housing, Growth & Development	Housing affordability and homelessness are growing concerns in our community. What specific actions will you take to increase affordable housing options and support residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness?	6	Covered
82	Transportation & Mobility	Many seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income residents struggle to access healthcare, employment, and community services because of transportation barriers. What role should the Town of Erin play in improving transportation and mobility for residents?	38, 40	Covered
83	Community Services & Social Supports	Erin has a growing senior population. What will you do to help older adults age safely, independently, and with dignity in the community they call home?	38	Covered
84	Community Services & Social Supports	What do you see as the greatest social challenge facing Erin over the next four years, and what specific actions would you take to improve the lives of vulnerable residents and families?	38	Covered
85	Community Services & Social Supports	Equity, diversity, and inclusion require more than statements of support. What practical measures would you implement as a member of Council to ensure municipal policies, programs, and community planning reflect the needs of all residents, including newcomers, seniors, low-income households, people with disabilities, and historically marginalized groups?	39	Covered
86	Community Services & Social Supports	Some residents and community organizations have raised concerns about exclusion, bias, and barriers to participation faced by certain groups in our community. As a municipal leader, what responsibility do you believe Council has in addressing these issues, and what actions would you take to create a more inclusive Erin?	39	Covered
87	Community Services & Social Supports	Non-profit organizations are increasingly delivering essential services that municipalities rely on, yet funding remains challenging. How will you support the long-term sustainability of community service organizations in Erin?	37	Covered
88	Public & Community Engagement	Will you support public meetings being held after 6PM so residents are able to attend?	41	Covered
89	Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Given the new MNR information that has come out about the Hillsburgh Pit will you commit to consulting with the towns legal team to rescind the contract?	9, 10	Covered
90	Candidate Qualifications	What skills, education and experience do you have that have prepared you, for assisting in governing the Town of Erin, and in making critical decisions related to finance, marketing, growth, municipal law, the environment and the longterm viability of the township?	44	Covered

91 Environment & Climate Resilience	Climate change and extreme weather events – floods, life-threatening storms, wildfires, and so on - are increasing in frequency and intensity virtually around the world. Few Canadian municipalities are sufficiently prepared. If elected, how will you act to strengthen the Town's resilience, and to ensure that staff and residents are ready for urgent weather emergencies?	14	Covered
92 Local Business & Economy	Acceptance of AI data centres has been paused in several Canadian municipalities including Centre Wellington, Oakville and Mississauga. What is your position if a data centre is being proposed in the Town of Erin? Would you recommend a pause until there is a better grasp of how such a data centre would impact - among other issues - local water and electricity demand?	29	Covered
Governance, Transparency & Accountability	The team we are going to elect do not actually control the execution, nor do they own accountability of any of the actual staff executing the work day to day. That is the role of the CAO, which is the only role council can hold accountable for anything. This is at the root of our town's transparency and operating expense issue. How will you structure the relationship with the CAO, and revise their goals and objectives and operating package, to ensure that the outcomes we need are aligned with the way the town's staff is compensated as a whole?	23, 26	Covered
93 Accountability	Water issues are vitally important in this fast-growing Town. Our new wastewater treatment facility is a huge infrastructure project, and the environmental impacts of the plant's effluent on the West Credit River are a critical concern. As you may know, the West Credit River is one of few remaining spawning grounds for native Brook Trout in southern Ontario, and this species requires a cold-water habitat to reproduce. The Town and the provincial Ministry of Environment have promised that a 'chiller' be installed to ensure that sewage-effluent from the plant is sufficiently cool for Brook Trout to propagate, but – to date – this has not happened. What will you do, if elected, to ensure the cooling system will be installed before the plant is fully commissioned, and to improve communications and transparency about this issue, which has been lacking to date. What is your position on the sewage-effluent thermal mitigation cooling system – for the Town of Erin's wastewater treatment plant; including transparency of communication and information sharing, plus how the Town will monitor whether it is delivering on it?		
94 Environment & Climate Resilience		16	Covered
95 Environment & Climate Resilience	If elected, how will you tackle the climate crisis, including efforts to reduce climate change's progression and to prepare for urgent weather emergencies?	14, 15	Covered
96 Environment & Climate Resilience	The burning of natural gas is a major source of carbon dioxide that is driving climate change. Producing natural gas can cause methane leaks, and methane is a very potent greenhouse gas. Are you in favour of requiring all new buildings to be heated and cooled with heat pumps and to remove the requirement for natural gas pipelines to be included in the preparation of new subdivisions?	15	Covered
Environment & Aggregate/Hillsburgh Pit	Rob Smith Will you cancel the 20 year contract the town made with 1772853 owned by Jay Fieger who was a personal friend of our Mayor	9	Covered
97 Pit	Regarding the \$11k per household that the town collects in development fees per house, in any new development in Erin, that was to be allotted to the sewer connections of the existing residents. It's estimated it should be worth about \$28-29 million with interest by now. Plus the Canadian government has since given the town another \$29ish million towards the infrastructure connections as well. That's \$56-57million less the \$5million we were sued for, leaves \$52 million		
98 Wastewater, Sewer & Growth Financing	Where is it all?	1, 2	Covered
99 Candidate Qualifications	Could all candidates please tell us how long they have lived in the community	45	Covered
100 Roads & Infrastructure	What do you propose to do about the speeding in Erin. Speed bumps would be helpful. Dundas Winston Churchill, 10th line and Wellington road 124. It's loud and dangerous! It needs to stop. Flying in and out of new subdivision at high speeds. Either not using or not stopping for the new four way stop signs!	18	Covered