

Election Day is October 24

#HamiltonVotes2022



High School Essay Contest

The City of Hamilton's Municipal Election Team invites High School Students to share their thoughts and ideas on what they would focus on if they were a Municipal Candidate for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election, or their thoughts on Voter Turnout and Engagement.

Digital submissions are encouraged.

Prizes:

Entries are evaluated for originality, style, and general presentation, as well as spelling and grammar. **Maximum of 500 words.**

All entries will receive a certificate of appreciation.

Top submissions will receive a City of Hamilton swag bag and opportunity for a Meet and Greet with the New Mayor and Council. Date to be confirmed.

Note to Teachers:

If you are submitting on behalf of a student, please ensure each submission is filled out with the student's contact info below.

How to Enter:

This year's competition opens in mid-September. The deadline for submissions is **Friday October 28th, 2022.**

Winners will be contacted late November early December 2022.

Completed applications are to be forwarded to elections@hamilton.ca or if no e-mail you can send to:

Office of the City Clerk
Elections Office
Subject Election Essay
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor
Hamilton L8P 4Y5

For further information please contact Stacey Currie at ext. 7685 or elections@hamilton.ca



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VOTES 2022

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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Please Print Clearly

Surname Geroux	First Name Raya	
Address	City Hamilton	Postal Code
Phone Number	High School	

Background Information

The City of Hamilton's Council is comprised of 1 Mayor and 15 City Councillors. There are four school boards in the City of Hamilton, including the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board that has 9 School Board Trustees; the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board that has 11 School Board Trustees; the Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir with 1 Trustee and the Conseil scolaire Viamonde with 1 Trustee.

Elected officials, like the Mayor and Councillors, are elected to represent the public and govern making important decisions, under legislation, that impact residents' quality of life and determine how tax dollars are spent. For example, investment and growth decisions about local roads, recreation centres, parks, libraries, fire stations and other municipal services.

School board trustees are elected members of a school board that make important decisions ensuring schools operate in compliance with the law and standards established by the Province to provide educational opportunities for students. For example, decisions that result in educational programs and services that are responsive to a diverse community of students.

In the City of Hamilton, residents are eligible to vote in a Municipal Election if they meet the following criteria:

- They are a Canadian citizen
- They are at least 18 years old
- They reside in Hamilton, or are the owner or tenant of land in Hamilton or the spouse of such owner or tenant
- Are not prohibited from voting under the Municipal Elections Act or Municipal Act



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QUESTION (Choose One): Maximum of 500 words

1. Imagine that you are running for candidacy in the upcoming Municipal and School Board Election in Hamilton. What would your platform focus on? Please briefly outline two issues related to Municipal government that you will tackle or address in your platform.

2. Voter turnout has been declining in recent years, particularly at the Municipal level and amongst youth voters. What threat do you think that this decline in voter turnout poses to democracy? What do you think can be done to engage electors and improve voter turnout in future Municipal elections?



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Maximum of 500 words

My name is Raya Geroux and I am born and raised in Hamilton. I go to Sherwood Secondary. I am in grade 10 in the French Immersion program and an extremely dedicated student! When I heard in my Civics class that City Council was holding a competition against other high school students, I could not resist! I am a very competitive person and combined with my love for politics...this was right up my alley. We have been learning about politics, government, and elections in my Civics class. We recently held our own student vote that I participated in. It felt amazing to encourage young students to vote. My hope is for students to learn the importance of voting early in life, so they will continue to be engaged citizens in the future. We are lucky to live in a society where we have a voice and it's crucial for young people to get involved and use their vote. We have been watching debates and researching different political parties and I find it very intriguing. I am looking forward to my future as a lawyer and hope to one day enter the political arena myself. I would love the opportunity to meet our city's leaders and understand what motivated them into a life in public service.

If I was Mayor, the two problems I would address would be: Education and the impact of the pandemic, and Technology: availability and accessibility.

Teachers and the curriculum need to consider the fact that students were online and in online school for an extended period of time. The foundation and building blocks from our education are weaker than in previous generations and the curriculum needs to be adjusted to accommodate for review of those lessons. The curriculum needs to be modified and adjusted to accommodate for these missed years. My plan of action would be to work with the Board of Education to make the necessary changes to get students back up to speed and to help those struggling as a result of the lost years.

Secondly, I would address the availability and accessibility of technology at schools. Far too many of our schools are not providing optimal environments for our students. Technology has become a crucial component in education and too few schools are equipped with the basic technical equipment. Technology will be an important piece of this generation's future and earlier adoption of technology is crucial for our future success. I would ensure that schools located in less affluent areas receive as good or better equipment to ensure that all students, regardless of their economic status, get the best possible education and tools for success.

As young adults, we may not be able to change laws or curriculum (yet), but there are many ways even we can impact our communities. It starts with getting involved, using our voices and understanding the challenges that our citizens face...

"The journey of a thousand miles, begins with one small step." -Lao Tzu



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