

2026 ORILLIA MAYORAL CANDIDATES



PRIORITIES & FIRST-TERM COMMITMENTS | Candidate survey responses

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES BY AVERAGE RANK

1 = highest priority; 10 = lowest priority among the listed issues. Sorted by average rank.

Issue	Whitney Smith	Steve Clarke	Average
Economic development and job creation	1	4	2.50
Infrastructure renewal	4	1	2.50
Housing supply and attainability	3	5	4.00
Public safety and emergency services	2	6	4.00
Environmental sustainability	8	3	5.50
Food insecurity, homelessness and mental health services	10	2	6.00
Community services and recreation	7	7	7.00
Cost of living and affordability	6	8	7.00
Keeping property tax increases as low as possible	5	10	7.50
Waste collection and disposal	9	9	9.00

Darker teal = higher priority. Rankings are relative; a lower placement does not mean opposition.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Most important first-term action for economic and social prosperity:

Whitney Smith “I am a business owner, and I am here for growth and development!”	Steve Clarke “Expedite building of new hospital in conjunction with expansion of university on adjacent land”
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Source: candidate survey responses supplied October 11, 2026. Survey answers only; no endorsement. Orillia | 1/2

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POLICY CHOICES | Housing, taxes, investment and municipal accountability

SURVEY QUESTION	Whitney Smith	Steve Clarke
HOUSING SUPPLY AND ATTAINABILITY		
Reduce development charges and other growth-related fees to encourage attainable ownership and rental housing.	Agree	Strongly Agree
Approval timelines with performance targets	☒	☒
Digital permitting and online approvals	☒	☒
Standardized application requirements	☒	☒
Reducing unnecessary studies and reports	☒	☐
Pre-zoning land for housing	☒	☒
Building more housing in existing communities	☒	☒
Supporting staff recommendations for more housing	☒	☐
Delegating more routine approvals to staff	☒	☐
PROPERTY TAXES INVESTMENT AND JOBS		
Approach to property taxes	Keep tax increases at approximately the rate of inflation/consumer price index (CPI)	Support increases above inflation when necessary to improve services
Priorities for attracting investment and creating jobs	Faster planning approvals Expanded industrial land development Workforce development and skilled trades	Investment in roads and infrastructure Expanded industrial land development Downtown revitalization
MUNICIPAL EFFICIENCY ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY		
Comprehensive service and spending review each council term; publicly report savings.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Tax increases above inflation require public justification and evidence that lower-cost alternatives were considered first.	Strongly Support	Support
Expand shared services and joint procurement where costs fall without reducing service levels.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Measurable service standards and public performance reporting for planning approvals, permitting and other key services.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Modern digital services through one online portal for permits, licences and approvals.	Strongly Support	Support
CAMPAIGN INFORMATION		
Campaign website	whitneyformayor.ca	steve.larkeformayor.ca
Contact email	whitney@whitneyformayor.ca	Clarke4orillia@gmail.com

Checked box = selected. Empty box = not selected; this does not indicate opposition. Question labels are condensed; selected answers and written responses are retained. Names are shown as supplied.

Source: candidate survey responses supplied October 11, 2026. Survey answers only; no endorsement. Orillia | 2/2