

2026 OWEN SOUND 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	Andrii Zvorygin	Mike Seiler	Richard Thomas	Carol Merton	Average
Food insecurity, homelessness and mental health services	3	1	1	1	1.50
Cost of living and affordability	1	4	2	4	2.75
Keeping property tax increases as low as possible	2	3	3	3	2.75
Economic development and job creation	5	2	4	6	4.25
Housing supply and attainability	4	7	6	5	5.50
Public safety and emergency services	6	8	7	2	5.75
Community services and recreation	8	5	8	9	7.50
Infrastructure renewal	9	9	5	7	7.50
Waste collection and disposal	7	10	9	8	8.50
Environmental sustainability	10	6	10	10	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:

Andrii Zvorygin “transparency, participation, compassion, and affordable rural communities.”	Mike Seiler “Build map.ca into Owen Sound's civic operating system: one platform where residents, businesses and City Hall communicate, map and coordinate. Real-time issue reporting, transparent spending, local commerce and emergency logistics, running on infrastructure I already own and operate. Prosperity follows when a community can finally see itself.”	Richard Thomas “Taking control of the homelessness and addiction problems in the downtown.”	Carol Merton “Convene a Community Conversation Table/ Community Impact Lab with key stakeholders to identify action strategies relating to homelessness and the downtown core to revitalize and support the downtown business community.”
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Source: candidate survey responses supplied October 11, 2026. Survey answers only; no endorsement. Owen Sound | 1/2

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POLICY CHOICES | Housing, taxes, investment and municipal accountability

SURVEY QUESTION	Andrii Zvorygin	Mike Seiler	Richard Thomas	Carol Merton
HOUSING SUPPLY AND ATTAINABILITY				
Reduce development charges and other growth-related fees to encourage attainable ownership and rental housing.	Disagree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	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	☐	☐	☒	☒
None of the above	☒	☐	☐	☐
PROPERTY TAXES INVESTMENT AND JOBS				
Approach to property taxes	Keep annual tax increases below inflation	Keep annual tax increases below inflation	Support increases above inflation when necessary to improve services	Support increases above inflation when necessary to improve services
Priorities for attracting investment and creating jobs	Workforce development and skilled trades Transit improvements Other: affordable rural communities	Faster planning approvals Lower municipal taxes and fees Workforce development and skilled trades	Downtown revitalization Transit improvements Tourism investment	Lower municipal taxes and fees Downtown revitalization Transit improvements
MUNICIPAL EFFICIENCY ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY				
Comprehensive service and spending review each council term; publicly report savings.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Tax increases above inflation require public justification and evidence that lower-cost alternatives were considered first.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Oppose	Strongly Support
Expand shared services and joint procurement where costs fall without reducing service levels.	Support	Strongly Support	Support	Strongly Support
Measurable service standards and public performance reporting for planning approvals, permitting and other key services.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Neutral	Strongly Support
Modern digital services through one online portal for permits, licences and approvals.	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Support	Strongly Support
CAMPAIGN INFORMATION				
Campaign website	mayorofowensound.ca	mikeseiler.ca	thomasformayor.ca	Carol Merton For Mayor Facebook-website to go live by mid September.
Contact email	andrii@zvorygin.ca	mike@map.ca	thomasformayor2026@gmail.com	Cmerton@sympatico.ca

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.

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