

2026

OTTAWA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ISSUES GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

On October 26, 2026, Ottawa residents will elect our mayor, city councillors and school board trustees.

More than 15,000 Jewish people call Ottawa home. The Jewish Federation of Ottawa has prepared this guide to help candidates understand issues affecting Jewish residents and for our community to engage meaningfully with their candidates.

This election comes at a consequential time for Jewish Ottawa. Since October 7, 2023, our community has experienced a significant rise in antisemitism, including efforts to exclude Jewish people from public spaces.

Jews represent approximately 1% of Canada's population yet are targeted in over 70% of religiously motivated hate crime. Prime Minister Mark Carney has described the current rise in antisemitism as a "national crisis."

In Ottawa, our Jewish community has faced an alleged attempted terrorist attack, physical assaults and repeated incidents of intimidation and hate. Hillel Lodge, our community's long-term care home, was targeted by a violent demonstration, while visibly Jewish residents, including children, have experienced antisemitic harassment.

Across Canada, Jewish schools, synagogues and community institutions have been targeted by shootings, arson and other acts of violence. Recent deadly attacks against Jewish communities internationally underscore the danger.

Municipal leadership matters. The mayor and city council make decisions that affect policing and public safety, social services, community facilities and the use of public spaces.

This guide identifies issues of particular importance to Jewish Ottawa and asks candidates how they would approach them.

Before election day, the **Jewish Federation of Ottawa will share candidates' responses through the Ottawa Jewish E-Bulletin**, our online community newsletter distributed to approximately 4,000 subscribers.

[Thank you for your attention to these matters.](#)



HATE AND SAFETY

- What role can the City play to push back against antisemitism and the violent forms of antizionism so Jewish residents can live safely and openly in Ottawa?
- Ottawa has seen violent demonstrations where participants have expressed support for terrorist organizations and celebrated the October 7 attacks. What steps should the City take when events on public property cross the line into intimidation, hate, support for terrorism or threats to public safety?
- Jewish institutions now spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on security, from paid police to private security to infrastructure. What should the City do to help?

SUPPORT, REPRESENTATION AND EDUCATION

The prime minister has described the rise in antisemitism as a failure of the social compact, calling it a “national crisis.” Many in Ottawa’s Jewish community have felt increasingly isolated and, at times, abandoned by civic institutions. City Hall has an important role in reversing this trend by ensuring Jewish residents feel represented, supported and included in the civic life of our city.

- Ottawa’s mayors and councillors have long demonstrated their support for Jewish Ottawa by participating in community events and festivals, Israel Independence Day, Holocaust remembrance and October 7 commemorations. How will you engage with and demonstrate your support for Ottawa’s Jewish community?
- What role should the City play in ensuring its agencies, programs and civic institutions are equipped to recognize, prevent and respond effectively to antisemitism?

ISRAEL, ZIONISM AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Since October 7, hostility toward Israel and Zionism has increasingly affected Jewish residents here at home, including efforts to exclude or marginalize Jews based on their real or perceived connection to Israel.

- Will you oppose efforts to bring international political campaigns, including BDS measures targeting Israel, into city politics?
- What principles should guide decisions about international flag raisings and other symbolic actions at City Hall, including those related to Israel and the Palestinian territories?

