

Questions for Norfolk Council Candidates

Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!

- Why are you running for office?
- I am running because I believe County Council has been adrift and needs a vision for the future and some direction to achieve that vision. I have the experience and ability to achieve the consensus required to realize that vision.

- Describe the impact of agriculture in your local area.
- Agriculture has been the mainstay not only of ward 3 but also of Norfolk. There are many spin-off businesses that owe their existence directly to agriculture to say nothing of traditional businesses that depend on agriculture. Many students including ones from farm families paid for their schooling from agricultural income.

- Describe the economic impact of agricultural business in your area.
- Agriculture and tobacco in particular has been the economic lifeline for Norfolk County. The downturn in Agriculture has been devastating to the economic well being of the County and ward three in particular.

- What priority do you place on agricultural land use issues?
- As I understand this question there are many implications. The Province wants to limit residential development in rural areas. I support that but I believe there is ample room for residential development in village and hamlet areas. I also believe that we must take advantage of the potential for tourism and recreational development where appropriate.

- Where does agriculture fit into the economic development priorities for the municipality/region?
- There is a priority need for adequate sewage treatment capacity that will accommodate value-added industry for farm produce.

- What is your position on the development of on-farm, value-added activities?
- This is very important for the purpose of marketing farm produce and providing much-needed jobs. By doing this we can ensure that the product is safe for consumption instead of taking chances on imported foods.

- Do you recognize the authority of the province in regulating manure and other nutrient sources either generated or applied in your municipality?

- I recognize the provincial authority but I believe that authority needs to be applied reasonably and the local council must have a roll to play in applying the provincial regulations.
- Are you willing to support a by-law to exempt farm lands from taxation for expenditures on municipal services not applicable to farm lands?
- There are many implications to this question and I don't feel qualified at this point to comment. It can't be a simple yes or no answer.
- How do you propose to encourage on-farm, value-added agricultural enterprises and address the excessive property taxes currently imposed on these activities?
- Whether on-farm or off-farm I believe value added enterprises are imperative to the enhancement and marketing of farm produce. Council and I as a member of council have a roll to play in that process. Council must help in the promotion and zoning adjustments to allow that to happen. Not put up roadblocks.
- Do you know if development charges apply to agricultural structures in this municipality? If development charges do apply, describe how you would support standardizing the application of development charges to prevent inequitable treatment.
- Again this question is too involved for a ready and easy answer
- What are the key water management issues in the area?
- We have plenty of water. We just need to ensure that our public as well as well water is safe to drink
- Do you support the need for municipalities to 'take control' of the area immediately adjacent (e.g. 100 meters) to a wellhead or surface water intake, by either purchasing or leasing the land?
- I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO OWN THE PROPERTY. BUT MUTUAL AGREEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE WITH THE PROPERTY OWNERS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE WELLHEAD. IT PROBABLY WOULD BE SIMPLER AND MORE APPROPRIATE TO OWN THE PROPERTY.
- How will you ensure that individual's owning property near municipal well head will not be negatively impacted?
- By negotiating reasonable agreements ahead of time.
- What funding is available to an individual farm business wishing to improve existing practices? What assistance will the municipality provide?
- I am not knowledgeable of all the various programs that are currently in existence. I think most of them have little practical value. It is incumbent upon a municipal Council in a rural agricultural area to intercede where it

can be useful and lend support to the farm groups to lobby for changes that would make those programs useful.

- How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-ordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?
- The Federal and Provincial governments provide the programs with accompanying regulations and the municipal council carries them out.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Federations concerns

**Ede Pos
Candidate for ward 3**