

Ottawa Mayoral Candidate Survey Results | 2026

Survey administered by the Ottawa Real Estate Board (OREB) in Sept-October 2026. Candidate responses presented without endorsement.

1 | TOP MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES (SELECT THREE)

Q: What should be the highest priorities for your municipality over the next four years? (Select your top three):

OPTION	SURAJ HARISH	ALI SHAYVARD	PETER WESTAWAY	ALEX LAWSON	MARK SUTCLIFFE	QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA ... BAKSHI*
Community services and recreation	—	—	—	—	—	✓
Cost of living and affordability	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓
Keeping property tax increases as low as possible	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓
Economic development and job creation	—	—	—	✓	—	—
Environmental sustainability	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food insecurity, homelessness and mental health services	—	✓	—	✓	—	—
Infrastructure renewal	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—
Increasing housing supply and attainability	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waste collection and disposal	—	—	✓	—	—	—
Public safety & emergency services (e.g. police, firefighting)	—	—	—	✓	—	—
Other (please specify)	—	—	—	—	✓	—

Mark Sutcliffe: Finding savings and efficiencies in government to balance the need for strong investments with the need to keep taxes low and life affordable for families.

* Candidate provided a full name of: Queen Divine Priya Amber Yahweh Hanuman Krishna Kasturi Lal Prakash Vishwa Mitter Bharat Bakshi. (and is certified as Queen Divine Priya Amber Bakshi)

2 | DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AND GROWTH-RELATED FEES

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Municipal development charges and other growth-related fees should be reduced to encourage the construction of more attainable ownership and rental housing. (Select one):

SURAJ HARISH	ALI SHAYVARD	PETER WESTAWAY	ALEX LAWSON	MARK SUTCLIFFE	QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA ... BAKSHI*
Agree	Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagr

3 | MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING SHORTAGE (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Q: To address Ottawa's housing shortage, which of the following measures would you support in your municipality? (Select all that apply):

OPTION	SURAJ HARISH	ALI SHAYVARD	PETER WESTAWAY	ALEX LAWSON	MARK SUTCLIFFE	QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA ... BAKSHI*
Approval and building permit timelines with performance targets	✓	—	—	✓	✓	✓
Digital permitting and online approvals	—	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
Standardized application requirements	✓	—	—	✓	✓	✓
Delegating more routine approvals to staff	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓
Pre-zoning land for housing	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓
Supporting staff recommendations for more housing	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓
Building more housing in existing communities	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reducing unnecessary studies and reports	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
None of the above	—	—	—	—	—	—

4 | PROPERTY TAXATION

Q: Which statement best reflects your approach to property taxes? (Select one):

SURAJ HARISH	ALI SHAYVARD	PETER WESTAWAY	ALEX LAWSON	MARK SUTCLIFFE	QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA ... BAKSHI*
Support increases above inflation when necessary to improve services	Keep annual tax increases below inflation whenever possible	Keep annual tax increases below inflation whenever possible	Keep annual tax increases below inflation whenever possible	Keep annual tax increases below inflation whenever possible	Keep annual tax increases below inflation whenever possible

5 | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION (SELECT UP TO THREE)

Q: Which three actions will you prioritize when it comes to attracting investment and creating jobs in Ottawa? (Select up to three):

OPTION	SURAJ HARISH	ALI SHAYVARD	PETER WESTAWAY	ALEX LAWSON	MARK SUTCLIFFE	QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA ... BAKSHI*
Faster planning approvals	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Lower municipal taxes and fees	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Investment in roads and infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—
Expanded industrial land development	—	—	—	✓	—	—
Workforce development and skilled trades	—	—	—	✓	—	✓
Downtown revitalization	—	—	—	—	✓	—
Transit improvements	—	✓	✓	—	✓	—
Tourism investment	—	—	—	—	—	✓
Reducing municipal red tape	—	✓	—	✓	—	✓
Other (please specify)	—	—	✓	—	—	—

Peter Westaway: Allow development inside of our small Greenbelt as outlined on my website.

6 | MUNICIPAL EFFICIENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Q: Municipal governments are responsible for delivering a wide range of services to residents and businesses while managing costs, maintaining service levels, and responding to changing community needs. Please indicate your level of support for each of the following approaches to improving municipal efficiency, accountability, and service delivery.

OPTION	SURAJ HARISH	ALI SHAYVARD	PETER WESTAWAY	ALEX LAWSON	MARK SUTCLIFFE	QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA ... BAKSHI*
Comprehensive service/spending review each council term	Support	Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Public justification for tax increases above inflation	Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Expand shared services and joint procurement	Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Measurable service standards and public reporting	Support	Support	Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support
Single online portal for municipal permits and approvals	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support	Strongly Support

7 | FIRST-TERM PRIORITY – IN THEIR OWN WORDS (CANDIDATE RESPONSES)

Q: If elected, what is the single most important action you will champion during your first term in office to ensure Ottawa/Renfrew County's economic and social prosperity? (Maximum 50 words.)

- **SURAJ HARISH** — “Increase the funding for BRT and make it reliable and affordable for public servants and for students who completely rely on BRT service.”
- **ALI SHAYVARD** — “My top priority will be restoring Ottawa's roads and infrastructure to proper standards. I will strengthen in-house capacity where practical, ensure work is completed properly the first time, and introduce stronger accountability so residents receive better value, safer roads, and infrastructure built to last.”
- **PETER WESTAWAY** — “My platform is mainly about opening up our small Greenbelt to some development and tree planting as detailed on my website.”
- **ALEX LAWSON** — “This is addressed in my Jobs and Growth Plan on my website for more information: votealex.ca”
- **MARK SUTCLIFFE** — “I will keep tax increases to 2-2.5% for the next two years. With low tax increases and a disciplined approach to public finances, we can advance important investments into priorities such as infrastructure, transit, public safety, and addressing homelessness while ensuring that life remains affordable for families.”
- **QUEEN DIVINE PRIYA AMBER YAHWEH HANUMAN KRISHNA KASTURI LAL PRAKASH VISHWA MITTER BHARAT BAKSHI** — “Create a working group where people are heard as I am the voice for the people and ensure impact and results are shown as best as possible to the public. People trust is important.”

Source note: A check indicates an option selected by the candidate; a dash indicates not selected. Original candidate wording is preserved for written responses. Candidate order follows the supplied survey response order. The final candidate's column heading is abbreviated; the full name appears on page 1 and above.