

# Election Day is October 24

#HamiltonVotes2022



## High School Essay Contest

The City of Hamilton's Municipal Election Team invites High School Students to share their thoughts and ideas on what they would focus on if they were a Municipal Candidate for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election, or their thoughts on Voter Turnout and Engagement.

Digital submissions are encouraged.

### Prizes:

Entries are evaluated for originality, style, and general presentation, as well as spelling and grammar. **Maximum of 500 words.**

All entries will receive a certificate of appreciation.

Top submissions will receive a City of Hamilton swag bag and opportunity for a Meet and Greet with the New Mayor and Council. Date to be confirmed.

### Note to Teachers:

If you are submitting on behalf of a student, please ensure each submission is filled out with the student's contact info below.

### How to Enter:

This year's competition opens in mid-September. The deadline for submissions is **Friday October 28th, 2022.**

Winners will be contacted late November early December 2022.

Completed applications are to be forwarded to [elections@hamilton.ca](mailto:elections@hamilton.ca) or if no e-mail you can send to:

Office of the City Clerk  
Elections Office  
Subject Election Essay  
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor  
Hamilton L8P 4Y5

For further information please contact Stacey Currie at ext. 7685 or [elections@hamilton.ca](mailto:elections@hamilton.ca)



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Please Print Clearly

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>
<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>High School</b>	

## Background Information

The City of Hamilton's Council is comprised of 1 Mayor and 15 City Councillors. There are four school boards in the City of Hamilton, including the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board that has 9 School Board Trustees; the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board that has 11 School Board Trustees; the Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir with 1 Trustee and the Conseil scolaire Viamonde with 1 Trustee.

Elected officials, like the Mayor and Councillors, are elected to represent the public and govern making important decisions, under legislation, that impact residents' quality of life and determine how tax dollars are spent. For example, investment and growth decisions about local roads, recreation centres, parks, libraries, fire stations and other municipal services.

School board trustees are elected members of a school board that make important decisions ensuring schools operate in compliance with the law and standards established by the Province to provide educational opportunities for students. For example, decisions that result in educational programs and services that are responsive to a diverse community of students.

In the City of Hamilton, residents are eligible to vote in a Municipal Election if they meet the following criteria:

- They are a Canadian citizen
- They are at least 18 years old
- They reside in Hamilton, or are the owner or tenant of land in Hamilton or the spouse of such owner or tenant
- Are not prohibited from voting under the Municipal Elections Act or Municipal Act



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## QUESTION (Choose One): Maximum of 500 words

1. Imagine that you are running for candidacy in the upcoming Municipal and School Board Election in Hamilton. What would your platform focus on? Please briefly outline two issues related to Municipal government that you will tackle or address in your platform.
2. Voter turnout has been declining in recent years, particularly at the Municipal level and amongst youth voters. What threat do you think that this decline in voter turnout poses to democracy? What do you think can be done to engage electors and improve voter turnout in future Municipal elections?



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Maximum of 500 words

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for voters to write their comments or messages. The box occupies the central portion of the page.



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