

Questions for Candidates: Ontario's 2026 Municipal Elections Advocate for Libraries

During the municipal council and school board elections period, candidates will participate in community events where members of the public may have opportunities to ask questions. You may also connect with candidates through chance encounters or events organized by your library or community.

These interactions, whether in person or virtual, are valuable opportunities for library supporters to engage in meaningful dialogue. They offer a chance to share the impact of libraries and to better understand where candidates stand on the issues that matter to school and public libraries, as well as library staff.

This resource provides sample questions library supporters can use when speaking with candidates.

Public Libraries

1. Public libraries are essential community hubs that support social connection, civic participation, and lifelong learning. **How will you ensure residents of all ages continue to have access to public libraries and the services they provide?**
2. Libraries rely on stable municipal investment to deliver essential services. **In the face of competing municipal budget priorities, how will you ensure that libraries are protected? Will you commit to maintaining or strengthening funding for public libraries?**
3. Ontario public libraries are governed by independent library boards to protect intellectual freedom and ensure equitable service. **How will you respect the autonomy of the library board and ensure municipal council does not intervene in day-to-day governance or collections decisions?**

School Libraries

1. School libraries are central to literacy development, inquiry-based learning, and student achievement. **What role do you believe school libraries and school library staff play in supporting student learning?**
2. School libraries are most effective when professionally staffed and adequately funded. **How will you ensure that all students have equitable access to high-quality school library programs?**
3. School libraries provide access to diverse and inclusive materials. **What are your views on book challenges and censorship? Are you aware of whether your school board has a collection development and reconsideration policy for school library materials? If not, would you support working with school library professionals to develop one?**