

Alnwick-Haldimand Township

2026 Municipal Election

Community Candidate Questionnaire

Prepared by AHRPA

Purpose

This questionnaire has been developed to provide residents of Alnwick-Haldimand Township with an opportunity to better understand the views, priorities and leadership approach of each municipal candidate.

Every candidate has been asked the same questions and will have the same opportunity to respond. Responses will be published as submitted (subject only to formatting and the 2,000-character limit per question) to help residents make informed decisions at the ballot box.

Candidate Information

Name	Jim Hogg
Office Sought	Councillor
Email	jameshogg333@gmail.com
Website / Facebook (optional)	

Section 1 – About You

1. Why are you running for municipal office?

What motivated you to seek election, and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I am running for council because I am winding down our farming business, and I would like to contribute more time to our community. There's a number of issues that I feel need to be addressed, and basically I would like to be more involved.

2. What experience has prepared you for this role?

Describe the skills, education, professional experience, volunteer work or community involvement that you believe will help you serve residents effectively.

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Being a farmer all my life, and having had to work off the farm as well, I feel I have a good grasp of financial accountability and common sense. I am fifth generation in A/H and I understand the problems that the rural people have. I have been on a number of committees, mostly farm related, but the experience has been invaluable in adapting to dealing with ever-changing problems and concerns.

3. What are your top three priorities?

Please identify the three most important issues you would focus on during your first term and explain why.

Maximum 2,000 characters.

1. The priorities that I feel most important start with employee job descriptions and wages compared to other municipalities.
2. I am not against the arena reconstruction, but I would like to know more about the financing, terms and conditions. What are the plans for repayment and how is this going to affect the taxpayer.
3. My third concern is the budget: how is the budget managed, and I would like to see more transparency. I was on council for three years from 2019 to 2022 in which I learned how the council and the township functions. I feel that I can be an asset to improving the budget in other departments becoming more efficient.

Section 2 – Transparency, Governance & Public Trust

4. Restoring Public Confidence / Engagement

Many residents have expressed a desire for greater openness, accountability and public engagement. What specific actions would you take to improve transparency and rebuild public trust in Township government?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Integrity, honesty and common sense are the best ways to earn trust and respect. Council must show the ability to solve problems and issues with the information that is obtained with good intentions of solving problems with the interests of constituents in mind.

All regular, planning and special meetings are recorded and are uploaded to the A/H YouTube Channel. However, it appears that certain meetings relevant to issues that matter to the

taxpayer are not available on the YouTube channel. This undermines public trust, and I will work to ensure that all meetings are available to the residents.

5. Council Meeting Accessibility

Would you support returning regular Council meetings to evening hours to improve accessibility for working residents, families and business owners? Why or why not?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Regular Council and Planning meetings should be held at least once every 3 months in the evening in Roseneath or Centreton. I can work with morning, afternoon or evening meetings.

6. Closed (In-Camera) Meetings

Ontario law permits Council to meet in closed session only under specific circumstances. What principles would guide your decision to move a matter into an in-camera meeting, and how would you ensure those meetings are used only when necessary?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I believe Closed Sessions are occasionally necessary, but should always follow the Municipal Act and the township's Procedure By-law requirements for closed meetings, which are quite strict.

7. Council Culture

Healthy councils rely on respectful discussion and differing viewpoints. How would you contribute to a culture of collaboration, respectful debate and professional conduct around the Council table?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

With every Council or a meeting that involves individual opinions, issues will always be subject to debate. A good discussion of both pros and cons is necessary. Through that democratic process, ultimately the best decision of Council can be reached.

Section 3 – Financial Responsibility

8. Financial Stewardship/Efficiency

Property taxes continue to rise while municipalities face growing infrastructure demands. How would you balance maintaining essential services, investing in infrastructure and keeping property taxes affordable?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I believe that property taxes should be held to inflation as much as possible. The problem is the cost of wages, equipment and inputs have increased faster than inflation. Council and staff need to be determined to keep operations and capital costs as low as possible.

9. Independent Financial Accountability

Public confidence in municipal finances is essential to good governance. If elected, would you support commissioning an independent external financial review—or, where justified, a forensic audit—of the Township's finances to provide residents with an objective assessment of the municipality's financial position and financial practices? Why or why not?

Would you commit to implementing appropriate recommendations arising from the review, whether they identify strengths, weaknesses or opportunities for improvement?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Quite often an experienced accountant or auditor will express an opinion regarding a particular department that requires more attention. I believe that Council should follow the advice of its Auditors when budget deliberations begin. After all, reviewing and passing the township budget is the most important job of Council, and it should represent fairness to everyone. Complete transparency is essential, because it is the taxpayers' money and they expect their tax dollars to be spent wisely.

10. Infrastructure Priorities

Roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, libraries, recreation facilities, municipal buildings and local halls (i.e. – Fenella) and other infrastructure all compete for limited funding. How would you prioritize infrastructure investments over the next four years?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Infrastructure is always one of the biggest discussions of any Council. What is necessary to be reconstructed immediately and what can be delayed short term and long term. The township contracts consultants to assess the condition of all roads, bridges and culverts within the township. Council is responsible to ensure that the most needy infrastructure is dealt with first, and directing staff to seek government funding where available.

Section 4 – Growth & Economic Development

11. Responsible Growth

What does responsible growth look like for Alnwick-Haldimand Township over the next decade?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Every municipality needs a certain amount of growth and development to sustain inflation increases that are incurred by the township. At the moment, with the building costs and the slump in the housing market, development is slow. The reality is that development within the township of Alnwick/Haldimand is restricted due to existing environmental factors within the township, such as Oak Ridges Moraine, Alderville First Nations, prime agricultural lands, lakes at both ends of the township and all of the natural features throughout the township. Therefore, any development should follow responsible planning to protect the rural nature of the township.

12. Supporting Business & Agriculture

How would you support local businesses, agriculture, tourism and economic development while preserving the Township's rural character?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I believe people live and move here because of our rural way of life. Our family has supported local farmers markets by supplying maple syrup and grass-fed beef. Our syrup has traveled to many countries all over the world. I believe our township is very unique with a variety of people and culture.

I would like to pursue the possibility of the township's website having a page dedicated to the variety of tourism, agricultural and other businesses in the form of a directory.

13. Housing

What role should the Township play in encouraging appropriate housing opportunities for seniors, young families and first-time homebuyers?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

With the costs of building materials, land and permits, I think the day of the million dollar plus homes on large lots will be a thing of the past. More efficiency with land use, and probably smaller square foot houses and even townhouses will be more of a necessity going forward. Council will need to work with the County to amend the Official Plan and the Zoning By-law to allow for more density of housing within the township.

Section 5 – Community Services & Quality of Life

14. Recreation & Community Facilities

What improvements would you like to see in Township parks, recreation facilities, trails, libraries and community spaces?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I would like to see better maintenance of our parks and cemeteries. When township assets are not properly maintained, people notice. Thanks to our volunteers, such as Green Thumbs and individuals in the community who offered their help and assistance, there has been some upkeep, but not enough. It is a reflection of the pride that people in our township have.

15. Volunteers & Community Organizations

Volunteers contribute significantly to our community. How can Council better support local volunteers, service clubs and community organizations?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Volunteers are an asset to any community. Council should reinstate all of the community centre committees to once again restore the community spirit in our township.

16. Healthcare Recruitment

Access to family physicians and other healthcare professionals remains a challenge across Ontario. What role, if any, should the Township play in attracting healthcare professionals and supporting local healthcare initiatives?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Councils have supported physician recruitment activities through the West Northumberland Physicians Recruitment Board, but that responsibility has recently been taken over by the County. The costs of that are collected through county taxes.

Section 6 – Communication & Leadership

17. Communication

If elected, how will residents hear from you between elections? Please describe how you intend to communicate regularly with the community.

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I believe that there should be fair representation on Council from all areas within the township. I will be available to all residents in Alnwick/Haldimand to listen to their concerns and help in any way I can.

18. Listening to Residents

Describe a time when listening to another perspective changed your opinion or improved a decision.

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I attend farmers markets, fairs and other functions, so I am available to listen and react to people and their issues. I can be reached by phone, text or email at any time, or come knock on my door.

19. Difficult Decisions

Tell residents about one difficult decision you expect Council will face during the next four years and how you would approach it.

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I think the most difficult decisions are going to be with the budget. As stated earlier, operating and capital costs have increased dramatically since Covid and with the U.S. tariffs, which makes it difficult to keep taxes down. Council and staff will need to sharpen their pencils and do the best we can to keep taxes to inflation.

20. Working with Others

How would you work with fellow councillors whose opinions differ significantly from your own?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I will my utmost to be prepared for every meeting. That means ensuring that I have read through the Agenda, all reports and asked questions of staff prior to meetings, so that I can be an informed member of Council. Furthermore, I will prepare my comments to major issues to form part of the debate process.

21. Measuring Success

At the end of your term, what accomplishments would you hope residents use to judge your performance?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

At the end of the next term of Council, I hope that I will have demonstrated to residents that I am an honest person, with integrity and that I can be trusted to do the best for the taxpayers in this township.

22. Why Should Residents Vote for You?

In 250 words or less, tell residents why you are the best person to represent them.

Maximum 2,000 characters.

I am seeking re-election for Council, because I am winding down my farming business, and I genuinely want to give back to my community. I will represent all residents and taxpayers in this township, and fulfill my responsibilities as a member of council with honesty, integrity and transparency.

I listen to people and understand their concerns. I fully appreciate what our pioneers started, and I wish to preserve the rural nature of Alnwick/Haldimand Township. My wish is to keep our township as a beautiful and wonderful place to live and visit, and raise our children and grandchildren.

Optional Closing Statement

Is there anything else you would like residents to know that was not covered in this questionnaire?

Maximum 2,000 characters.

Submission Guidelines

- Responses exceeding the 2,000-character limit per question may be truncated. All candidates who submit responses by the deadline will be posted on the AHRPA website.
- Responses will be published without endorsement or editorial comment.