

**Q1 CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

Candidate Name:

**Kris Langenfeld**

Ward:

**Mayoral Candidate**

Municipality:

**Toronto**

---

**Q2 UPDATE ZONING BY-LAWS** Outdated zoning by-laws are a barrier to building the right types of homes to keep up with demand. According to the Building Industry and Land Development Association, in order to keep up with demand, 50,000 new homes need to be built each year (only 38,000 were built in 2017). It is forecasted that 115,000 new residents per year will call the GTA their home. Decades old zoning restrictions primarily allow for detached homes, with a few exceptions of high-rise towers along major transit corridors, but there are not many options offered in-between, the so-called “missing middle.” The lack of choice in housing types is a serious issue. Municipal policies need to be more flexible so that home buyers can choose from the full spectrum of options, especially the “missing middle” – home types that bridge the gap between detached houses and condominium apartments. If elected, will you push for updating municipal zoning by-laws and policies in Toronto that will allow and encourage more medium density housing?

**YES,**

Comments (please specify):

I will also be restructuring the inspections and planning approval processes in their entirety, to address the now paralyzing backlog of approvals. That restructuring will include substantial opportunities for all sectors of the building industry to participate in ensuring that the revised system works well for all involved. The only condition will be that the standards of quality, health, and safety of all construction work in Toronto will not be permitted to degrade even slightly.

## Toronto Housing Issues Candidate Survey

**Q3 REFORM MLTT**The Municipal Land Transfer Tax in Toronto is one of the most significant factors restricting supply and choice for home buyers. The average Toronto home buyer faces over \$26,000 in combined (provincial and local) land transfer taxes. Rather than pay this kind of money, many choose to stay put instead of selling their home and moving. According to the C.D. Howe Institute, the Toronto MLTT reduces existing homes available for purchase by 16% every year. That means less choice for other home buyers. Currently, the City allows a rebate for first-time buyers to a maximum of \$4,475, which equals the amount of MLTT on a \$400,000 home, significantly lower than the current average priced home in Toronto (currently \$785,223). In addition, the MLTT tax rates have not been adjusted for inflation since the tax was introduced ten years ago. Since that time, home prices have increased by 102%, meaning home buyers have been forced to pay more and more in LTT. If elected, will you be willing to explore reform or adjustments to the Municipal Land Transfer Tax in Toronto, such as increasing the first-time buyer rebate and indexing the tax rates to inflation, so that it stops distorting the City's housing market?

**UNSURE,**

Comments (please specify):

I am prepared to commit to a review of existing MLTT structures; but while minor adjustments may be appropriate to address any existing inequities, I do not currently anticipate significant modifications to this major source of municipal revenues. However, I will always be willing to hear and consider the concerns of those with vested interests in any aspect of municipal policy and will always keep an open mind on recommendations for potential improvement.

**Q4 REMOVE HOUSING SUPPLY RED TAP**Red tape and delays caused by municipal approval processes slow down the creation of new housing (projects are delayed by up to 3–4 years according to the Building Industry and Land Development Association) and add costs that reduce affordability (around \$168,000 to a single-family house in GTA according to the C.D. Howe Institute). We need to find ways to streamline this process and make it more efficient so that we can get more housing supply into the market quicker, which, in turn, will provide more choice and affordability for home buyers and renters. If elected, would you support cutting approval times and other red tape barriers that limit the building of new housing in Toronto?

**YES,**

Comments (please specify):

See 2. above

**Q5 BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE** Even when new housing developments are approved, they are often delayed by the need for municipal infrastructure to service the new area or building. Without roads or sewers, construction cannot even begin, hence adding another barrier to bringing more housing supply to the market. Municipalities often lack the funding or staff to expand services. Infrastructure investment funding comes from the provincial and federal governments. A recent report from the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis found that the federal government has fallen behind on its commitment to invest in Ontario's infrastructure, like transit and transportation. Inadequate transit and transportation, coupled with a sluggish economy, will have a negative effect on real estate in Toronto. Infrastructure investment in Ontario peaked eight years ago when 4.2% of GDP was spent; however, it has since diminished, with a decade-low occurring in 2016 when only 2.4% of GDP was invested. If elected, would you push for more investment in critical infrastructure, such as transportation, to facilitate growth and housing by finding creative ways to secure funding from the provincial and federal governments?

**YES,**

Comments (please specify):

We have however had a long stream of Toronto mayors that have hung their hats on calling upon other levels of government to fix the city's issues — in addition to pursuing every possibility of funding from higher levels of government, the city desperately needs leadership that is capable of finding better ways to solve our problems.