



SCARBOROUGH CANDIDATE FLASHCARD Ward 25 2025 BY-ELECTION











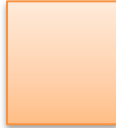





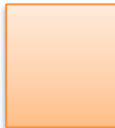



Created to help voters learn more about the Candidates
so they can make informed decisions!

Election Day is Monday, September 29, 2025
(advance polling September 20 and 21)

For most current information on ALL the candidates, who can vote, how to vote and where to vote, go to www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/2025-by-election-councilor-ward-25-scarborough-rouge-park/

The table captures registered candidates and their photos as submitted to us by those candidates who participated in the survey. Their responses follow in the Flashcard.

Your voice matters, get to know your candidates and make an informed decision!

Allen, Shawn 	Choudhary, Zia 	Lieu, Huy 	Rodriguez, Gregory 
Alvarez-Bardales, Walter 	Fernando, Ashan 	Matthews, Brian 	Shan, Neethan 
Anandarajan, Anita 	Kerr, Jamil 	Moreno Garcia, Jose 	Shirley, Shemar 
Brown, Darrell 	Khoshdel, Reza 	Patel, Zakir 	Sinnarajah, Shean 
Cheatley, Kevin 	LaRush, Donna 	Robinson, Dianna 	Sriskandarajah, Anu 

Also mark your Calanders - Candidate Forums:
Saturday, Sept 13 11:30am - 1:30pm Port Union
Community Centre
Tuesday, Sept 16 7pm – 9pm Royal Canadian
Legion, 305 Morrish Road



**We asked Scarborough Ward 25 Candidates the SAME six questions.
These questions were sent out to all Candidates, and 11 candidates
provided responses.**

Question #1. Do you live in the Ward, and what do you think are the main issues that need the Councillor's attention?

Walter Alvarez-Baldares

Website: votewalteralvarez.ca

Yes. I have lived in Scarborough for over 20 years, and in Scarborough–Rouge Park for more than a decade. Our ward needs urgent attention on affordable housing, transit access, and tackling poverty and homelessness with compassion. We also need a councillor who will fight for equitable city services and ensure our community's voice is heard in every decision at City Hall.

Anita Anandarajan

Website: www.anitaforward25.ca

Yes, I am a resident of Ward 25 and I have been living in this riding for 10 years. Violence is one of our main issues, and I will take a comprehensive approach to violence prevention and public safety. I will deliver meaningful employment opportunities and strengthen support for workers, families, and small businesses facing challenges in response to U.S. tariffs. Transit congestion is another challenge, and I will prioritize reliable, accessible, and sustainable transit solutions. I will also advance policies that protect our environment and ensure climate justice.

Darrell Brown

Transportation and gridlock are key issues, and Scarborough is probably the least well-served of any location in the City.

I have a serious issue with the lack of transparency in contracting by the City. Jurisdictions like Montreal and Vancouver do a much better job publishing the terms of contracts entered into by their cities. We have the right to know how our public property is being used and on what terms. But business confidentiality is used as an excuse here not to reveal the terms of many City contracts. That is simply wrong.

As everyone knows, housing and homelessness are terrible problems facing municipalities across this country. We have lost our way in promoting affordable housing alternatives. We need to do better planning including how social services interact with housing and mental wellness supports. This is not purely a municipal problem.

Zia Choudhary

Website: votezia.ca

Yes, I proudly live in Ward 25 – Scarborough–Rouge Park and have long been engaged in its growth and well-being. As Chair of the Port Union Waterfront Festival Committee, I've seen how community events foster unity and pride.

I believe housing affordability is the most urgent issue—seniors, families, and youth are struggling to find stable homes. Transit improvements, including the Scarborough Subway

Extension and the proposed Eglinton East LRT, must be accelerated to improve connectivity. Road safety is also critical; I support expanding School Safety Zones, reducing speed limits, and advancing Vision Zero initiatives to protect pedestrians and drivers.

We must also invest in community safety, including youth hubs and crisis services that provide real support. Finally, I strongly support civic engagement efforts, such as those led by the Scarborough Civic Action Network, which empower residents to shape local decisions. Together, we can build a safer, better-connected, and inclusive Scarborough.

Ashan Fernando

Website: electashanfernando.ca

Yes, I am a long-time resident of Scarborough-Rouge Park, living here for over 25+ Years.

Affordable Housing; Transit; Community Safety; City Services & Cleanliness

Reza Khoshdel

Website: www.votereza.ca

I live in the ward with my wife and two boys. As an advocate in our community for many years, I've seen firsthand the challenges families face - from unsafe streets and unreliable transit to inadequate community programs and limited economic opportunities. My community involvement has given me a clear understanding of what matters most in our community and how city decisions affect daily life.

As your City Councillor, my priorities will be: 1) safer neighbourhoods, focusing on targeted crime prevention in hotspots and expanded youth violence prevention programs; 2) strong programs for youth and seniors, offering mentorship, engagement, and accessible services; 3) accountable city services, ensuring responsiveness, transparency, and measurable standards; 4) thriving local businesses, revitalizing corridors to attract customers and support entrepreneurs; and 5) people-focused transit, advancing an integrated, accessible network that serves residents equitably.

Together, these priorities ensure a safer, stronger, and more connected community for everyone.

Donna LaRush

I live in Ward 22 - Scarborough. I think it is best not to live in the ward because views could be considered Nimby- Not in my back yard, I also think that after a hard day of work it is important to go home. Home and work in my view should be separate and distinct.

The main issues will be decided by the constituents. There are a number of very important issues for example affordable housing, education, safe communities and Equity. Transit and the City of Toronto budget are also issues that constituents have expressed concerns about. Seniors have also expressed their concerns about housing, and senior services.

Brian Matthews

Website: www.electbrianmatthews.com

I have deep ties to West Hill, Highland Creek, and all areas of Ward 25. For over a decade, I owned two homes in West Hill and operated my real estate office in Highland Creek. My family has lived in the ward for over 20 years. While life circumstances meant I had to move

temporarily to co-parent my son, I am now in the process of moving back to the area I am most tied to, Ward 25.

The main issue is the next general election in October 2026. The power of incumbency is a major factor in elections, but as an independent, I am not tied to any political party message or ideology. I can vote in the best interests of the entire Ward without outside influence. The other core issue is long-term development and the strain it places on our community services.

Shan Neethan

Website: neethanshan.ca

I live in Morningside Heights and together with my wife Thadsha, we are raising our two boys here. As Councillor I will make sure City Hall listens to Scarborough. Residents are being tired of being neglected, of not getting their fair share of services after paying their fair share of city costs. I will make sure that our communities get the services they need in their streets, in their facilities, and in their neighbourhoods. One of the things I will do on my first day in office is begin supporting our local neighbourhood groups to strengthen their voice at City Hall.

Shean Sinnarajah

Website: sheansinnarajah.ca

Shean has lived in Scarborough since arriving to Canada in 1996. He currently lives in Scarborough Rouge – Park. Shean believes the Councillor's job is the most important in our political system because it shapes what residents experience every day on our streets, at our in your parks, and on our commute. This job directly impacts our five senses, what we see, hear, feel, touch and smell.

Shean has knocked over 30,000 doors in Scarborough Rouge – Park since registering to run for Council. The priorities heard at the door are clear:

- Invest in infrastructure.
- Enhance road safety.
- Get the winter basics right. Efficient and reliable snow clearing during inclement weather.
- Maintain our parks, trails and open environment areas for residents to enjoy.

Anu Sriskandarajah

Website: www.anusriskandarajah.ca

My husband and I lived at Neilson and Sheppard for 10 years during which I ran for school board trustee. We still own our home there that we rent to a nice young family. A couple of years ago we moved closer to our parents near Warden and Kingston to help them age in place. Although I am not a resident of the ward at the moment, I have been serving as the local TDSB Trustee for 7 years. In that role, I have worked with families, community groups, and local leaders to address concerns, improve services, and advocate for resources in Scarborough-Rouge Park. I understand the unique challenges of Ward 25, and have a proven track record of listening to people's concerns, building relationships, and delivering results. My years of service mean I am deeply connected to the community and ready to continue that work as your City Councillor.

Question #2. Provincial legislation and Toronto’s decision makers have been on a path to remove the ability of neighbourhoods to have a say in the appropriateness of major developments in their neighbourhoods, creating “As of Right” permissions for multiplexes and potentially adding commercial uses inside neighbourhoods. What is your position on these matters?

Walter Alvarez-Baldares

I believe residents must have a real voice in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods. We, the people, are the ones who live with the consequences of planning decisions—especially when increased density is approved without the infrastructure to support it. While I support thoughtful growth, it must be paired with proper investment in transit, schools, green space, and community services. Removing meaningful consultation risks creating developments that strain our communities instead of strengthening them.

Anita Anandarajan

I will take a collaborative approach to developments where I will listen to our community voices, have extensive consultation and community-led planning. This is our campaign: I will act with urgency, and if elected by the residents, I will work hard to make government accessible and transparent, with the community leading everything we do together. I will stand up for what’s right and build a brighter, more just future for all.

Darrell Brown

Neighborhoods should always have input into what is happening in their communities. That said, that input must be collected and considered in an efficient manner. This City takes forever to approve developments and the delays have contributed substantially to the housing crisis. I do support the use of reasonably sized multiplexes to increase the availability of affordable homes. But I do not support eliminating the right of local residents to participate in the review and approval process locally.

Zia Choudhary

I believe Toronto’s housing challenges require balanced, community-driven solutions. While “as of right” permissions for multiplexes may increase housing supply, removing neighbourhood input risks eroding trust and weakening the planning process.

As someone involved in local events like the Port Union Waterfront Festival and community clean-ups, I’ve seen how engaged residents strengthen our neighbourhoods. I support diverse housing options, including multiplexes, but they must be introduced thoughtfully, alongside investments in transit, schools, and infrastructure to ensure sustainable growth.

Community consultation is not a barrier—it is an opportunity to shape development that reflects local needs. Regarding commercial uses in residential areas, they can provide value if compatible and co-designed with residents.

Growth should never be imposed; it must be collaborative, inclusive, and respectful of neighbourhood character. I will advocate for transparent planning and for resident voices to remain central in shaping Ward 25’s future.

Ashan Fernando

I support multiplexes as long as there is consultations within that community is made and we let residents have a say in development decisions as a community first approach.

Reza Khoshdel

Toronto urgently needs more housing, including affordable options, and sixplexes can and should be part of the solution. But I do not support the “as of right” approach, which would allow automatic approvals without rezoning, review, or community consultation. While it may appear to speed up development, it risks sidelining local voices and overlooking important neighbourhood realities.

Growth has real impacts - on traffic, parking, schools, green space, and whether city services like water, sewage, and transit can handle added density. Ignoring these factors doesn't build strong communities and undermines responsible growth. “As of right” prioritizes developers over residents by removing opportunities to adapt projects so they fit better locally.

I support building more housing quickly, but we must do it responsibly. A case-by-case, neighbourhood-focused process allows growth to move forward while ensuring housing is integrated in a way that works for everyone.

Donna LaRush

Affordable housing is a concern that needs to be addressed. There needs to be a balance between protecting the rights and voice of the constituents and developers' plans for the future. A shared vision needs to be the focus. Zoning and the official plan for the community can provide the framework for moving forward with a plan. By-laws are created for a reason and we need to work together. Everyone's rights must be respected. The planning process needs to be inclusive and the planning act requires that constituents are notified at every step of the process. These are my views on an important topic. Once again as your Councillor I would represent the constituents of Ward 25. Through a democratic process we will agree on the priorities of Ward 25.

Brian Matthews

The debate on 'as of right' zoning is complex, involving all levels of government. Last year, City Council approved the overall growth plan, which included multiplexes and backyard homes on single-family lots. I've also followed the six-plex debate closely, which is tied to \$30 million in federal funding. I fear the decision has already been made.

I am not in favour of blanket "as of right" wording because it often gives developers too much authority without proper community consultation. The final vote on this was a choice for councillors to opt in, and only 9 of the 25 did. I am very concerned that residents' voices will be further diminished because the Mayor could use Strong Mayor Powers to overrule a vote against “opting in”. I will always speak openly on these issues, letting residents know how I vote and explaining the politics behind the decisions.

Shan Neethan

I firmly believe not only in community consultation but in community participation. Decisions should not be made over residents but should always include them. At City Councillor I will ensure community voices are heard at City Hall and Scarborough council. Any major development in communities should not be done without the say of residents that will be

affected by these projects. I will ensure that neighbourhood associations play a key role in shaping decisions at City Hall.

Shean Sinnarajah

Shean's approach is to cordially work with the Province to set the floor; and encourage the ability for Council to decide how it works on our streets.

Too often at the doors, Shean hears the challenge of regulating rooming houses, illegal basement rentals. They lack dignity and safety.

Shean supports gentle density—multiplexes where they fit—paired with clear guardrails. In Scarborough—Rouge Park that means focusing near transit and services (Kingston, Lawrence, Morningside, UTSC, Rouge Hill GO), not on ravine edges or flood-prone lots.

Require family-sized units, good design, drainage and tree protection, and a curb/parking plan.

Shean commits to work with City staff to publish a plain-language “Good-Neighbour Test” for applications, a quarterly scorecard of permits/complaints/mitigations, and enforce construction management (noise, dust, sidewalk access, bus stops). Bottom line: add housing and keep neighbourhoods livable—a practical, service-first approach.

Anu Sriskandarajah

I believe neighbourhoods must have a meaningful voice in shaping how they grow. While I recognize the urgent need for more housing in Toronto, especially affordable housing, imposing “As of Right” development without consultation risks undermining trust and disrupting the character of our communities.

Growth must be planned responsibly, with infrastructure, transit, schools, and green space to support it. I support creating more housing options, but I believe these decisions should be made in partnership with residents, not over their heads. Local voices matter, and as Councillor, I would ensure community consultation remains central to development decisions, while still working toward solutions to our housing crisis.

Question #3. What is your stance on transit in Ward 25 and would you support a regional Transit plan for Scarborough? For context, the Eglinton Crosstown is incomplete, extension has not started, the Scarborough LRT has been taken away; Kennedy Station has lost parking; Warden Station has no bus depot or elevators for at least another two years and buses in the parking lot, and Victoria Park is losing accessibility by the removal of 180 commuter parking spots; all the while minimum parking requirements for developments are removed.

Walter Alvarez-Baldares

I see a complete disconnect between decision makers and politicians in fancy buildings and the people who rely on city services every day. In Ward 25, transit is being reduced or delayed when it urgently needs improvement, and infrastructure upgrades are years behind. I support a strong, regional transit plan for Scarborough—but it must be built on listening to residents and investing in better service, not divesting and reducing what we already have, which sadly,

it is what has been happening, and what a good councillor would advocate against (divesting and reduction of services) and for a regional and local transit plan that is strong and benefits the residents.

Anita Anandarajan

Yes, I will support a regional transit plan for Scarborough and work to build vital connections. I will call for adequate funding to improve transit, as it is essential community infrastructure, including required engineering studies. I will restore accessibility and commuter supports, such as parking and elevators. This is my commitment to the residents of Scarborough-Rouge Park: I will take on the hardest challenges and work to establish the right to mobility.

Darrell Brown

I would absolutely support a regional transit plan for Scarborough. The Eglinton Crosstown has been a boondoggle and no one seems to be paying a political price for the negligence in implementing the Crosstown. These projects should have the same accountability measures as any business venture. There should be key performance indicators and strict timelines for adherence.

We are a City of mixed needs. We need affordable and effective public transit but also need to facilitate motor vehicles. Public transit will only be used if it is efficient and does not cost an arm and a leg to use. While there are plans in place commencing in 2027 to replace the Scarborough LRT, the question is why it has taken this long. Why was there not a plan in place to immediately commence work after the disassembly of the Scarborough LRT? We need to do better.

Zia Choudhary

Scarborough residents have waited far too long for reliable transit. The Eglinton Crosstown, a light rail line designed to connect Kennedy Station with the rest of Toronto, remains unfinished after years of delays. Meanwhile, the Scarborough Subway

Extension—stretching from Kennedy to Sheppard and McCowan with stops at Lawrence East and Scarborough Centre—will not be ready until the early 2030s. With the closure of the Scarborough RT, commuters are left with overcrowded buses, long travel times, and reduced accessibility at key stations such as Kennedy, Warden, and Victoria Park.

As City Councillor for Ward 25, I will push for faster project delivery, improved interim bus services, and stronger accountability from city and provincial partners.

I strongly support a comprehensive Scarborough transit plan, including future extensions to Ellesmere & UTSC, Morningside & Kingston Road, Sheppard & Meadowvale, and Port Union & Kingston Road. Scarborough deserves accessible, people-first transit that connects communities today—not decades from now.

Ashan Fernando

Transit in Scarborough has been neglected for far too long. Residents of Ward 25 face daily struggles with incomplete projects like the Eglinton Crosstown, the cancelled Scarborough LRT. I fully support a regional transit plan for Scarborough — one that delivers real, reliable, and accessible service for our communities.

- Focus on finishing projects without further delays.
- Expanding bus services and building more bus depots.

Reza Khoshdel

Toronto taxpayers helped fund the subway extension to Vaughan - outside our municipal boundaries and in an area lacking the density to justify such an investment - while Scarborough residents continue to face delays, cancelled projects, and broken promises. That is unacceptable.

Scarborough residents deserve a truly integrated transit network that serves all corners of the city, including Ward 25. Expanding proven solutions like RapidTO, advancing the Eglinton East LRT, and connecting buses and rapid transit lines will ensure residents can move safely, reliably, and efficiently. Transit must work for everyone, not just select areas.

To achieve this, Scarborough needs bold, strong leadership at City Hall - leaders who will fight for equitable treatment and hold bureaucracy accountable. Transit planning must be grounded in evidence, not rhetoric or politics, and residents deserve a system that matches the importance of this community to the city.

I will make that a reality.

Donna LaRush

Transit is a City wide concern. Equity is important as all wards are growing and planning for the future. The City of Toronto is promoting bike riding, TTC and less parking. I believe every ward is different and has different needs. I believe parking is important. Once again I believe there need to be a mutually agreed upon vision/ plan for future development that respects everyone's needs (concerns).

Brian Matthews

I have seen a lifetime of broken transit promises in Scarborough. The context provided highlights the core problem: a cycle of approving, cancelling, and re-approving projects. We were promised a transit system, only to have those plans, like the Scarborough LRT, cancelled in favour of a subway extension that is already way over budget and fails to serve communities like Malvern. The decision to remove parking at stations like Kennedy and Victoria Park is a symptom of this flawed, short-sighted approach.

As the transit planning authority, Metrolinx has a poor track record of completing projects on time and on budget. I would always vote to hold Metrolinx and City Hall accountable for these delays and cost overruns. We need a regional transit plan for Scarborough that is protected from political meddling, so all communities finally get the rapid transit they were promised and deserve.

Shan Neethan

For too long Scarborough has been taken for granted and neglected. We pay our property taxes like downtown Torontonians and we deserve the same transit as downtown Toronto. As City Councillor, I fought for and achieved the Scarborough subway extension and as councillor I will fight for the transit we need immediately and, in the future by supporting a regional transit plan specific to Scarborough.

Shean Sinnarajah

Shean supports a regional Scarborough transit plan built on two tracks: reliable service now and projects that actually open.

Near-term (first 100 days): publish run-time/on-time/crowding stats for Ward 25 transit corridors; add signal priority/queue-jumps and targeted bus-lane segments on Morningside/Kingston/Lawrence, and a clear plan for Rouge Hill/GO impacts.

Medium-term: push Eglinton East LRT with public stage-gates (design → early works → construction) and a day-one bus redeployment plan so riders feel benefit immediately. Back GO Expansion and fare integration that cuts real travel time from Scarborough.

On minimum-parking rules, pair gentle density with local curb/permit/loading plans so streets function. Bottom line: measure, fix, report—a pragmatic, service-first approach Scarborough can see and feel.

Anu Sriskandarajah

Scarborough has been disconnected from the rest of the city for far too long, which is why I strongly support a regional transit plan for Scarborough that restores fairness and accessibility. This means expanding rapid transit, but also protecting essential commuter supports like parking, buses, and accessibility features. Growth cannot come without the transit and infrastructure to support it, which means Scarborough needs solutions that match community needs. As Councillor, I will fight to ensure Scarborough gets its fair share of investment in transit, with planning that meets the real needs of our community.

Question #4. How would you engage & support your Ward 25 constituents (residents and businesses) but also would you collectively support Scarborough issues that are coming to Council for decision?

Walter Alvarez-Baldares

I will hold regular, accessible town halls—both in person and virtual—so residents and businesses can speak directly to me and each other about priorities and concerns. I'll maintain an open door policy at my constituency office, respond promptly to calls and emails, and use social media to keep people informed in real time. I will also meet regularly with local business owners, community groups, and service providers to ensure their voices shape decisions.

While my first duty is to Ward 25, I will stand with my fellow Scarborough councillors on city wide issues that affect us all—especially transit, housing, and equitable city services—because Scarborough's strength depends on working together for fair treatment and investment across our communities.

Anita Anandarajan

My campaign is about giving every one of us a voice in shaping our community, where everyone is part of the conversation. I will facilitate resident engagement and attend neighbourhood meetings to address local concerns. I will also hold informal gatherings, such as in parks, to discuss city services and issues.

I will actively engage residents on zoning changes, housing developments, and other initiatives, ensuring the community plays a central role in shaping policies that affect them. I will use every resource of city government to protect our residents and ensure our community

thrives.

Yes, I will collectively support Scarborough issues coming to Council while ensuring our community receives its share of resources and opportunities.

Darrell Brown

I would maintain a local office as well as a City Hall office that are open to constituents, provide regular newsletter updates to those who have agreed to receive these updates, conduct flash surveys on an as needed basis to gauge constituency opinions as issues come to the fore, schedule town hall meetings at community centres to engage in two-way discussion on Ward 25 and City-wide issues. I would have a dedicated email and phone line to respond to inquiries. It is important to form alliances with other Scarborough ward representatives for a common front on Scarborough issues. That said, there are also City-wide issues that require the input from Scarborough. I need to liaise with Scarborough community associations, BIAs, NGOs, charities, businesses, etc. to understand the full scope of needs on an ongoing basis.

Scarborough representatives also need to connect and ally with provincial and federal Scarborough constituency representatives. The Mayor cannot be the only voice communicating with other levels of government. I know how to achieve change when change is necessary.

Zia Choudhary

As Councillor, my commitment is to active and transparent engagement with Ward 25 residents and businesses. I will implement structured communication channels—town halls, surveys, office hours, and digital platforms—to ensure continuous feedback. For local businesses, I will advocate for streamlined regulations, fair taxation, and infrastructure improvements to create a more supportive business environment.

Beyond the Ward, I strongly believe Scarborough requires a unified regional voice. Transit, housing, and equity in City services cannot be addressed in isolation. I will collaborate closely with fellow Scarborough Councillors to advance Scarborough-wide priorities and ensure we receive fair investment from City Hall. By combining local responsiveness with regional advocacy, I will work to strengthen Ward 25 while contributing to long-term solutions for all of Scarborough.

Ashan Fernando

I will hold regular public consultations, town halls, direct communication on regular basis in keeping connected with constituents and businesses and ensuring their concerns and voices are heard. I will work with fellow Scarborough councillors to push for fair investments and stronger services. I'll fight for ward 25 while standing united for all of Scarborough.

Reza Khoshdel

Ward 25 is large and diverse, and residents deserve a City Councillor who is hands-on, on the ground, and accessible - someone who is fully present in the community and ready to listen. That is what I will deliver.

I will host quarterly town halls so residents can share concerns and ideas directly. We will hold ourselves accountable with service standards: responding to emails within 24 hours, returning calls the same day, and providing updates on all requests and local initiatives. I will also launch a digital platform for real-time communication and form advisory groups representing key

sectors like small businesses, youth, and seniors to ensure the issues I bring to Council reflect the community's priorities.

At the same time, I will champion Scarborough-wide priorities, ensuring our ward's voice is heard and that Scarborough receives the attention and resources it deserves.

Donna LaRush

I would host town hall meeting, host zoom meeting, distribute information by e-mail and newsletters. I post regular office hours and encourage constituents to contact me. I would host sessions to deal with the various concerns, ie: transit, seniors, business, etc....

Brian Matthews

Engaging with the residents and businesses of Ward 25 is of paramount importance. I will be highly accessible through my personal cell number and promise to respond to every single call, text, or email. My website will be a fast-response system for communication, with specific sections for each of the ward's five areas, and I will produce regular newsletters and submit articles to local community papers to keep you informed.

I will also have a staffed constituency office, maintaining existing locations and staff to ensure a seamless presence. On City Council, I will be a strong, independent voice for Scarborough, and I will always work with my fellow Scarborough councillors to collectively support issues that are critical to our community. I am committed to bringing the concerns of all stakeholders to the council honestly, openly, and with a commitment to getting results.

Shan Neethan

I will increase regular communication with residents in all six neighbourhoods in the ward with frequent community meetings. I will tap into the existing strength of neighbourhood associations, and I will establish regular town halls with local businesses and create and strengthen local business associations.

Shean Sinnarajah

Shean will engage Ward 25 through an open, accessible office in Scarborough Rouge – Park, rotating evening “roving office” hours across Staines/Rouge, Malvern, West Hill, Highland Creek, Centennial, West Rouge, and Dean Park, plus a 48-hour callback standard with case tracking.

He commits to publish a quarterly Ward 25 Service Scorecard covering snow, waste, roads, and 311; deliver monthly school-area safety walkabouts with quick-build fixes; and offer a small-business concierge with a 10-day minor-permit pilot, construction bulletins, and plaza roundtables. Multilingual access—interpreters, phone/text/WhatsApp—keeps lines open.

For Scarborough-wide issues, Shean will caucus with Scarborough councillors to co-sponsor motions on Eglinton East LRT stage-gates, post-SRT bus reliability, Vision Zero on arterials, GO Expansion mitigation, and basement-flooding work.

Bottom line: measure, fix, report—hands-on ward service and coordinated advocacy.

Anu Sriskandarajah

Public consultation will be a top priority for me as Councillor. I believe residents and businesses must be meaningfully included in decisions that affect their neighbourhoods. I

would engage Ward 25 through regular town halls, surveys, and ongoing communication so people feel heard and their perspectives shape policy. As the trustee for the last 7 years I have regularly held town halls that have been open to the community.

At the same time, I recognize that many issues go beyond one ward. I will work collectively with my Scarborough colleagues at Council to ensure Scarborough's voice is strong and united by advocating for better services, and equitable investment across our communities.

Question #5. Scarborough is losing many small and larger businesses due to redevelopment and densification, Scarborough Subway construction, lack of public transit, etc. How will you as City Councillor promote and support local business opportunities and thus local employment for your constituents?

Walter Alvarez-Baldares

I will champion policies that protect and grow local businesses, because they are the backbone of Scarborough's economy and community life. That means working to minimize disruption from redevelopment and transit construction, ensuring affected businesses get fair compensation and support. I will push for improved transit access to bring customers and workers to our commercial areas, advocate for affordable commercial rents, and create incentives for local hiring. By partnering with business associations, community groups, and city programs, we can keep jobs in Scarborough and make it easier for entrepreneurs to start, stay, and thrive here.

Anita Anandarajan

I am an experienced political organizer who has built strong relationships with all levels of government, local organizations, and the community. I have many years of experience in employment services, where I have supported people with disabilities, young people, and mothers transitioning back into the workforce. I will work to create job opportunities and support an economic development plan. I will actively engage with local businesses and residents, listening to their concerns and supporting initiatives that drive economic growth. I have lived in this ward for 10 years, and I know what it's like to work hard. I will never stop fighting for every one of our residents. I will work to secure funding for environmental and infrastructure projects that create jobs, support our community spaces and businesses.

Darrell Brown

Businesses have been receiving significant support from BIAs through the Digital Mainstreet program put forward by TABIA with multi-level government support. AI is revolutionizing business. I have incorporated AI into new business ventures. We need to support Scarborough businesses by staying on top of technology so that they can be the most efficient and cost-effective businesses.

But there are also impediments that are affecting businesses. Those that rely on pedestrian traffic have been substantially hampered by ongoing construction. We need to look at ways to increase efficiency on construction projects so that they do not take years when work is only sporadically performed onsite. We also have to assess the impact of bike lanes and come up with parking alternatives that still allow potential customers to park near business locations.

Cutting off access is a recipe for business failure. It has to stop.

We also need dedicated buy local campaigns supported by the City.

Zia Choudhary

Scarborough's small and larger businesses are the backbone of our local economy, yet many are struggling due to redevelopment pressures, rising costs, and the impact of ongoing transit construction. As City Councillor, I will work to protect and strengthen local businesses by ensuring they have a voice in planning decisions and are supported through redevelopment phases with fair compensation, relocation assistance, and clear timelines.

I will also advocate for small business support programs, including grants, reduced red tape, and incentives for local hiring. Investing in transit and infrastructure is vital, but it must be paired with strategies to minimize disruption for businesses and ensure accessibility for customers.

In addition, I will promote local employment opportunities by supporting job creation initiatives, encouraging community-based entrepreneurship, and attracting investment that benefits Scarborough directly. My goal is to build a stronger local economy where residents can live, work, and thrive.

Ashan Fernando

As councillor, I will support small businesses by cutting red tape, promoting shop local initiatives, and securing fair investment for Scarborough. By strengthening local business, we create more jobs and opportunities for Ward 25 residents close to home.

Reza Khoshdel

Local businesses are the heart of Scarborough–Rouge Park. They create jobs, bring character to our neighbourhoods, and keep wealth circulating in the community. As City Councillor, I will champion policies that help small and independent businesses thrive, including faster permit approvals, fairer commercial tax structures, and greater access to City grants and training for newcomer- and youth-led entrepreneurs.

Equally important is protecting Scarborough's employment lands - areas where manufacturing, trades, logistics, and clean tech businesses operate. These lands create stable, well-paying local jobs and are critical to our economy, yet they are increasingly at risk from redevelopment. I will fight to preserve and modernize these zones, improve transit and infrastructure within them, and prioritize local job creation in development decisions.

Finally, I will revitalize local business corridors with streetscape improvements, better lighting, greenery, public art, and cultural events to attract customers and support entrepreneurs.

Donna LaRush

I would form working groups to deal with these issues.

Brian Matthews

Small, local, and family-owned businesses are the heartbeat of Scarborough. They define our neighborhoods and prevent them from becoming sterile "food deserts." I am deeply concerned about the gentrification seen in other parts of Toronto, where big chains have driven up rents, pushing out local shops and replacing affordable food retailers with high-priced grocers.

As City Councillor, I will champion policies that protect our existing businesses. Development will happen, but it must benefit our community. I will advocate for commercial condo opportunities that allow owners to build equity and secure long-term viability, and for zoning that protects essential services. My philosophy is simple: shop local and hire local. I will actively promote this message and work to ensure that our neighborhoods are not just being priced out of the market for a new demographic, but remain places where everyone can afford to live and shop.

Shan Neethan

I am concerned that development is displacing local businesses, and I will ensure they are protected as well as local employment opportunities they create. I am committed to bringing more opportunities by working with employers and actively attracting meaningful local employment. As councillor, I will also ensure that any local city projects support local businesses and create local jobs.

Shean Sinnarajah

Shean's plan is to keep businesses in Scarborough—Rouge Park by pairing hands-on ward service with proven City programs. Introduce Toronto's ongoing permitting modernization program, Concept 2 Keys, to businesses in Scarborough to cut red tape and speed approvals. He'll help main-street owners tap Economic Development & Culture grants—Commercial Façade Improvement (exterior upgrades) and Commercial Space Rehabilitation (interior fit-outs, accessibility)—to refresh storefronts and fill vacancies.

Today, Scarborough has no CafeTO eligible businesses. For food businesses, he'll promote CaféTO and its grant support so patios remain a draw through construction seasons.

To grow local jobs, Shean commits to bringing Toronto Employment Social Services into Scarborough Rouge – Park. This will deliver employer hotlines, job fairs, and youth hiring in partnership with the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, Centennial College, and major employers.

Anu Sriskandarajah

Local businesses are the backbone of Scarborough's economy, and supporting them is key to creating good local jobs. As City Councillor, I would advocate for smarter planning that minimizes the disruption caused by redevelopment and construction, while ensuring transit investments actually help businesses thrive rather than drive customers away. Working with local business associations and community partners, I would champion Scarborough-made solutions that promote local entrepreneurship, attract investment, and keep good jobs right here in our ward.

Question #6. Where do you stand on climate change and environmental issues and share some examples?

Walter Alvarez-Baldares

Climate change is an urgent crisis that demands bold, local action. I believe Scarborough must lead by example—protecting green spaces like Rouge Park, improving public transit to reduce emissions, and ensuring new developments meet high environmental standards. I

support expanding tree canopy coverage, investing in renewable energy for city facilities, and strengthening waste reduction programs. In my advocacy work, I've amplified Indigenous innovation such as the Guatemalan eco brick, showing how community driven solutions can tackle both environmental and social challenges. As councillor, I will push for policies that protect our environment today and safeguard it for future generations.

Anita Anandarajan

I will create a healthy environment for all residents and fight for equitable climate resiliency. This includes securing funding for various environmental projects, such as planting more trees, adding electric buses, and retrofitting buildings and stormwater systems. I will work hard to protect our local green spaces and promote environmental sustainability within the community. Furthermore, I will raise awareness to support clean and livable neighbourhoods and establish grant programs to fund projects that protect our green spaces.

Darrell Brown

Anyone who thinks climate change is not an issue is living in a dream world. I have been driving an electric car since 2017. At the CNE we introduced programs to force vendors to use compostable utensils, plates, straws, etc. to reduce landfill. We need effective bottle return programs to minimize plastic pollution. I became aware of the plan to divert raw sewage into the West Water Channel. Everything was being done behind closed doors. I reached out to stakeholders and told them of the plans. The provincial government eventually had to contact these stakeholders and hold public consultations. But the City was silent. After three months of giving opportunity to various government representatives to go public, I went public by providing the plans to David Rider at the Toronto Star and appearing on CBC Radio's Here and Now. A public consultation was held, and the diversion of raw sewage into the channel was delayed.

We need to value and protect what we have while taking a common sense approach to business and development. It is a fine balancing act sometimes. Not easy but necessary.

Zia Choudhary

Climate change is a pressing issue that directly affects Scarborough–Rouge Park. As Councillor, I will champion clean transit, green infrastructure, and renewable energy solutions such as solar-powered public buildings and net-zero community centres. I support expanding the tree canopy, protecting ravines and waterfront, and ensuring redevelopment includes sustainable design.

I will advocate for home energy retrofit incentives, eco-roof grants, and community recycling programs that reduce emissions and save residents money. Through my role as Chair of the Port Union Waterfront Festival, I have seen how local events raise environmental awareness and celebrate our natural assets.

I also support environmental education through programs at the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre and youth-led initiatives like Youth Climate Action

Scarborough, which empower young leaders with mentorship and hands-on sustainability training.

My goal is to make Scarborough–Rouge Park a leader in climate resilience and youth empowerment, creating a cleaner, safer future for all.

Ashan Fernando

Protecting the Rouge, expanding green spaces, and promoting clean, sustainable transit — I'll fight for strong climate action in Scarborough–Rouge Park.

Reza Khoshdel

Climate change and the environmental impact of human activity are among the most pressing issues of our time. As society advances, new technologies, methodologies, and scientific understanding give us tools to address these challenges, but meaningful progress requires leaders who understand the complexity of the issue and make decisions grounded in evidence, not rhetoric.

I served as Director of Environment and Conservation with the West Rouge Community Association. In this role, I engaged with Parks Canada on a range of issues, including litter, parking, and environmental stewardship. I also advocated on behalf of residents regarding the Boardwalk proposal at Rouge Beach, raising significant concerns about its impact on the natural ecosystem and community access.

Ward 25 is unique and beautiful, with incredible natural spaces that make our community special. As your City Councillor, I will ensure that these areas are protected and preserved so future generations can enjoy them.

Donna LaRush

Climate change is a very important issue that effects everyone. I was a founding member of an Eco Protection group and have a wealth of experience in this field.

All of the important issues mentioned in the questionnaire are complex and I cannot adequately be addressing them in 150 words or less. It is a question of setting priorities, working hard together toward a shared vision/plan for our future and the future of the next generations. HOPE you will join my team. Together we will make a difference.

Brian Matthews

In my heart, I am a conservationist, and I've been actively involved with organizations that protect Crown Land. This perspective guides my belief that our local park spaces are vital for a healthy community. Placing the Rouge National Urban Park under federal jurisdiction was an excellent and important protective measure, especially as the province now moves to develop parts of provincial parks like Wasaga Beach.

To mitigate climate change locally, we must invest in resilient infrastructure and prioritize erosion mitigation along Scarborough's shoreline. As a councillor, I will promote local gardening and encourage community greenhouse production to shorten food supply chains. While I stand against excessive taxation, I will advocate for prudent and targeted investments that make our community more sustainable and resilient, in line with Toronto's own climate strategy.

Shan Neethan

Climate change affects us all. I will support environmental infrastructure programs at City Hall that protects residents, their homes, their roads and their parks as we continue to experience more and more extreme weather events. As City Councillor I was proud to pass Transform TO which is

the most comprehensive environmental plan in the city's history. As City Councillor, I brought in funds to protect local parks. And today I am actively working together with Scarborough environmental associations to support local initiatives that address climate change.

Shean Sinnarajah

Shean's approach to climate resilience is evidence-based, service-first, and measurable. He supports Toronto's TransformTO goals but focuses on practical delivery residents can see in Scarborough—Rouge Park.

That means accelerating basement-flooding projects in Port Union/Highland Creek; protecting the Rouge and ravine system with stricter setbacks, bank stabilization, invasive-species removal, and rapid post-storm replanting to grow the tree canopy at schools, bus stops, and along arterials.

SUN Flash Card - Ward 25 Scarborough Rouge Park Councillor By-Election It means transit-first choices—pushing Eglinton East LRT milestones and adding signal priority/queue-jumps on Morningside/Kingston/Lawrence—to cut emissions by reducing car trips.

Shean commits to help homes and small businesses retrofit (insulation, heat pumps, EV chargers) with clearer checklists and faster permits, improve waste diversion in apartments, and crack down on illegal dumping hot spots.

Anu Sriskandarajah

I believe addressing climate change and protecting our environment must be a priority at City Hall. In Scarborough, we are fortunate to have incredible natural assets like Rouge National Park and the Port Union waterfront, and I strongly support their conservation and protection. That is why I am committed to ensuring the water at Rouge Beach is regularly tested and local ecosystems are safeguarded. Protecting green spaces and strengthening climate resilience are not just environmental issues — they are essential for the health, safety, and quality of life of our community.

Personal Information About Our Candidates

I am **Walter Alvarez-Bardales**, a Latinx, Afro-Indigenous Canadian, refugee from Guatemala's civil war, and long-time Scarborough resident. From homelessness to earning my MBA at the top of my class, serving as a federal civil servant, and advocating for marginalized communities, my life's work has been turning struggle into action. I am a survivor and I chose not to be a victim but a resilient advocate for those who are currently facing adversities, because I know the struggle. I'm running to bring lived experience, integrity, and compassion to City Hall, because as a former refugee I know the struggle, as a former Civil Servant, MBA top of class, doctoral candidate volunteer and advocate, I know how the system works, and how to make it work for you.

My name is **Anita Anandarajan** and I completed my Bachelor of Science at the University of Ottawa and post-graduate studies in Human Resources Management. I have spent my career working in employment services and workforce development. I also have experience in political

and community organizing and was the Ontario Liberal candidate in both the 2022 and 2025 provincial elections. I served on the internal post-secondary committee, contributing to platform development by engaging stakeholders and addressing issues of inequality.

Darrel Brown: I have been an effective advocate for numerous groups across the decades, successfully spurring on legislative and regulatory changes. I argued up to the Supreme Court of Canada to protect the pensions of Steelworkers. I won – they took priority over secured creditors – one of the only times that has happened in Canada. I stepped in when I discovered a plan to dump raw sewage into the West Water Channel. City Councillors and the Mayor were silent. When our representatives did not step in to protect us, I leaked the plan to the Toronto Star. The plan has now been postponed. I was the CEO of the CNE during COVID. It was facing insolvency. I raised \$15 million dollars to save it. It now has a \$32 million surplus. I have worked in 15 countries as a problem solver. I was part of the team that negotiated a \$4 billion loan to South Korea during the Asian financial crisis (part of an overall \$58 billion dollar loan that the South Korean government repaid in 2.5 years). I led a national pension reform in Kazakhstan. I even worked on judicial law reform in Russia. I know how to communicate, to send the right message at the right time. My motto for this campaign is Your Voice, Our Platform. I don't believe in telling you what to do. I believe in you telling me what you need. To that end, I have a survey at <https://forms.gle/vaEx7UTL5URC6kYK8> that I would like voters to complete.

My name is **Zia Choudhary**, a proud resident of Ward 25 – Scarborough–Rouge Park, with over 40 years of professional and community service experience. As a Realtor, Financial Advisor, and Tax Professional, I've helped families achieve financial stability and long-term security. I also serve as Chair of the Port Union Waterfront Festival Committee, promoting local culture and community spirit.

One of my most meaningful experiences was organizing free food drives for frontline workers during COVID-19, which reminded me of the strength and compassion that define Scarborough.

My priorities include supporting seniors, advocating for affordable housing, improving transit and infrastructure, and creating opportunities for youth. I believe in inclusive leadership, transparent governance, and building a safer, more affordable, and better-connected Scarborough.

I am running to be your next City Councillor to ensure every resident has a voice at City Hall and the chance to thrive.

My name is **Ashan Fernando**, and Scarborough–Rouge Park has been my home for over 25+ years. I grew up here, attended local schools, and remain active at St. Joseph Catholic Church. I've served as Interim Co-Chair of Port Union Winterfest, Past President of the West Hill–Highland Creek Lions Club, and a Board Director at Surrey Place. With 24+ years of professional experience and ongoing Paralegal studies at George Brown College, I'm committed to advocating for inclusion, accessibility, and stronger communities as your dedicated City Councillor for Ward 25.

My name is **Reza Khoshdel**, and I live in West Rouge with my wife and two boys. I've spent most of my life in various parts of Scarborough, and my connection to this community runs deep. Growing up and experiencing the challenges of low-income life taught me the value of community, resilience, and advocacy. I have tri-sector (private, public, and non-profit) leadership

experience and have served my community across various volunteer roles, including President of the West Rouge Community Association and as a member of Scarborough United Neighbourhoods (SUN). In my current professional role, I am the Executive Director of Centre 55, a charity and agency of the City of Toronto. I hold graduate degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and Public Administration (MPA), which equip me to serve effectively as your City Councillor. I am committed to listening and fighting for all residents of Scarborough–Rouge Park.

Donna LaRush: I have worked for the City of Toronto since May of 1989 (before amalgamations). I retired Feb 2025 from the Fire Department. I have always wanted to be in politics to make policies and represent constituents. I believe in democracy and I want to help shape our future. I have a wealth of experience.

Brian Matthews: Hello, I am a divorced father of a mid-aged teen, who is my reason and my inspiration. Family, faith, and community are very important to me. I was born and raised in Scarborough and have been a strong advocate for Scarborough as a great place to raise a family throughout my professional career as a Realtor. All corners of Ward 25 are near and dear to me, and I'd be a strong advocate for the entire region. As an independent, I am not tied to the party's message or ideology. On City Council, I can vote in the best interests of the entire Ward without the influence of Party.

Shan Neethan: I am running to make City Hall listen to Scarborough and get the city services we need. I have always championed Scarborough in every elected position I have held. As City Councillor for Scarborough-Rouge River, I successfully advocated for more public transit, more city services, and programs and jobs for youth. As school trustee and Chair of the TDSB, I was committed to fully funded schools in Scarborough and voted against cuts to our public education.

Shean Sinnarajah is a centre-right, results-focused candidate for City Councillor in Ward 25, Scarborough–Rouge Park. He is running on a simple promise: deliver the basics, publish the metrics, and fix what isn't working.

That means reliable post-SRT transit, practical road-safety upgrades, faster snow and waste service, and a streamlined path for small businesses to grow. Shean is committed to carry forward Jennifer McKelvie's service-first priorities—advancing the Eglinton East LRT, tackling basement flooding, protecting our ravines, and managing growth responsibly. Shean believes in incremental improvements, data-based decisions, and open listening.

Let's build a Scarborough that's safer, faster, and easier to live in—together.

Dr. Anu Sriskandarajah is an Associate Professor at York University and has served since 2018 as the elected TDSB Trustee for Scarborough–Rouge Park. At the Board she has chaired the Director-Search Committee during leadership transitions. A longtime Scarborough resident and proud mom of two, Anu has dedicated years to community service. She contends that Scarborough deserves its fair share in city planning and budgeting and is committed to delivering this through steady leadership, accountability, and meaningful public consultation.