

# #53

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 10:42:08 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:34:56 PM  
**Time Spent:** 10:52:47  
**IP Address:** 24.52.236.131

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## Q1

Municipal Candidate

Candidate	<b>Laura Shantz</b>
Email Address	<b>laura@laurashantz.ca</b>
Phone Number	<b>343-773-2550</b>

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## Q2

Campaign Manager

Campaign Manager	<b>Hayden Henderson</b>
Email Address	<b>campaign@laurashantz.ca</b>
Phone Number	<b>343-773-2550</b>

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## Q3

Ward

**Ward 12 - Rideau-Vanier**

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## Q4

To reach our collective potential, we must work together to build up Ottawa. That requires a council in which each member commits to city wide leadership. What is your intended approach to collaboration with council, city staff and economic partners?

I believe that city council needs to harness the wisdom and experiences of the community - including residents, community groups and business owners - to ensure that council decisions reflect our collective strengths and address our collective needs. I believe that we need a collaborative approach to council that is rooted in evidence and

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**Q5**

What key characteristics and skills do you possess that make you a great leader and ambassador for the city of Ottawa, and the national capital region?

I have lived in Ottawa for over twenty years and have experienced so much that this city has to offer. I have worked a range of challenging jobs, which have taught me to be an active listener and an advocate for those who are often overlooked. I was part of the working group that launched the MarketMobile, a local nonprofit grocery service that ensures low-income residents have access to fresh, healthy produce. I have also served as a member of Ottawa Transit Riders, pushing for better public transit for everyone. My work and advocacy experiences have prepared me to advocate for residents across the city, and to look for thoughtful, evidence-based solutions to our city's biggest challenges.

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**Q6**

What are your top three priorities for Ottawa's future?

1. Addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. The current situation leaves people experiencing homeless without dignity, puts strain on neighbours and local businesses who have to deal with some of the negative side-effects of mental health and addictions issues, and social service agencies struggle to keep up with the demand for service. Eliminating chronic homelessness would transform lives, provide relief to neighbours and would save the city money over the current use of costly motel rooms.
  2. Improving public transit. In order to get Ottawa residents moving around in cleaner, greener ways, we need to ensure we have a public transit system that is affordable, reliable and accessible, and that goes where people need it to go. A better public transit system improves residents' quality of life, ensures that tourists can easily get around our city, reduces the impacts of climate change, and ensures that people can get where they need to go on time. For businesses, better public transit means employees who can get to work on time in all weather conditions and customers who have the freedom to linger in shops instead of rushing off to catch the next bus.
  3. Making our communities more accessible. I want to see the City of Ottawa invest in making our streets and public spaces more accessible to everyone. That means ensuring streets and sidewalks are in good repair, having sidewalks are large enough to let people move freely, providing people with shade and places to sit to invite them to spend more time in public places, and ensuring that a growing number of Ottawa businesses are accessible to more people, including people who use wheelchairs and mobility devices and parents with strollers. Being more accessible means easier deliveries for businesses, more customers, and a better quality of life for everyone who visits or lives in our city.
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**Q7**

**Yes, I would like to attend.**

Are you able to attend the All Candidates Meet & Greet at the Shaw Centre on September 23, 2022 - 7:30 to 9:30 am. We are extending a complimentary ticket for you. Additional tickets can be purchased at [ottawabot.ca](http://ottawabot.ca).

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