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Municipal and School Board Election Biography

The Municipality is sharing the following biography exactly as submitted by each Candidate. We have not edited or revised grammar, spelling, punctuation, or verified any content.

Candidate Name: Heather Latam

Office Seeking: Councillor

My name is Heather Latam, and I am seeking re-election as a Councillor. Born and raised in Leamington, I am dedicated to fostering community and strengthening public education. Driven by a commitment to public service, social justice, and leadership, I strive to empower others and create meaningful change.

My degrees in Music, Education, and Women's Studies have shaped my understanding of critical thinking, creativity, teaching, and advocacy, providing a strong foundation for my work as a community leader and educator.

I believe education goes beyond the classroom, inspiring my advocacy for community fairness, equity, and respect. My experience in collective bargaining, labour relations, policy development, conflict resolution, and organizational leadership is extensive. I have actively worked to secure fair agreements and address systemic barriers.

I serve as a provincial representative within my union, collaborating with colleagues across Ontario to influence policy, advance equitable practices, and contribute to decisions that shape public education. These experiences have broadened my perspective, strengthened my understanding of governance and advocacy, and reinforced the importance of building strong relationships to achieve meaningful change.

Since joining Council in 2022, I have been dedicated to deepening my understanding of municipal governance. Over the past two terms, I have focused on listening to residents, championing new ideas, and promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making.

Effective leadership requires balancing community aspirations with legal and financial realities. I understand that many investments impact taxpayers, therefore I am committed to protecting essential services through responsible spending to keep tax increases to a minimum. These choices are rarely easy, but I am comfortable with making difficult decisions that serve the interests of the community.

I also believe accountability is fundamental to good leadership. When I make a mistake, I acknowledge it, learn from it, and use the experience to grow. Serving the residents of Leamington has been both an honour and a privilege, and it continues to inspire my commitment every day.

Community service is at the heart of who I am. I am a volunteer, contributing my time and energy to initiatives that strengthen community and improve lives. Whether supporting local events, advocating for vulnerable populations, or assisting animal welfare organizations, I believe meaningful leadership extends beyond elected office. Volunteering reinforces the values of compassion, collaboration, and service, and is one of the most rewarding aspects of my life.

My leadership style is bold, collaborative, and grounded in continuous learning. I maintain that effective leaders ask difficult questions, challenge the status quo, and engage in productive conversations that drive meaningful progress. Leadership is about creating opportunities for others to succeed.

Throughout my career, I have balanced multiple leadership responsibilities while remaining focused on the people I serve. My ability to manage competing priorities, build strong relationships, and remain resilient under pressure have become my greatest strength. Whether advocating at the bargaining table, contributing to provincial education discussions, serving as a Councillor, or volunteering in the community, I remain committed to leading with courage, integrity, and compassion.