

# Staff Report



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To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Wednesday, July 23, 2025
Subject	<b>Ward 6 Councillor Vacancy Appointment</b>

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## Recommendation

1. That Council appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to fill the vacant Ward 6 Councillor seat for the term ending November 15, 2026.
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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

To seek Council direction to appoint a candidate to the vacant Ward 6 Councillor seat, following Dominique O'Rourke's election as the Member of Parliament for Guelph in the 2025 Federal Election and subsequent Council direction to fill the vacancy through an open call for nominees process.

### Key Findings

In accordance with the [Municipal Act, 2001](#) (the Act) Council has 60 days from the declaration of vacancy on May 27, 2025 to either appoint a person to fill the vacancy or pass a by-law requiring a by-election be held to fill the vacancy.

Following Council direction on May 27, 2025 to fill the vacancy through an open call for nominees process, the City Clerk's Office advertised the vacancy and received 26 applications in response from eligible candidates.

Staff are seeking Council direction on which candidate they choose to fill the vacancy and will support the appointment voting process in line with the [Council Vacancy Policy](#).

### Strategic Plan Alignment

This report aligns with the Future Guelph Strategic Plan Foundations theme. It supports the objective of leading with accountability, ensuring continued effectiveness of Council processes by addressing governance vacancies ahead of the next regular election in 2026.

### Future Guelph Theme

Foundations

### Future Guelph Objectives

Foundations: Lead with accountability

## Financial Implications

None.

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## Report

Former Councillor Dominique O'Rourke was elected as the Member of Parliament for Guelph in the 2025 Federal Election and submitted her resignation effective May 14, 2025.

In accordance with the [Municipal Act, 2001](#) (the Act), Council has 60 days from the declaration of vacancy to either appoint a person to fill the vacancy or pass a by-law requiring a by-election be held to fill the vacancy. On May 27, 2025, Council declared the Ward 6 Councillor seat vacant and directed staff to fill the vacancy through an open call for nominations process, in line with the [Council Vacancy Policy](#). Filling the vacancy by appointment must legislatively be completed by July 26, 2025.

Following Council's direction, staff conducted an open call for nominees. The nomination window was open from June 9 to July 7, 2025, for four weeks. The vacancy was advertised through local news outlets, including Guelph Today, as well as on social media channels, including Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and LinkedIn, via a [Public Notice](#), and on the City's [municipal elections webpage](#).

In order to be eligible for the vacant office, a candidate must be:

- A resident of the City of Guelph, or an owner or tenant of land in the City or a spouse of such an owner or tenant;
- A Canadian Citizen;
- At least 18 years old;
- Someone who is not prohibited from voting under any other Act or from holding municipal office.

Through the open call for nominations, the following eligible candidates came forward to nominate themselves for the Ward 6 Councillor position:

- Rebecca Adam
- Michelle Bowman
- Jeremy Cavan
- Gregory Cawsey
- Dakota Cherry
- Robert Coole
- Shane Coulis
- Morgan Dandie
- Jessica Ferlaino
- Randy Freese

- Hesham Genidy
- James Gordon
- Katherine Hauser
- Donald Hay
- Justin Hendrikx
- Daniel Kaufmann
- Michael Keegan
- Vivian Li
- Annika Maldonado
- Barbara Mann
- Renata Mares
- Gerry Masi
- Laura McQuillen
- Ryan O'Connor
- Evaristo Ramos Jr.
- James Sowden

Voting to appoint a candidate will follow the process outlined in the [Council Vacancy Policy](#) which will include open voting to ensure transparency, by alphabetical order of candidates' last names, with each member voting for only one candidate until a candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the votes from Council members present. If no candidate wins in the first round of voting, the candidate(s) with the fewest votes are removed and a new round of voting will be held until one candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the votes.

Once elected, the successful candidate will join Council at the horseshoe and the City Clerk will administer the Declaration of Office. Following the appointment, an orientation program will be delivered in advance of the September meeting cycle. As there are no meetings scheduled between the appointment meeting on July 23 and Committee of the Whole on September 3, staff will work with the new member to onboard and provide an orientation program in late July and early August, pending availability of the new member.

### **Financial Implications**

None.

### **Consultations and Engagement**

None.

### **Attachments**

Attachment-1 City Council Vacancy Policy

Attachment-2 Rebecca Adam personal statement  
Attachment-3 Michelle Bowman personal statement  
Attachment-4 Jeremy Cavan personal statement  
Attachment-5 Gregory Cawsey personal statement  
Attachment-6 Dakota Cherry personal statement  
Attachment-7 Robert Coole personal statement  
Attachment-8 Shane Coulis personal statement  
Attachment-9 Morgan Dandie personal statement  
Attachment-10 Jessica Ferlaino personal statement  
Attachment-11 Randy Freese personal statement  
Attachment-12 Hesham Genidy personal statement  
Attachment-13 James Gordon personal statement  
Attachment-14 Katherine Hauser personal statement  
Attachment-15 Justin Hendrikx personal statement  
Attachment-16 Daniel Kaufmann personal statement  
Attachment-17 Michael Keegan personal statement  
Attachment-18 Vivian Li personal statement  
Attachment-19 Annika Maldonado personal statement  
Attachment-20 Barbara Mann personal statement  
Attachment-21 Renata Mares personal statement  
Attachment-22 Gerry Masi personal statement  
Attachment-23 Laura McQuillen personal statement  
Attachment-24 Ryan O'Connor personal statement  
Attachment-25 Evaristo Ramos Jr. personal statement

### **Departmental Approval**

None.

### **Report Author**

Carrie Murray-Sprague, Election Coordinator

Jennifer Slater, Manager Information, Privacy and Elections/Deputy City Clerk

### **This report was approved by:**

Stephen O'Brien

General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk  
Corporate Services  
519-822-1260 extension 5644  
stephen.obrien@guelph.ca

**This report was recommended by:**

Gene Matthews  
Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Corporate Services  
519-822-1206 extension 3337  
gene.matthews@guelph.ca