

Michelle Bowman

[michelle4guelph@gmail.com](mailto:michelle4guelph@gmail.com)

7 July 2025

Guelph City Council

[clerks@guelph.ca](mailto:clerks@guelph.ca)

Dear Guelph City Council,

Please accept my application to fill the council vacancy in Ward 6. My interests, skills, and experiences match closely with the requirements of the position (See *Personal Statement of Qualifications*). If appointed, I will contribute to good municipal governance by representing the views of Ward 6 residents through the interconnected lens' of social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

I've lived in Guelph longer than anywhere else – 14 years in Ward 1 and 2 years in Ward 2. My formal training is as an environmental scientist with expertise in the health of rivers and lakes. The relationships among social, economic, and environmental health have become increasingly apparent. This intersectionality has led me to become keenly involved in provincial, then federal and most recently municipal politics over the past 5+ years.

My growing attraction to municipal politics evolved because its the most direct, localized and especially non-partisan level of government. Due to my involvement in politics and advocacy, Guelphites often seek my guidance on various issues. I hope to gain your support so I can continue to help the residents of Ward 6 navigate the City of Guelph's policies, programs and services as well represent their diverse views.

We are fortunate in Guelph to have engaged citizens as well as dedicated and knowledgeable city staff and councillors. This collective has enabled Guelph to show leadership on many issues. I'm confident I can both contribute to and grow from filling Guelph's city council vacancy. Striving to decrease polarization among Guelphites is important to me – in Ward 6, among city councillors & staff, and in general.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle".

## Personal Statement of Qualifications for Michelle Bowman

Guelph Ontario | [michelle4guelph@gmail.com](mailto:michelle4guelph@gmail.com)

### Goal

My goal has been to work with influential teams where I can contribute to the social, economic and environmental progress needed to improve the interdependent wellbeing of our communities and natural environment. I hope to gain majority support of Guelph City Council to fill the Ward 6 vacancy and continue to contribute to this goal.

### Relevant Interests & Skills

- Maximizing progress and efficiency by prioritizing, making data-informed (when available) decisions, and incorporating innovation
- Diffusing polarization with active listening, respectful dialogue, and identifying common ground
- Good governance through attention to detail in predicting possible outcomes and in the context of overarching goals and intersectionality

### Recent Experience

#### Forensecology | Consulting Scientist | 2013 - present

- Evaluate issues of potential environmental concern for government and NGOs
- Teach climate science, ecology, research methods and statistics
- Write and present reports and executive summaries

#### Conestoga College | Part-time Professor | 2023 - present

- Taught statistics in the Predictive Analytics graduate program
- Demonstrated how to analyze different types of data
- Discussed effective communication methods

### **Political Organizing | 2018 – 2023**

- 2022 Municipal Candidate, Ward 1 Guelph (190 votes from council seat)
- 2021 Green Party of Canada (GPC) Candidate & Cabinet Environment Portfolio
- CEO, GPC Riding Association
- Fundraising Coordinator, Green Party of Ontario (GPO) Guelph Riding Association
- Volunteer Coordinator, GPC/GPO Wellington Halton Hills Riding Association
- Canvasser Trainer, 2019 GPC Campaigns (Guelph and Wellington Halton Hills)
- Communications Coordinator, GPC/GPO Guelph Riding Association
- Canvasser, 2018 Guelph GPO Campaign (Mike Schreiner elected for first time)

### **Education**

Ph.D | Environmental Biology and Ecology | University of Alberta

M.Sc. and B.Sc. | Biology and Environmental Science | Western University

### **Interests, skills and experience applicable to city council**

Table 1 below gives examples of how my interests, skills and experiences meet the requirements as a city councillor outlined in the June 6<sup>th</sup> 1994 resolution provided in the *2025 Councillor Appointment Nomination Package*.

**Table 1.** Examples of Michelle's interests, skills and experience applicable to the requirements as a councillor

Requirements (Resolution June 6 <sup>th</sup> 1994)	Interests	Skills	Experience
1. Study and thoroughly understand all available materials prior to attending meetings and be prepared to participate fully.	Maximizing progress	Identifying key points, ready grasp	Researcher/ Professor
2. **Participate in making decisions on issues that will have long-term consequences on the municipality (by-laws, policies & strategic plans)	Prioritization, efficiency, building consensus, data-informed, staff recommendation	Big-picture thinking, attention to detail for predicting possible outcomes	Annual advice to Parks Canada managers and staff (Ph.D. thesis, Consulting)
3. To represent the views of constituents as closely as possible when dealing with issues that come before Council.	Decreasing polarization among constituents	Identifying common ground	Big-tent politics
4. To participate in establishing policies and ensure that such policies are implemented and observed in an objective and consistent manner.	Multivariate data-informed decision making, innovation	Objectivity and consistency are fundamental in scientific training	Established novel leadership policies with Parks Canada (Ph.D. thesis)
5. **Delegate the carrying out of policy and daily operations to administrative staff through the City Administrator.	Expertise of city staff in implementing policy and operations	Team collaboration/ delegation	Routine practice in consulting work
6. **Ensure funds are spent as authorized, with most efficient possible use of the municipality's human, natural and financial resources.	Efficiency through prioritization and innovation	Incorporating existing and innovative/creative methods	Low funds per vote in 2022 Municipal Election (See Table 2)
7. **Conduct regular reviews of programs, services, and delivery methods.	Efficiency through prioritization and innovation	Attention to detail in predicting possible outcomes, creativity, innovation	Routine consulting service (e.g., for Ontario Conservation Authorities)
8. **Manage Guelph's land & resources through careful land-use planning while satisfying social, economic, and environmental concerns.	Intersectionality of social, economic and environment concerns	Expertise in environmental science (interdisciplinary)	Ph.D. in environmental science, GPC Shadow Cabinet Environment Portfolio
9. To liaise with the various statutory boards, commissions, committees, and other levels of government on all matters of mutual concern.	<i>Planning, Environment and Water Advisory &amp; Grand River Conservation Committees</i>	Considering intersectionality	<i>Guelph River Systems Advisory Committee</i> , Provincial and Federal politics
10. Respond to individual problems that are identified by ward residents.	Good governance	Active listening, respectfully de-escalating sensitive topics	Routinely answer questions from Guelph residents via social media
11. Be aware of the impact of Council decisions on citizens, city-wide & within the Councillor's ward, preferably before decisions are made.	Good governance	Big-picture thinking, predicting possible outcomes with attentions to detail	Relationships with / trust of many demographics in Guelph

\*June 6<sup>th</sup> 1994 Resolution \*\*As a member of Council

## 2022 Campaign Metrics

Running in Guelph's 2022 municipal election was one of the highlights of my political pursuits. Conceding to Councillor Caton in the tight three-way race for second place in Ward 1 was eased by the endurance of their ground campaign and our comradery.

Each of the elected candidates excelled in unique ways with respect to core campaign metrics (Table 2). All the incumbents as well as Councillors Klassen and Yee Chow garnered high vote shares. Mayor Guthrie and Councillor Yee Chow excelled in fundraising. Councillors Klassen, Allt, Richardson, and especially Caron Piper and Downer stood out for low funds per vote share. Councillor Busuttil's experience on the school board may explain her well-rounded success on all three metrics.

I was pleased to rival the elected councillors in terms of votes and funds per vote share (and knew my ability to fundraise for myself needed improvement). I hope these results, as well as my relevant interests, skills and experience have won your support for me to fill the Ward 6 vacancy. I'm excited at the prospect of working with city staff and engaged citizens to continue to achieve the municipal leadership shown by our treasured city.

**Table 2.** Campaign metrics for elected candidates versus Bowman in Guelph's 2022 municipal election.

Candidate	Ward	Incumbent (Yes/No)	% of Votes	Funds Raised	Funds per vote share
Guthrie	n/a	Y	71.2	86620	1217
Gibson	1	Y	31.1	9950	320
Caton	1	N	18.6	6061	326
Goller	2	Y	30.7	9429	307
Klassen	2	N	27.2	5342	196
Allt	3	Y	39.2	7138	182
Richardson	3	N	16.6	3650	220
Billings	4	Y	30.0	8998	300
Busuttil	4	N	23.0	6168	268
Caron Piper	5	Y	35.1	4146	118
Downer	5	Y	34.3	4089	119
O'Rourke	6	Y	36.0	8705	242
Yee Chow	6	N	28.4	16325	575
Range for Elected Councillors			16.6 – 39.2	3650 - 16325	118 – 575
Bowman	1	N	16.1	1535	95