

Personal Statement for Position of Guelph City Councillor

Si Chen (Vivian) Li Carrier

Guelph has been my home for nearly a decade. While the beautiful university first brought me here, it's the warmth and friendliness of the people that made me stay. Over the years, I've built a life and career in this city, and today, I am proud to formally introduce myself as a candidate for Guelph City Council.

I currently work as a Condominium Property Manager, a role that has placed me at the intersection of people, policy, and practical problem-solving. It's a position that demands strong leadership, clear communication, and a deep commitment to community well-being—qualities that directly align with the responsibilities of a City Councillor.

In my daily work, I manage multi-million-dollar budgets, oversee property maintenance, and mediate between diverse stakeholders. I negotiate contracts, enforce bylaws fairly, and make difficult decisions about resource allocation—all while ensuring transparency and accountability to residents. These aren't abstract principles to me; they are the real challenges I navigate every day in service to the communities I manage.

What draws me to public service is the opportunity to apply this hands-on experience to a broader platform. Guelph is at a pivotal moment—facing important decisions around growth, affordability, and sustainability. Addressing these challenges requires not only technical knowledge, but also empathy and emotional intelligence. My work has shown me how policy impacts everyday lives. When zoning rules change, I see how it affects housing availability; when infrastructure decisions are made, I understand how they shape community livability.

Three guiding principles define my approach to governance:

Collaborative Pragmatism: I believe the best solutions arise when all voices are heard. My experience working with condo boards—balancing the needs of owners, tenants, and service providers—has taught me how to find consensus amid competing priorities.

Fiscal Responsibility with Compassion: I've learned that financial discipline and quality service go hand in hand. As a councillor, I will apply a balanced, thoughtful approach to budgeting—ensuring taxpayer value while safeguarding services for those who need them most.

Future-Focused Planning: In property management, delaying repairs leads to higher costs. Likewise, we must make proactive decisions today to secure Guelph's long-term resilience—whether in housing, infrastructure, or climate adaptation.

I understand that being an effective councillor requires more than good ideas. It takes the ability to collaborate respectfully with colleagues, staff, and residents. Through my work, I've built strong relationships with tradespeople, legal professionals, and municipal staff, and I know the value of teamwork in solving complex problems.

What I bring to Council is not just another voice—but a different kind of voice. One grounded in day-to-day experience managing the very types of communities and infrastructure our city relies on. I would be honoured to bring this practical, people-first perspective to Council, and to work with you to serve Guelph with integrity, creativity, and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted

Vivian Carrier