

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the appointment of Laura McQuillen to fill the current City Council vacancy for Ward 6.

As her sister, I am incredibly proud of the thoughtful, principled, and community-focused leader Laura has become and I am excited to see what she will achieve if given the opportunity to apply her considerable talents in support of the city she has loved ever since she attended the University of Guelph as a young woman.

With her wide breadth of experience as a teacher, a small business owner, and a parent, Laura will bring a grounded and authentic understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Guelph families today. She is already active in civic life through her work in education, real estate, children's services, and housing, and has a proven track record of connecting with people from across her community in support of the causes and people she cares about. Her integrity, strong communication skills, and clear vision for an even more inclusive, livable city make her an ideal choice to represent the residents of Ward 6.

In my professional life I serve as the Director of Strategic Projects and Privacy on the leadership team at a mid-sized company. I value transparency, responsibility, optimism, and forward-thinking problem solving; all qualities I see reflected in Laura's approach to her community and to public service, where passion and practicality must balance. In our family life, which has grown to include many of the foster children she cared for, Laura is warm, thoughtful, and generous with her time and effort.

Her pragmatic, informed, and deeply caring perspective would be an asset to council and I know she would serve with the diligence and heart that the people of Guelph deserve. Thank you for considering her candidacy.

Regards,
Sarah Maniscalco