

What's at Stake?

Everything.

One year from now, Torontonians will decide who to place their trust in to represent and lead a city that stands at a crossroads. The countdown begins.

To the candidates preparing to run for Mayor and Council in 2026:

Some of you will be stepping forward for the first time. Others will return to continue the work you've begun. But all of you will be running at a pivotal moment that demands more than routine debate or small adjustments.

The pressures of massive population growth and an economy hit by historic tariffs and a potent U.S. America-first agenda mean Toronto will have reached the limits of its old playbook.

Across this city, our members — employers large and small — see both Toronto's promise and its strain: a city of extraordinary potential, groaning under the weight of its own growth. Our population, our economy, and our ambitions have all outpaced the social and economic infrastructure meant to support them.

The challenges we face are decades in the making. We are making progress, but the moment demands bigger change: the next term of Council must be defined by a bold, transformational prosperity agenda.

Now is the time to stand up for the next generation and ensure this is a city where our kids can achieve the future they deserve.

And in moments like this, as Toronto rallies behind the Blue Jays' championship run, we're reminded of what this city can be at its best: confident, united, and proud to compete on the global stage. That same spirit of ambition and purpose must drive growth and prosperity.

What's needed next October is new and renewed leadership with the discipline and vision to strengthen Toronto's economic armour: the fiscal and physical foundations that allow a great city to thrive.

That begins with **overhauling our fiscal framework**. Toronto needs a stable framework for growth that moves beyond our decades-long cycle of incremental fixes and gives the city room to invest big in the services and infrastructure that can make us thrive.

It means **fixing the gridlock** that is choking our economy and our quality of life. Decades of underinvestment in transit and congested roads cost \$45 billion in economic and social costs every year, eroding our competitiveness.

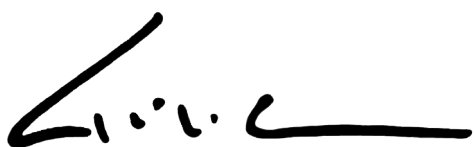
And it means **making room for both homes and good jobs**. A city that is unaffordable fails its residents, and a city that does not protect space for industry and innovation to invest and grow undercuts its future.

These are not partisan issues or campaign slogans. They are the conditions for leadership and the building blocks for a city that works.

Toronto's business community stands ready to partner with all those prepared to lead, to offer ideas, evidence, and ambition equal to this moment.

The next twelve months will define the debate. Let's make sure it's one worthy of this city's potential.

Our future prosperity is at stake.



Giles Gherson
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