

Questions from the Community

Below are answers to questions from our community posed to candidates of the Markham-Stouffville, Markham-Thornhill and Markham-Unionville ridings. Where candidates did not directly respond, our librarians have curated relevant information for the party's position from platform documents, news articles, and other publicly available sources to ensure a comprehensive overview. This resource aims to help you make an informed decision as you evaluate the candidates' positions and perspectives.

Question: 407 has been a hot topic lately. While I think we can all agree that the 407, one of the most expensive toll routes in the world, is problematic, I have concerns about the buyback plans announced by multiple parties. Questions: 1) The 407 buyback plan is expensive, how will we pay for it? 2) Once we have 407 back to provincial ownership, how do we prevent it from turning into another 401? 3) What plans are there to ensure adjacent roads can handle the added traffic offloaded by the 407 during rush hours? In particular, roads such as Hwy7, McCowan, Kennedy, etc. are already extremely congested during rush hours as is. 4) What alternatives to the 407 buyback are being considered? Out of all the solutions, why is 407 buyback the promoted solution?

Green Party of Ontario

The Green Party is looking to set up long-range, stable funding for infrastructure in rural and northern areas. They say they will take on more municipal transit costs.

They would cancel both [Highway 413](#) connecting Halton, Peel and York regions and the [Bradford Bypass](#) connecting York and Simcoe, saying it would save \$2.5 billion a year. They want to see more trucks use Highway 407 for free on dedicated lanes to counter the effects of cancelling Highway 413.

They [support](#) a Grimsby GO station and want to expand all-day, two-way service. They'd set up an affordable electric bus service connecting cities to rural areas.

Source: [CBC News](#)

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:

"I 100% agree that the tolls are out of control, a buyback would cost taxpayers billions; money Ontario simply doesn't have. The New Blue Party opposes costly buybacks and believes there are better solutions: How to Pay? – We can't. Ontario is \$400B in debt. A buyback would mean higher taxes or more debt, both unacceptable.

Prevent Another 401? – Removing tolls could cause gridlock. The 407 must stay fast-moving to serve its purpose. Local Road Congestion? – We need targeted upgrades to roads like Hwy 7, McCowan, and Kennedy, along with smart traffic systems—funded by cutting government waste, not raising taxes.

Alternatives? – The buyback is a headline grab, not a solution. New Blue would push 407 ETR to lower tolls using existing legal leverage, expand public highways like 407 East, and demand audits to ensure infrastructure funds are spent properly. We need real solutions, not election gimmicks. I'll fight to lower tolls, improve roads, and protect your tax dollars."

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:

"The Ontario Liberals have not announced buying back the 407. We are keeping all options open to deal with increasing traffic and gridlock but any solution would have to ensure the best value for taxpayers. "

The Liberals say the province would take over and extend Ottawa's light rail line west and take over the capital's Highway 174.

ION would be extended to Cambridge and GO Transit would run all day between Kitchener and Toronto and between Niagara and Toronto, including at Grimsby. They would fund safer transit, such as building platform edge doors at TTC subway stations, hiring more special constables and crisis intervention workers in major cities and funding transit safety equipment.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Ontario New Democratic Party

The NDP [pledges](#) to take tolls off Highway 407 within 100 days of forming government, starting with removing tolls for trucks on the first day. The province would buy the private part of the 407.

It would [cover](#) half of municipal transit costs. The NDP would [move ahead](#) on GO expansion to Cambridge, Grimsby, Guelph and London and build new GO stations at Mimico and Park Lawn, fund rail to Scarborough and Phase 2 of Kitchener-Waterloo's ION rail line and fast-track the return of the Northlander train.

Highway 40 would be expanded to Sarnia and highways 11, 17 and 69 would be widened under an NDP government.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

The PCs say they'll ban congestion charges, which can make drivers pay to enter part of a community.

They promise to remove Highway 407 tolls east of Brock Road in Pickering, widen the Queen Elizabeth Way between Burlington and St. Catharines and Highway 69 between Parry Sound and Sudbury, tunnel under Highway 401 in the Toronto area and significantly expand GO Transit.

They would have the province take over Ottawa's Confederation rail line at a cost of \$4 billion over 30 years and also take over Highway 174.

The PCs say the Northlander train between Toronto and Cochrane is on track to reopen next year.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Question: How necessary is it for Ontarians to go through an early election? The original election is not due until June 2026, yet no other premiers called their election early for a mandate against the trade war. If given such a mandate, what plans does each party have against the increasing hostility from the Trump administration? Also, why did our current government retract on the cancellation of the Starlink deal – a service which rural Ontarians already have access to before the contract, using existing satellites that will continue to service Quebec, the Atlantic provinces, Europe, and Asia? For reference, Newfoundland and Yukon both have elections that must be scheduled before November this year and to my knowledge, neither has called an election.

Green Party of Ontario

The Green Party have pledged to:

- Create a tariff task force for trade negotiations
- Develop a “Buy Ontario” strategy
- Create a “Protect Ontario Fund” fund for businesses disproportionately affected by tariffs
- Diversify trade partners
- Work with other provinces to remove interprovincial trade barriers
- Create an investment tax credit “to unlock business investments in Ontario.”

Source: [Green Party Platform](#)

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:

“Doug Ford’s snap election is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer dollars. Ontario’s election wasn’t due until 2026. Other provinces facing the same trade pressures haven’t called early elections—this is more about politics than protecting Ontarians. Which is why I am running. On the trade tensions with the U.S., the New Blue Party believes Ontario needs to diversify trade partners and support local manufacturing and agriculture to reduce reliance on foreign markets. Stronger Made-in-Ontario policies will safeguard jobs and our economy, regardless of changes in the White House. I also firmly believe in working with the American administration to address their valid concerns and solve our common problems jointly as we have done for many, many years. On Starlink, the Ford government’s flip-flop is another example of poor planning and backroom deals. Rural Ontarians were already using Starlink independently—this costly contract wasn’t necessary. New Blue would end sweetheart deals and focus on real solutions for rural broadband, ensuring taxpayers get value without waste. Frankly, a tax credit for rural Ontario and allow them to find their own solution that works for them would be far less expensive and offer greater choice. This election is costing millions while families struggle with rising costs. We need leaders focused on solutions—not political games.”

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:

“It’s not necessary at all! The opposition parties made it clear that they supported what Doug Ford was doing to deal with Trump so he had the backing of the legislature – no need for a new mandate. In terms of dealing with Trump, we need to ensure our economy is strong and we need to make life more affordable which the Ontario Liberals will do through several means. We will cut middle class income taxes, cut the small business tax, eliminate development charges and the land transfer tax for first-time home buyers. Province-wide, we will work to eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers, ensure stimulus spending focuses on infrastructure needs in Ontario (eg. hospitals, roads), and establish a Fight Tariffs Fund that gives access to lower-than-market interest rates for Ontario businesses so they can invest in their businesses and protect against tariffs.”

The Liberals propose letting Ontario businesses borrow at lower government rates, spending on hospital, school and transportation infrastructure and seeing where they could move money around to support this. They want to increase security along the U.S. border, work to get rid of interprovincial trade barriers, ban American companies from government contracts and offer Canadian doctors working in the United States a \$150,000 bonus to come back and be a family doctor.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Ontario New Democratic Party

The NDP said it would support directly affected businesses and workers by protecting incomes with the federal government and pausing taxes, creating new supply chains, launching retraining programs and finding new export markets.

It would promote buying Ontario products, including from small businesses, and direct provincial agencies to procure in the province while improving interprovincial trade.

Infrastructure and housing projects would be sped up. The Starlink contract would be cancelled no matter what happens with tariffs.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

The PCs laid out more than \$14 billion worth of support in the first few days of February, the vast majority in tax relief for businesses.

They’d also spend \$600 million to keep drawing investment to the province, \$138 million to help workers who want to change jobs and \$120 million to increase the LCBO wholesale discount for bars and restaurants.

The PCs supported banning American companies from getting provincial contracts, buying Ontarian and Canadian whenever possible, the Energy East oil pipeline and easier goods trading between provinces.

When the tariffs were hours away, the PCs said they were “ripping up” a \$100 million Starlink contract to get high-speed internet to thousands of remote customers because of owner Elon Musk’s ties to Donald Trump.

As part of an effort to convince Trump not to impose tariffs, the PCs would buy two more helicopters to support border patrols in the Niagara and Windsor areas and ban Chinese state-owned enterprises from future energy contracts.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Question: As someone who biked to school everyday during high school and university years, I am deeply concerned about the war against bike lanes in Toronto: we have them in Markham neighborhoods as well, and I am afraid this war against bike lanes is going to affect our neighborhood. What steps does each party have to ensure bikers are able to commute to work and school safely? To extrapolate the question a bit, what plans do each party have to lower our reliance on personal vehicle? I am concerned since our public transit is close to non-existent, and a trip to the airport which would normally take 40 minutes can easily take 2 hours when using public transit.

Green Party of Ontario

The Green Party of Ontario has pledged to create a predictable, annual Infrastructure fund for safe walking, cycling and accessible mobility devices for municipalities. Stop the province from interfering with municipal transit plans like bike lanes.

Source: [Association of Municipalities of Ontario 2025 Provincial Election Tracking](#)

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:
“Safe transportation options—whether by bike, transit, or car—are vital for Markham-Unionville. While bike lanes can be important in certain areas, the New Blue Party believes local infrastructure decisions should be driven by community needs. We support common-sense solutions that balance safety, traffic flow, and taxpayer value.
We believe bike lanes should be properly planned with local input, ensuring they work alongside drivers and pedestrians. In Markham neighborhoods where they are valued and used, they should stay and be maintained. We agree—public transit needs serious improvement. Long commutes and poor connections hurt families. The New Blue Party supports investing in transit infrastructure, expanding GO service, and cutting government waste to fund transit upgrades without raising taxes. We oppose Toronto’s war on drivers, but that doesn’t mean neglecting cyclists or transit users. Local voices—not politicians at Queen’s Park—should shape our streets. We need balance, respect for all commuters, and real transit solutions.”

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:
“As a party we have proposed several regional transit projects in Ottawa and Kitchener-Waterloo, including all-day two-way service between Toronto and Kitchener. We definitely recognize that one way to combat traffic and gridlock is investment in public transit.”

Ontario New Democratic Party

No information found on this party’s position on this issue.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

The Ontario PC Party website states “bike lanes on major streets are clogging up traffic and hurting local businesses. That’s why we’ve tabled the ‘Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act’, which would allow us to rein in runaway bike lanes. We’re going to make sure new bike lanes don’t slow down traffic, and we’re going to make sure existing bike lanes make sense for everyone on our roads. This is part of our plan to get people out of traffic and moving again.”

Source: [Ontario PC Party Website](#)

Question: Ontario is one of the few provinces beside Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the territories to still have a Catholic school board. Do you support the idea of abolishing the Catholic school board?

Green Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:
"I support parental choice in education. Ontario's publicly funded Catholic school system has been part of our province's history for over 150 years, and many families value faith-based education. We believe parents should continue to have that option. However, we also recognize the need for fairness and efficiency in our education system. Instead of abolishing Catholic schools, New Blue would focus on ensuring all publicly funded schools—Catholic and public—are well-resourced, accountable, and focused on strong academics. We also believe in expanding school choice, so parents can decide what's best for their children, including options like charter schools, independent schools, and homeschooling support, without facing financial barriers. Education dollars must follow the student, ensuring every family—regardless of income—can access a quality education that reflects their values. Our priority is empowering parents, cutting wasteful spending, and getting back to the basics: math, reading, and real-world skills."

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:
"For Education, we are focused on getting back to supporting our schools and students. Doug Ford has underfunded schools for the past several years, and the quality of our system is clearly in decline. We have no plans to abolish Catholic schools or merge the two public systems."

Ontario New Democratic Party

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

Question: Do you support vaccine mandates?

Green Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:
"The New Blue Party stands firmly against vaccine mandates. We believe in medical freedom and informed consent—every Ontarian should have the right to make personal health decisions without government coercion or threats to their job, education, or ability to participate in society. We opposed the lockdowns, vaccine passports, and mandates that hurt families, small businesses, and personal freedoms. No one should be forced to choose between their health choices and their livelihood. While vaccines should be available to those who want them, the government should respect individual choice and focus on improving healthcare access and education—not controlling people's lives. The New Blue Party will defend your rights, hold government accountable for overreach, and ensure that what happened during the pandemic never happens again."

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:
"Vaccines are important - the COVID pandemic made that clear. Ontarians need access to vaccines and our plan can provide that. We are committed to providing a family doctor for all Ontarians in the next for years. 2.5 million people don't have a family doctor and this is a huge strain on the system. It's why we see hallway medicine and hours-long waits in ERs."

Ontario New Democratic Party

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

Question: Any plans on proposing a proportional representation voting system? Any ideas on unifying medical licensure standards across provinces and recognition of US-trained doctors to lower barrier to practice in Canada?

Green Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on proportional representation voting system.

Green Party's position regarding healthcare:

"Ensuring everyone has access to a family doctor and the care they need starts with immediately hiring more doctors and healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers (PSWs). But it's not enough to just increase hiring. Hiring without improving working conditions and pay will result in a revolving door of overworked and underpaid healthcare professionals that does not address the underlying shortages limiting patient access.

Here's how we'll do it:

Recruit 3,500 more doctors in Ontario through more medical school positions and more residency opportunities for international medical graduates so that every person has a primary care provider within 3-4 years."

Source: [Green Party Platform](#)

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:
"We support protecting the integrity of our democracy, but we do not support proportional representation. Systems like PR often lead to weaker governments, backroom coalition deals, and fringe parties holding power, which reduces voter accountability. We believe Ontarians should elect local representatives directly—with clear accountability to their communities. On healthcare licensing, New Blue recognizes the doctor shortage crisis, and we support reducing red tape that keeps qualified professionals out of practice. We believe in streamlining licensing across provinces, so doctors can move freely and serve where they're needed most. We support faster pathways for foreign-trained doctors, including US-trained physicians, while upholding high standards for patient safety. We would push for a full review of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) to cut bureaucratic delays and focus on getting more doctors into our communities—especially in underserved areas. Ontario's healthcare system is broken—we need less bureaucracy and more frontline care."

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:

"We are not proposing a PR system. We do want to make it easier for doctors from other jurisdictions to have their credentials recognized here. It is part of our plan to recruit and retain more family doctors. We need to expedite the process by which we integrate internationally trained doctors and we need to make it easier for doctors from other provinces to move to Ontario to practice medicine. "

Ontario New Democratic Party

No information found on this party's position on proportional representation voting system.

NDP's position regarding healthcare:

"We'll hire more doctors and nurses for southwestern Ontario: 400,000 people across the Southwest don't have a doctor, and that will rise next year as more doctors retire and leave the system. We will invest \$4.1 billion over four years to ensure everyone in Ontario has access to team-based primary care. We will bring in safe nurse-patient ratios for better care and end the reliance on for-profit private nursing agencies that are costing hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars. We will expedite Windsor-Essex Regional Hospital, restore 24/7 emergency services to Welland Hospital, deliver a new hospital for Brantford and restore service to Fort Erie and Port Colborne Urgent Care. Ensure funding continues to plan responsibly for a new Regional Hospital in Kitchener-Waterloo."

Source: [New Democratic Party Platform](#)

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on this issue.

Question: Regarding Bill 60: How will Ontario decrease wait times for procedures done in hospital when the same procedures are going to be done in private for profit clinics by the same staff?

Green Party of Ontario

Ontario Greens leader and MPP for Guelph Mike Schreiner released the following statement in response to a report showing that the Alberta Surgical Initiative to outsource public surgeries to private facilities diverted resources from the public system and reduced provincial surgical capacity.

“The evidence is clear: privatizing healthcare only leads to poorer quality of care.

Everywhere it has been tried, the results have been the same – higher costs, longer wait times, and a public system starved of resources.

So why is the Premier pouring fuel on the fire of the healthcare crisis going down the very same private, for-profit path?

Ontarians need this government to invest in a strong public healthcare system that we can all rely on.

Further privatization of Ontario’s healthcare system means we will pay more for less care.

I call on the Ford government to repeal Bill 60 and invest in publicly funded healthcare that prioritizes patient care over shareholder profits. We can’t afford anything less.”

Source: [Green Party of Ontario News Release](#) - May 18, 2023

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:

“Ontario’s wait times are unacceptable, and Bill 60’s approach—pushing more procedures into private clinics—does nothing to fix the root issue. We’re still relying on the same pool of overworked doctors and nurses, just spreading them thinner across public hospitals and private clinics. The New Blue Party believes the focus should be on fixing our public system by cutting healthcare bureaucracy and redirecting funds to frontline care. Fast-tracking credential recognition for foreign-trained doctors and nurses to increase our workforce. Ending wasteful spending on administrative bloat—putting healthcare dollars directly into patient care. Allowing patients more choice within the public system, such as choosing their hospital for surgeries, to reduce bottlenecks. Private clinics shouldn’t replace the public system—they should only complement it where necessary. New Blue’s focus is getting more doctors, shorter wait times, and better value for your tax dollars.”

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:

“Our health care plan will help to decrease wait times and procedures. We need more family doctors and nurses in the province of Ontario. By recruiting and accelerating the process by which we integrate internationally trained doctors, we can alleviate the system without turning to private clinics. The current PC government spent over \$1 billion in 2023 on private nursing agencies. We will spend less on private agencies and invest in the public system.”

“The greatest challenge we have in our healthcare system right now is not having enough people to provide care to those that need it,” [said MPP John Fraser, Interim Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party](#). “Unamended, Bill 60 will make the human resources crisis in our hospitals even worse.”

Ontario Liberals will be proposing a range of amendments to Bill 60 including the following:

- New health service centres must operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- Strong conflict of interest protection must be in place along with full transparency about ownership, fees and violations by these facilities.
- Introduction of a Ministry oversight program in collaboration with regulatory colleges. Fees paid to community health centres should not exceed those paid in public hospitals.

Source: [Ontario Liberal Party News Release](#) - Mar 28, 2023

Ontario New Democratic Party

Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition, and France Gélinas (Nickel Belt), NDP Health Critic, provided the [following statement](#) after the Ford Conservatives passed Bill 60 - their plan to bring in private, two-tier health care:

"I am very concerned about what this Bill means for the future of Ontario," said Stiles. "The Conservatives lied to the people of this province. Bill 60 is not the answer to our healthcare crisis. Ford's Conservatives helped create this staffing crisis in our healthcare system, and now, they want you to believe private, two-tier is the solution."

Stiles and the Ontario NDP have proposed fresh solutions that could be implemented today to fix the staffing crisis, reopen emergency rooms and operating rooms, and get people the care they need.

"We are the party of universal healthcare," said Stiles. "Ontarians deserve fast, quality care in every corner of the province. Care needs to be based on needs rather than the ability to pay."

Source: [Ontario NDP News Release](#) - May 8, 2023

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

As a first step in the Progressive Conservative government’s [“three-step plan,”](#) the province will invest in “new partnerships with community surgical and diagnostic centres” in Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Ottawa to perform more publicly funded cataract surgeries using existing staff.

Provincial officials expect these clinics to perform up to 14 000 cataract surgeries per year, reducing wait lists for the procedures to pre-pandemic levels by March 2023, “barring operational issues.”

The second step of the government’s plan involves an expansion of the private provision of “nonurgent, low-risk and minimally invasive” procedures, such as colonoscopies and endoscopies, as well as MRI and CT imaging. So far, they have provided few details on this step.

Finally, the province will allow private clinics to perform hip and knee replacement surgeries as early as 2024.

Premier Doug Ford and other officials stressed that patients would continue to pay for the outsourced procedures “with their OHIP card, never their credit card.” However, they did not answer questions from reporters about whether clinics would be allowed to upsell patients on associated elements of care.

Source: [Canadian Medical Association Journal](#)

Question: Do you support enhancing critically important provincial funding for public libraries, and ensuring that the support reaches those libraries where it is most needed?

Green Party of Ontario

Creating vibrant neighbourhoods requires more than just homes. Community hubs like libraries, local community programs, and small businesses are the lifeblood of our neighbourhoods, bringing people together, keeping kids and seniors active and healthy, and providing us with daily essentials. But these community hubs don't happen by accident—we need to create the necessary conditions in order for them to open, and stay open. Here's how we'll do just that:

- Increase funding for local libraries, community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders.

Source: [Green Party Platform](#)

New Blue Party of Ontario

From Markham-Unionville Candidate, Nicholas Boudreau:
“Public libraries play a vital role in our communities, especially for families, students, and seniors. They provide access to education, technology, and community programming, which is particularly important in underserved areas. The New Blue Party supports protecting and enhancing funding for essential community services, including libraries, but we also believe in ensuring that every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely. That means targeting funding to libraries that need it most, especially in smaller towns and growing communities like parts of Markham-Unionville—not wasting money on bloated government programs. Our approach is simple, audit government spending to find savings from waste and bureaucracy. Direct those savings into frontline services, like libraries, schools, and community programs—where they actually benefit families. Libraries are more than books—they're hubs of opportunity. New Blue will ensure funding gets to the communities that need it, without raising taxes. We don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem.”

Ontario Liberal Party

From Markham-Stouffville Candidate, Kelly Dunn:
“We believe in more community infrastructure (like libraries!) and in treating cities fairly so that these services can continue to be provided to our communities.”

Ontario New Democratic Party

“Ontario NDP believes a digital public library is an investment into vital community resources. It can come as a compliment to existing services, not at the expense of them. Public libraries provide entertainment and educational resources to kids and adults alike. In recent times, they have also become the frontline for the housing and homelessness crisis. Library programs and services are at risk due to years of underfunding. Ontario NDP will continue to fight for proper investment in these vital resource in our communities. The NDP knows that the connection between libraries and education is crucial to the well being of communities and schools. Libraries are community hubs and vital spaces of learning and growth, they should be funded and supported so that they can provide students with a high quality education and adequate resources.”

Source: Ontario Library Association & Federation of Ontario Public Libraries [2025 Ontario Election Candidate Survey](#)

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

No information found on this party's position on this issue.