WOODSTOCK 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Deb Tait

Correspondence Record

Candidate for Deputy Mayor - County Councillor

Original messages preserved with an additive correction record.

CORRECTION INCLUDED

Same-name identity misattribution identified September 30, 2026.

QUICK LINKS

September 20, 2026 - Justin Forest - Why should Woodstock residents vote for you in 2026?
September 21, 2026 - Justin Forest - Why should Woodstock residents vote for you in 2026?
September 21, 2026 - deb tait - Why should Woodstock residents vote for you in 2026?
September 21, 2026 - Justin Forest - Why should Woodstock residents vote for you in 2026?
September 27, 2026 - Justin Forest - Woodstock 2026 candidate comparison is now live
September 28, 2026 - Justin Forest - Final verification and additional resources for your ca

From: Justin Forest <au•ti•.a•fo•ce@gmail.com>
To: debtait@rogers.com
Date: Sun, Sep 20, 2026 at 2:00 AM

Hello Deb Tait,
My name is Austin, and I am a Woodstock resident reviewing the candidates in the 2026 municipal election. Rather than relying only on campaign signs, advertising, social media, or other people's opinions, I want to hear directly from the candidates themselves.
I am contacting every certified candidate seeking municipal office in Woodstock and giving each candidate the same opportunity to explain their priorities, qualifications, plans, and approach to representing residents. Candidates seeking the same office are being asked the same questions. Where the questions differ between offices, it is only to reflect the different responsibilities and decisions associated with those positions.
You are running for Deputy Mayor–County Councillor.
This is a new elected position for the 2026–2030 term. Because it combines responsibilities at Woodstock City Council and Oxford County Council with an additional leadership and continuity role, I am particularly interested in how candidates understand the position and how they would approach its responsibilities.
I recognize that candidates may have different levels of municipal experience, particularly with a newly created position. These questions are intended as an opportunity for you to explain your understanding, priorities, and approach directly to Woodstock residents. There is no expectation that every answer be lengthy or highly technical. Please respond to whatever level of detail you feel is appropriate, and if there is an area where you would want additional information or training before taking a firm position, you are welcome to say so.
I would appreciate your answers to the following questions:
1. Why are you running for Deputy Mayor–County Councillor, and what experience, knowledge, or preparation do you believe equips you for the responsibilities of the position?
2. What do you believe are the three most important issues facing Woodstock during the 2026–2030 term, and why?
3. If elected Deputy Mayor–County Councillor, what three specific changes, projects, policies, or outcomes would you most want to work toward accomplishing during the term?
4. Given that this position participates in decisions at both the City of Woodstock and Oxford County levels, what areas of spending, taxation, capital investment, infrastructure, or service delivery would you most want to change? Please identify what you would increase, reduce, defer, reorganize, or maintain, and explain the trade-offs involved.
5. The Deputy Mayor–County Councillor is a new elected office in Woodstock. In your understanding:
(a) What problem was the position intended to address?
(b) What are its normal responsibilities, authority, and limitations at Woodstock City Council and Oxford County Council?
© What changes when the Deputy Mayor is required to act in place of the Mayor?
6. How would you maintain independent judgment when reviewing budgets, spending, policies, and other Council decisions while also maintaining an effective working relationship with the Mayor and the rest of Council?
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7. Because you would also represent Woodstock on Oxford County Council, how would you approach a situation where what you believe is in Woodstock's best interest differs from a broader priority being considered by County Council?
8. In the interest of transparency, is there anything about your employment, businesses, property interests, organizational roles, financial interests, professional relationships, or other outside activities that you believe Woodstock residents should know when considering your candidacy? This is also an opportunity to explain how you would identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest if elected.
9. How would you remain accessible and accountable to Woodstock residents after the election, including residents who disagree with you or question a decision you have made? What measurable commitments would you be prepared to make so residents can evaluate your performance during or at the end of the 2026–2030 term?
10. Finally, without criticizing the other candidates, what would you most want a Woodstock resident to understand when deciding whether to vote for you for Deputy Mayor–County Councillor?
There is no particular answer I am looking for. My purpose is to hear directly from the candidates and provide

DEB TAIT

everyone seeking the same office with an equal opportunity to explain what they would bring to that position.
Thank you for taking the time to consider these questions. I look forward to reading your response.
Austin Force
Woodstock, Ontario

From: Justin Forest <au•ti•.a•fo•ce@gmail.com>
To: debtait@rogers.com
Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Hi deb
I wanted to send one brief follow-up to my earlier questionnaire, mainly to make sure the timing and process are clear and that my original email was not interpreted as requiring an immediate response.
I have not received a response from you yet, which is completely fine, and I do not want to assume that means you are declining to participate.
I will continue accepting candidate responses, clarifications, supporting material and additional information until approximately two weeks before election day. There is no requirement that all of the questions be answered at once. You are welcome to answer only some initially, provide brief responses, refer me to existing material that reflects your position, and provide additional information later.
The only reason information received at this stage is especially useful is that I am currently within a question-submission period and am considering whether the candidate responses identify areas where a neutral follow-up question, clarification or factual verification might be useful.
That is separate from the eventual candidate comparison. Responding earlier does not provide additional weighting or an advantage in that comparison. It simply means that I have the information available while I am still considering possible follow-up questions.
I am applying the same general process to the candidates for Deputy Mayor–County Councillor, particularly because this is a new elected position and I want each candidate to have the same opportunity to explain how they understand its responsibilities.
If you happen to have some or all of your responses available during this earlier stage, I would appreciate receiving them, but please do not interpret this message as a deadline or a request to rush your answers.
My goal is to give every candidate a meaningful and comparable opportunity to explain their priorities and approach in their own words.
Thank you,
Austin Force
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Woodstock, Ontario
[Quoted text hidden]

From: deb tait <debtait@rogers.com>
To: Justin Forest <au•ti•.a•fo•ce@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 8:47 PM

Hi Austin,
Your emails went to my spam-just found them because someone else said they had sent me something and I never received it! Was in my spam.
I will try and get them by end of tomorrow. Its been really busy with my job and then getting out doorknocking!
Thanks for the interest!
Deb
[Quoted text hidden]

From: Justin Forest <au•ti•.a•fo•ce@gmail.com>
To: deb tait <debtait@rogers.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 9:02 PM

Hi Deb,
Thank you for getting back to me and for taking the time to review both of my emails.

I completely understand that messages can occasionally be redirected to a spam folder, particularly when they are coming from an unfamiliar sender. I appreciate you letting me know what happened.
Thank you as well for indicating that you will try to provide your responses by tomorrow. As mentioned in my second email, I am continuing with the question-development process today, including considering the information that has been available from candidates up to this point. Responses received afterward can still be incorporated into the broader candidate comparison in accordance with the process I outlined.
I appreciate you reviewing the material and getting back to me.
Austin Force
[Quoted text hidden]
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From: Justin Forest <au•ti•.a•fo•ce@gmail.com>
To: deb tait <debtait@rogers.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 27, 2026 at 9:11 AM

Hello Deb,
I'm sending the same notice to every candidate to let you know that my independent Woodstock 2026 municipal election comparison is now published and available here:
https://woodstockelection.erosivevision.chatgpt.site
The permanent address will be WoodstockElection.ca. I have already connected the domain, but it is still going through the DNS process and is not working consistently yet. I was advised that this can take up to approximately 24 hours.
For now, please use the working link above.
THE PROJECT
This started as my own attempt to make an informed voting decision and developed into something I thought could also be useful to other Woodstock residents.
Rather than using one identical questionnaire for every candidate, I narrowed the questions according to the position being sought: Mayor, Deputy Mayor or City Councillor. The responsibilities are different, so the questions were designed with those differences in mind.
Participation was voluntary throughout the process. Candidates could answer everything, answer some questions, refer me to existing material, provide another source, or not respond.
The site documents what occurred through that process. A response, partial response, referral or no response is part of the chronology, but I am not assigning a judgment to what any of those things mean.
The project does not score, rank or endorse candidates. The purpose is to organize the available information and sources so residents can review the record and make their own decisions.
SOURCES AND OTHER CANDIDATE MATERIAL
I've also tried to make it easier for residents to reach candidates' own material rather than relying only on what appears in my comparison.
A significant amount of campaign information is distributed through Facebook, which not everybody uses or can easily navigate. I have therefore been working on making official websites, original sources and other candidate material easier to reach directly from each candidate's section.
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Several candidates also referred me to Amy Flemming's comparison. I

did not gain access to the official website containing that material until September 25.
I believe residents should be able to see both comparisons.
Amy's questions and mine were not identical. Because of that, I have tried to distinguish between an answer that was actually provided to one of my questions and outside material that substantially addresses the same subject.
Where outside material is used, I want the original source to be clear.
PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION
Now that the site is published, I would appreciate it if you could look at your own section.
If I have made an actual error, please tell me as soon as possible.
That could include:
- an incorrect quotation or attribution;
- a factual error;
- an incorrect date;
- a transcription error;
- material connected to the wrong question;
- a broken or incorrect link;
- a source attributed incorrectly; or
- anything else where the website does not accurately represent the underlying record.
If I got something wrong, I will correct it.
There is a difference between a correction and new information.
If something already existed in the record and I represented it incorrectly, that is a correction and I will fix it.
If you send a new answer, clarification, source, statement or additional material now, I can add that as well, but I will identify when it was received rather than making it appear as though I had it during the original exchange.
TIMING
If you see something that actually needs to be corrected, please send it to me today, Sunday, September 27, if you reasonably can.
My partner is expecting our child at any moment, so my availability may change very quickly. Family is going to take priority.
I do not expect to be available to make substantial changes tomorrow.
Depending on what happens, the next opportunity I have to work through corrections and additional material may be late Tuesday.
That does not mean material received after today will be rejected.
Corrections and additional information can still be submitted afterward. It may simply take me longer to review, verify and incorporate it.
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TECHNICAL PROBLEMS
Please also let me know if you find a problem with the site itself.
If something does not load, a button does not work, a source link is broken, text is difficult to read, the mobile layout behaves incorrectly, or you encounter an accessibility issue, please send me a separate message if possible.
A screenshot and a short explanation of what happened would be very helpful because the site may behave differently depending on the device or browser being used.
I am continuing to improve the website, including its source

DEB TAIT

CORRECTION NOTICE

Deb Tait Verification Correspondence
Correction identified September 30, 2026

Information in the September 28, 2026 verification email incorrectly associated Woodstock candidate Deb Tait with Cycles of Life, the Community Dinner in Ingersoll, and the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice.

Deb Tait subsequently advised that this information relates to another individual with the same name.

The attribution was incorrect.

The original email is preserved below as part of the transparent correspondence record. Deb Tait’s correction and the subsequent project correction are also preserved in chronological order.

navigation and the transition to WoodstockElection.ca.
I also want to thank everyone who has taken the time to answer questions, provide information, point me toward other sources, or otherwise participate in the process.
If there is something in your record that I should correct, clarify or add, please send it to me and identify the relevant section or question where possible.
Thank you,
Austin Force
Independent civic research
Woodstock, Ontario
WoodstockElection.ca
3 of 3 2026-09-28, 14:38

From: Justin Forest <au•ti•.a•fo•ce@gmail.com>
To: deb tait <debtait@rogers.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 28, 2026 at 2:52 AM

Hi Deb,
I'm completing the final verification pass on the community involvement, professional experience and public-service portion of the Woodstock candidate project.
I know my earlier emails initially went to your spam folder, so I want to keep this focused. This is not another full questionnaire.
Already supported in the record
My current research supports your current City/County service and municipal appointments, along with community involvement through organizations including Cycles of Life, the Community Dinner in Ingersoll and the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice. I will keep elected/appointed service separate from voluntary community involvement.
A few chronology points
Your campaign material also identifies earlier activity including:
• mentoring youth through Children's Aid;
• involvement with the Terry Fox Run;
• fundraising for Woodstock Rowing Club; and
• helping with Rotary's Thanksgiving-weekend car show.
If you want those included, please provide:
Activity — approximate years — your role
For Cycles of Life, Community Dinner and the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice, approximate start/end years would also help if you know them.
Community contributions I may have missed
To keep this consistent across all candidates, you may identify up to three established or ongoing community contributions that my research has missed.
Please use:
Organization/activity — your role or contribution — approximate year(s) — public source/link if available
A public source is helpful but not required. If something is genuine but cannot be independently corroborated online, I can identify it transparently as candidate-provided information rather than excluding it. A lack of searchable documentation will not be treated as evidence that the activity did not happen.
Things you are currently developing
I'm also giving every candidate the same opportunity to identify up to three community-oriented initiatives that are currently being developed but are not yet mature enough to be described as established accomplishments.
Please use:
What you are developing — what has happened so far — what you hope it becomes
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I will clearly distinguish developing initiatives from both completed/established work and future campaign promises. The purpose is to make room for meaningful new work without presenting an intention as though it has already been

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completed.
Candidate-provided resources
I'm creating the same additional resource area for every candidate.
Your official campaign website will be linked separately and does not count toward the limits below.
If you have substantially more information that you want residents to explore, I recommend creating a public Resources, More Information, Documents, Learn More, Start Here, or similar page on your own website. You can maintain as much material there as you choose. If you send me that page, I can include it separately as an Explore More link.
The Explore More page does not count toward the five supplemental links.
In addition, every candidate may provide up to five supplemental public links. The same rules apply to everyone:
• the material must be publicly viewable without creating an account, joining a group, or signing in;
• normal public websites and publicly accessible documents are accepted;
• public organization/project pages are accepted;
• public YouTube videos are accepted;
• Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok and other account-dependent social platforms will not be used as direct supplemental links;
• a YouTube link does count as one of the five; and
• you may designate one of those five YouTube links as the video you would prefer featured or embedded on your profile, where technically appropriate.
If important material currently exists only on a social platform, I recommend also placing it on your own website, providing a normal public webpage/document version, or making the video publicly available on YouTube.
You do not need to provide five links. Five is simply the maximum so every candidate receives the same direct supplemental space.
Please send any supplemental resources as:
Title — public link — one short sentence explaining what residents will find there
And, if applicable:
Explore More page — link
How this will be presented
The final profile will keep different kinds of information separate:
• Established and independently supported community contributions
• Candidate-provided community contributions
• Current or ongoing community involvement
• Developing community initiatives
• Professional and relevant experience
• Elected and appointed public service, where applicable
• Future proposals and commitments
• Independent verification sources
• Candidate-provided resources
These categories will not be combined into a score or ranking, and the number of entries will not be treated as a measure of candidate quality.
Where a candidate is connected to a business, organization, board or committee, I will also distinguish between holding a role, the organization's overall accomplishments, and a contribution that can reasonably be attributed to the individual candidate.
For incumbents, the same principle applies to Council and committee work: membership or participation in a collective

decision will not automatically be presented as a personal accomplishment.
New information will retain the date it was received rather than being made to appear as though it formed part of the original questionnaire exchange.
Thanks,
Austin Force
Woodstock 2026 Candidate Comparison
WoodstockElection.ca

DEB TAIT

CORRECTED RECORD - See correction notice preceding this email.

Deb Tait wrote

Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 9:32 PM EDT
Re: Final verification and additional resources for your candidate profile

Candidate correction

Hi Justin,
The community involvement you have for me is not me- There is naother Deb Tait in Ingersoll married to Steve Tait-cousin of my ex who that is.-community involvement through organizations including Cycles of Life, the Community Dinner in Ingersoll and the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice. I will keep elected/appointed service separate from voluntary community involvement.
I have sat on Environment committee, Police Board, Library Board, rec committee
Have supported the Southgate Golf tournament since it started with a hole sponsor. Support the Womans Day event at Unifor-donations and a table-sponsership to a number of hockey teams-youth boys and Wildcat girls
I am not sure what else you need-hope this helps-its a really busy time so hard to keep everything straight!
Thanks
Deb

Austin sent

Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 10:12 PM EDT
Re: Final verification and additional resources for your candidate profile

Project acknowledgement and correction

Hi Deb,

Thank you for correcting me regarding the community involvement information.

I am sorry for the misidentification.

The reason I sent the verification email in the first place was specifically to give each candidate an opportunity to review the information I had located, identify anything that was incorrect, and add context where the available public record was incomplete. Your correction is exactly why that verification process is important.

I have gone back through the website as well. At this point, I have not found the incorrectly identified community information presented as part of your actual candidate profile. What I have identified is that it appears in the verification email I sent you, which forms part of the published Communications record.

The Communications section is intended to be an open and transparent record of the correspondence between myself and candidates. That means I do not want to quietly change the history of the exchange or make it appear that I had the information correct from the beginning.

Instead, the record should clearly show:

• what I originally identified;

• that you corrected the information;

• that I acknowledged the error; and

• what was subsequently corrected.

I am temporarily pulling down the affected communication while I add a prominent correction notice directly across it so that anyone opening the correspondence will immediately understand that the identification was incorrect and has been corrected. I do not want someone to encounter the original email without seeing the correction first.

Once it is restored, your correction and the correction notice will remain part of the transparent record.

Again, I am sorry for the misidentification. I appreciate that you corrected it, and I am glad the verification process caught the problem before I relied on that information further.

I have now restarted the research using sources that can be tied specifically to you through City of Woodstock records, municipal board records, election records, your own campaign website and dated local reporting.

You do not need to rewrite everything below. This is another verification pass. If the information is accurate, you can simply confirm it. If anything is wrong, incomplete or missing context, please correct that item.

Municipal and public service

My revised research presently supports:

• First elected to Woodstock City Council in 2003, with continuous municipal service since then.

• Service initially as a City Councillor, followed by service as a City/County Councillor.

• Re-elected as a City/County Councillor for the current 2022–2026 term.

• Current service on the Woodstock Hydro Legacy Fund Committee.

• Current service on the Woodstock Public Library Board.

• Library Board service documented in earlier terms, including records from 2020 and 2022.

• Woodstock Police Services Board records identifying you as a Council appointee and documenting your participation during at least the 2019–2022 period.

Your campaign material also identifies Hospital Board service. I located a historical source from 2017 that also associates you with the Woodstock hospital board, but I would rather have you confirm the chronology before I present a specific period.

You also told me that you have served on the Environment Committee and Recreation Committee.

If possible, please correct or complete:

Hospital Board — approximate year(s)

Environment Committee — approximate year(s)

Recreation Committee — approximate year(s)

Police Board — approximate full year range, if 2019–2022 is incomplete

Library Board — any additional earlier years that should be included

Professional experience

Current 2026 reporting identifies you as working full-time with Cowan Insurance Brokers in Commercial Insurance.

If that is accurate, an approximate start year and your current position/title would help complete the chronology.

Community involvement

I also reviewed your actual campaign website and can tie the following information specifically to you:

• Children’s Aid — mentoring youth with their schooling

• Terry Fox Run — involvement while you were in high school

• Woodstock Rowing Club — working bingos to raise funds for the club

• Rotary — working the annual Thanksgiving-weekend car show

Your email gave me additional chronology:

• Children’s Aid — while in high school, including going to the homes of youth who needed help

• Terry Fox Run — your final year of high school

• Woodstock Rowing Club — approximately Grades 8 through 12

• Rotary car show — approximately 10 years beginning around 1996

Please correct me if I have interpreted any of that incorrectly.

You also identified:

• support for the South Gate golf tournament since it began through hole sponsorship;

• support for the Women’s Day event at Unifor through donations and a table; and

• sponsorship/support of boys’ youth hockey teams and Wildcats girls’ hockey teams.

Approximate years would be useful if they are readily available, but precise dates are not necessary.

Documented Council activity

As with the other incumbent candidates, I am keeping Council membership separate from actions that can be tied specifically to an individual motion, recorded vote or documented position.

The public record I have reviewed includes your motion concerning Lions Pool, participation in the County garbage-bag-tag price issue, and amendments you brought forward during the 2026 Oxford County budget process.

Those will be described neutrally as documented motions, votes or positions. I will not attribute a collective City or County accomplishment personally to one councillor unless the evidence supports doing so.

If there are up to three other Council or County actions from your service that you believe should be included and that can be tied to a motion, recorded vote or public record, you are welcome to identify them.

Anything I have still missed

The same opportunity being provided to the other candidates remains available to you.

You may identify up to three established or ongoing community contributions that my research has still missed:

Organization/activity — role or contribution — approximate year(s)

A public source is helpful where one exists, but it is not required. Candidate-provided information can still be included as long as it is clearly identified as candidate-provided rather than independently verified.

You may also provide any supplemental public resources you would like residents to be able to review.

i apologize again, Thank you again for correcting the earlier information and for participating in the verification process.

Austin Force
Woodstock 2026 Candidate Comparison
WoodstockElection.ca