



CHATHAM-KENT
CHAMBER *of*
COMMERCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Change Is Easy to Promise. Leadership Must Deliver.

CHATHAM-KENT, ON, October 7, 2026 — Ahead of the October 26 municipal election, the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce urges residents to read its election briefings and ask: **How will campaign promises actually be delivered?**

The Chamber has shared these resources directly with all candidates since August 14, 2026, and throughout the campaign. They are available to everyone.

“CHANGE is just a slogan? Leadership is the work.”

The question mark is intentional: the theme neither calls for replacing leadership nor defends the status quo. It challenges every candidate—incumbent or challenger—to explain how change would work.

“Leadership connects the promise to the authority, resources, partnerships and decisions needed to deliver it,” said Rory Ring, President & CEO.

The briefings examine municipal authority, provincial requirements, budgets and the respective roles of elected officials and professional staff. Understanding government is not an excuse to avoid change—it is the starting point for delivering it.

They connect infrastructure and financing with investment attraction, existing-business growth, agriculture, tourism, workforce, quality of life and reconciliation. The aim is to help readers understand how decisions in one area affect opportunities and obligations in another.

A business considering expansion may need infrastructure, skilled employees and predictable municipal processes. Addressing one barrier while ignoring the others can leave investment stalled. Leadership requires weighing the full picture: costs, alternatives, risks, partnerships and benefits for the wider community.

What would change? Who has authority? What will it cost? What are the trade-offs? How will success be measured?

The series also reinforces **Elect Respect**: strong debate and difficult questions belong in an election; harassment and personal attacks do not. Respect does not mean agreement. Accountability does not require abuse.

The Chamber does not endorse, rank or oppose candidates. It asks candidates to explain their plans and remain accountable to every community—including those who did not vote for them.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Municipal Election Resources page, review the briefings provided to candidates, and use them to inform their questions, conversations and vote. Start with an issue that matters most to you, explore how it connects to others, and share these resources with friends, neighbours and community organizations.

Read the briefings. Ask informed questions. Expect accountable leadership.

www.chatham-kentchamber.ca/elections2026.php

Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce

"The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce exists to cultivate a thriving business ecosystem and collaborate with like-minded stakeholders so that members can broaden their economic horizons, inspire success, and contribute to a prosperous and vibrant community for generations to come."

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