

# Toronto Municipal Election Candidates 2018 COUNCIL

The CCRA News reached out to the candidates for councillor, TDSB trustee and TCDSB trustee in this municipal election and asked for a short biography of themselves to help introduce them to our readers. We didn't get everyone because the bouncing back and forth between a 47 and a 25-ward council meant that different people were running depending on the number. We weren't sure who was actually running in our ward until September 21. But here are the responses of those who replied. We've also listed the names of those who didn't so you'll know who is on the ballot.

## PAUL COOKSON



Paul is a Scarborough native and small business CEO running to be your voice for action and change on City Council. Paul has built

a 30-year career in sales and marketing, helping companies he's worked with achieve measurable growth and success. He will bring his experience developing strategic plans and creative solutions to City Council, becoming an advocate for Ward 25 first. In 2010, Paul founded his Scarborough-based business Ad Army Group Marketing Services where his clients' potential and success are his priority. His business also designs and prints West Rouge Life Magazine, a publication that reflects his belief in supporting local business and community. As a small-business owner himself, Paul advocates for pro-business policies that will allow Scarborough's economy to thrive and help create local jobs. Paul's volunteer work with City Street Outreach has shaped his priorities of fighting for affordable housing, improved transit accessibility, and greater food security for the city's marginalized. He aims to cut wasteful spending and divert those savings back into our community, while also ensuring Ward 25's support from city-wide initiatives. Paul believes in real results for your real concerns, and will be your advocate for action.

## REZA KHOSHDEL



As a longtime Scarborough resident he's on a mission to bring a voice back to a community that for far too long has been neglected at City

Hall. At 5 years old, he immigrated with his family to Canada, calling Scarborough home ever since. His family struggled to get on their feet and these early experiences helped instill in him the importance of community bonds and the value of education as a change agent in his life and in others. Reza is an MPA/MBA graduate, and previously served as a community organizer and Legislative Advisor to the Minister of Research and Innovation at Queen's Park. As a grassroots organizer, he helped community residents with complicated issues that were brought to his attention when no other viable solutions were available. His role as a Legislative Advisor entailed working with private and public sector partners, fostering scientific discovery and commercialization of new technologies and products. Upon returning to the private sector, Reza currently serves as an operations executive for a multinational education company that specializes in mathematics enrichment programs for high-performing students. Reza will bring his political and business acumen to City Hall and deliver for the great residents of Scarborough-Rouge Park.

## JENNIFER MCKELVIE



I've lived in Centennial with my family for more than a decade. As an environmental scientist, it was important for me to live in a community with

beautiful parks and outdoor recreational opportunities. For the past three years, I served on the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority. I will continue to advocate for funding to complete the Scarborough Waterfront Trail and add a dedicated bike lane. I am proud to have served as President of the Centennial Community and Recreation Association (2015-2017) alongside our dedicated volunteers. In this role, I worked collaboratively with our neighbouring associations to advocate for residents at City Hall. This included preparing a successful deputation for the Highland Creek incinerator. I was also first President of Renew Scarborough (2016-2018), a non-profit dedicated to creating and realizing bold visions for Scarborough. As your councillor, my top priorities would include: 1) Advocating for an integrated transit network that includes the subway extension, LRT to UTSC/Malvern and improved bus service; 2) Working closely with local trustees for safer school zones to protect our children; and 3) Creating working groups to support seniors in our ward and foster development of more retirement housing options. To learn more visit: [www.votemckelvie.ca](http://www.votemckelvie.ca).

## DANIEL CUBELLIS



Daniel Cubellis is a lifelong resident of Scarborough and currently holds a Bachelor of Applied Sciences in Civil Engineering

from the University of Toronto. Throughout his life, he has gained a vast amount of experience that is both applicable and needed for a well-rounded city councillor. Some of his experience includes: working on delivery of the 407E Phase II project; aiding in the development of infrastructure asset management plans for the Regional Municipality of York; and researching how Detroit could reduce emissions by 2050 through infrastructure renewal projects, building code amendments, designing livable mixed-use neighbourhoods, and efficient transportation planning. If elected, Daniel wants to use his experience to make better evidence and technical-based decisions at City Hall. He will work towards having safer streets, better transit, better roadways, more senior programs, and more economic development in our ward. Daniel also wants to be accessible as a councillor by having a local constituency office, giving everyone his cellphone number, and hosting community town halls. For more information about Daniel and his platform, visit [votecubellis.ca](http://votecubellis.ca), call him at 647-499-2902 or send an email to [daniel@votecubellis.ca](mailto:daniel@votecubellis.ca).

## CHERYL LEWIS-THURAB



Cheryl Lewis-Thurab is a candidate for Ward 25. She is a community advocate and alumna of the inaugural Women Win TO

program. In 2017, she ran for appointment as interim city councillor in Ward 44. Cheryl is a certified career councillor and life skills coach who runs her own speaking, empowerment coaching and non-profit consulting business. She is a champion for women and youth empowerment, equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion. Cheryl's desire to be an agent of change prompted her to run for city councillor. She is committed to working with residents and businesses to build safe, affordable and sustainable communities in Scarborough. Cheryl is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago, and George Brown College, Toronto. She has over 20 years of experience in community development and is a former staff member of United Way Toronto and Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Her career highlights include establishing the highly successful Paint Your School Pink fundraising program. She is a former union representative and Workplace Policy Advisor/Mediator with United Way and served on other boards and committees. As a former tenant representative with Toronto Community Housing, she initiated the Youth Accessing Resources Project.

## NEETHAN SHAN



Neethan currently serves as a Toronto City Councillor in Scarborough. He previously served as a math teacher, college professor and

as a Public School Trustee in Scarborough. He is a proud recipient of the Toronto Community Foundation "Vital People" award. He lives in Rouge River with his wife, Thadsha, and together they are raising their two sons in our community. At Toronto City Council, Neethan represents Scarborough as a member of the Toronto Public Health and the Toronto Arts Council. He is also a director on the board of our local Toronto Zoo. Neethan is Toronto's Youth Equity Champion and Newcomer Advocate. Before he was elected councillor, he dedicated his time to our youth and their education, as public school trustee and youth worker and on many initiatives towards the well-being of seniors. Neethan has been a strong advocate for bringing more jobs, better rapid transit, well-resourced community centres and diverse arts and heritage programs to the Centennial community and the rest of Scarborough. Neethan plans to continue being our progressive voice on Toronto City Council and hopes to count on your continued trust and support to build a stronger Scarborough together.

## JOSEPH THOMAS



Joseph is passionate about improving and building an inclusive community that cares for each other. He is a successful businessman, a husband and a father of two young boys. He is a proud resident of Scarborough and would like to represent your voice in city hall.

Joseph knows that it takes a mature and responsible candidate to get the job done for Toronto Ward 25. As a person who gives back to the community in many ways, he is looking forward to the opportunity to serve as city councillor and to fight hard for the key issues that matter to all of us. TOGETHER for a safer city and stronger community, he hopes to earn your support and earn your vote on October 22. I am committed to:

- Supporting our community, our youth, our seniors and hard-working families.
- Good quality jobs for Toronto.
- Stable property tax.
- Light Rail Transit (LRT).
- Youth development with recreation, sports and employment.
- A clean and green environment for Toronto.
- Safer city and stronger community.
- More affordable housing.
- More health-care facilities.

## Final tally in municipal election is 25 wards

By Paul Lewkowicz

On September 10, Justice Edward Belobaba of the Ontario Superior Court ruled that Bill 5, the provincial government's Better Local Government Act, which reduces the size of Toronto City Council from 47 wards to 25 wards, was unconstitutional as it violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The government appealed Justice Belobaba's ruling.

On September 19, a three-person panel on the Ontario Court of Appeal granted a stay, which temporarily stops Justice Belobaba's ruling and effectively reinstates the 25-ward model for the October 22 election. A formal appeal of Justice Belobaba's decision is expected to be heard in November, after the election, and is expected to be successful. Due to the granting of a stay, the provincial government has stated it will not proceed with legislation to use the

notwithstanding clause to overturn Justice Belobaba's decision.

City council and school trustee candidates were given until Friday, September 21 to register, if they had not done so already, under the 25-ward model. Anyone who registered under the 47-ward model but did not advise the City Clerk of their intent to run under the 25-ward model was assumed by the City Clerk to have withdrawn their candidacy. The nomination deadline to run for mayor has remained unchanged and closed on July 27.

The municipal election will take place on Monday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Advanced voting will take place from Wednesday, October 10 to Sunday October 14 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Centennial Scarborough will be located in Toronto City Council Ward 25: Scarborough-Rouge Park, which also includes the communities of Highland Creek, West Rouge and Morningside

Heights and portions of Malvern and West Hill. The Toronto District School Board will have the same boundaries as the city council ward while the Toronto Catholic District School Board ward will be made up of the city council wards of Scarborough-Rouge Park and Scarborough North.

**Centennial Scarborough voters will have the following number of candidates on their ballot:**

- 35 candidates for Mayor
- 11 candidates for City Councillor, Ward 25
- 10 candidates for Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Trustee, Ward 22
- 4 candidates for Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Trustee, Ward 8
- 4 candidates for Conseil scolaire Viamonde Trustee, Ward 2 - Est
- 4 candidates for Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir Trustee, Ward 4 - Toronto - Est

## SCHOOL TRUSTEES

### TDSB KIRSTEN DOYLE



As a 15-year resident of TDSB Ward 22, Kirsten Doyle has strong ties to the community. She has two sons in

TDSB schools, one with autism. She was instrumental in the creation of a special education class in the elementary school he attended. She wants to bring this level of advocacy to all students in Ward 22.

Kirsten will also champion mental health for students through the reduction of stigma, better availability of services, and mental health awareness initiatives.

The safety of students is also a prime concern. Kirsten will work to improve school zone safety and ensure a safe, comfortable educational environment for all students.

Kirsten has served as school council chair, TDSB community coach, and classroom volunteer. She interacts effectively with parents, students, teachers, school board administrators and community members. Professional experience includes youth advocacy, writing/communications, and project management.

### TDSB ROBERT MARSHALL



I am running for school trustee to try to achieve four goals. First, I want to do everything I can to ensure a safe learning environment for our students, including partnering up with Toronto Police to return community safety officers to our high schools. Second, I want to support the TDSB's and province's efforts to improve our students' fundamental areas of knowledge in the STEM fields. As someone who has tutored university students privately, it is clear we must improve this area. Third, I want to continue to support our school board's progress in the areas of accountability

and financial responsibility. As someone with an educational background in accounting, we must look to the future of our province's finances when making the difficult decisions in the present.

### TDSB ANUPPRIYA SRISKANDARAJAH



I am a Professor in the Child and Youth Studies Program at York University. Every day I get the pleasure of

educating future teachers who are in the process of their teacher training. I hold a PhD in Sociology and my research focuses on child and youth issues in Scarborough. I have worked as a research consultant for the Toronto District School Board. Most recently I co-authored "STEM Teaching and Learning in the Toronto District School Board. Deepening, Sustaining, Building Coherence and Fostering Student Learning and Equity." I also worked on the "Renewed Math Strategy" and "Student Achievement reports." As your trustee I aim to focus on three areas, student well-being, school programming, and infrastructure. One of the roles of a school board is to equip students for 21st century realities. Following my research in this area, I aim to integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineer, Art, Math) more readily into the classroom.

### TDSB ROXANNE WRIGHT



Roxanne Wright is a TDSB Trustee candidate for TDSB Ward 22. Roxanne has a degree in Criminology and Justice Policies, a diploma in Law and

Security Administration and a Developmental Services Worker certificate.

Roxanne volunteers as a school mentor and tutor through the Big Brother and Big Sister Organization, is a certified sports coach at the Scarborough Boys and Girls Club, and volun-

teers with the Toronto Parole Board, Women's Shelters and numerous charity fundraising events.

Roxanne received a Leading Women Building Communities Award from the government of Ontario acknowledging her exceptional leadership in working to improve the lives of others. She also received a Certificate of Recognition for making a difference through her generosity, dedication and commitment. Roxanne's priorities include student mental and physical health, special ed, safe schools, transportation and school repairs. Roxanne is committed to always being a positive role model for our students and community.

### TCDSB MIGUEL POTENCIANO



Miguel Potenciano is a longtime Scarborough resident and an active member of his community. He attended Catholic

schools in Ward 8 before graduating from Ryerson's Radio and Television Arts program in 2003. As a television producer for 15 years, he co-founded News Minute Network, an online video production company. His years working in the production field have honed his negotiating and budgeting skills, while managing teams of professionals to achieve a common goal.

As Catholic School Board Trustee, Miguel will be a clear and progressive voice for students, parents and educators. Miguel will stand up for the Catholic School Board, advocate for the inclusion and acceptance of all students, find solutions to fix and improve our schools, encourage subjects that are at the forefront of today's modern workforce and be an active and involved trustee.

Visit [www.miguelpotenciano.com](http://www.miguelpotenciano.com) to learn more about Miguel and about the campaign.

More information can be found at [myvote.toronto.ca](http://myvote.toronto.ca)

### TCDSB JOBIN JOSE



My name is Jobin Jose and I am running for Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee in Ward

8. Born, raised and currently living within the boundaries of our community, I am a creative, honest, and energetic young man who is committed to going above and beyond to ensure our students are receiving the most out of their education. I attended Cardinal Leger and Prince of Peace for my elementary years and then Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School. I graduated from York University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. I believe by promoting Catholic living, improving communication, emphasizing the importance of student wellness, and establishing 21st-century education in schools, we will ensure our students are prepared with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in today's world. Please visit [www.jobinjose.ca](http://www.jobinjose.ca) for more information on my commitment to you and how we will build a brighter tomorrow.

### Here are the other candidates

#### Council Ward 25

Amanda Cain  
Jasper Ghori  
Dave Madder  
Christopher Riley

#### TDSB Ward 22

Rigaud Bastien  
Vito Greto  
Cecilia Kutas  
Kabirul Mollah  
Akila Rudrasingam  
Tharshigan Vijayapalan

#### TCDSB Ward 8

Luis Castillo  
Garry Tanuan