



2018 Municipal Election - City of Sarnia Member Survey

Government policy is critical to the competitiveness of our business community.

That is why the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce wants to help you pick the right people to represent you on city council, people who understand the issues that you care about and make wise decisions that enable businesses to grow and the community to prosper.

According to a survey by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the top 3 priorities this municipal election for businesses in this region are:

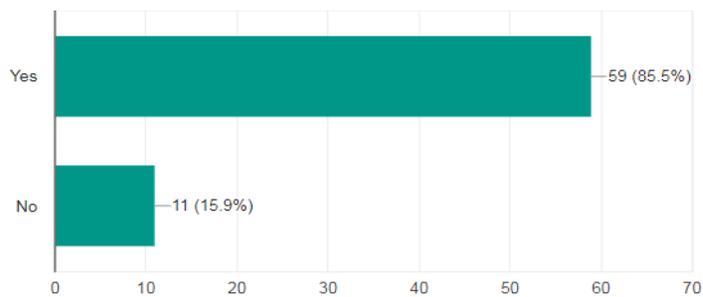
- * Taxes
- * Economic growth
- * Infrastructure investment

We asked businesses in Sarnia-Lambton what is important to them.

Read further to see how they responded.

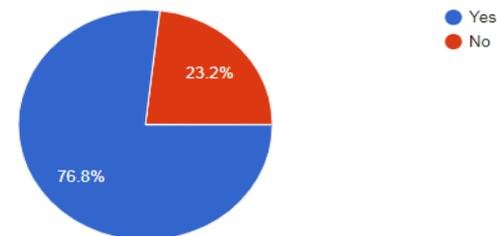
Are you a member of the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce?

69 responses



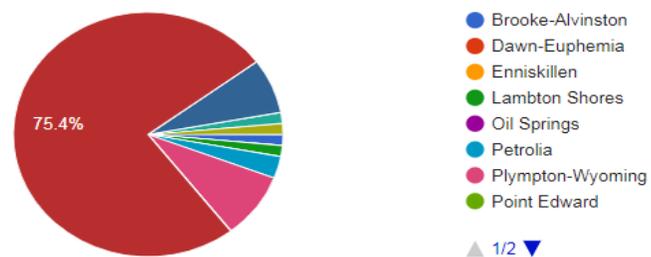
Are you a business owner or operator?

69 responses



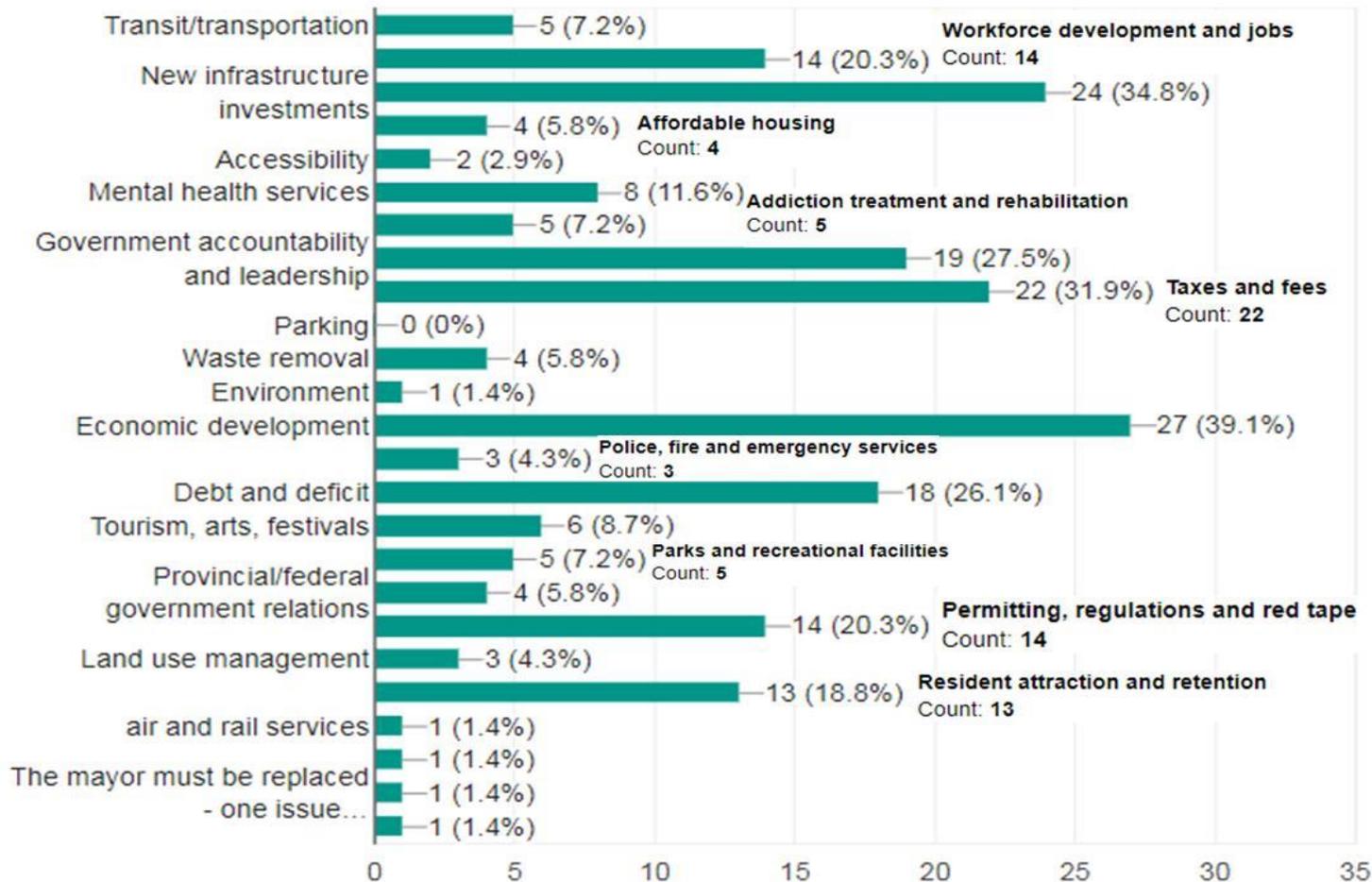
In which municipality are you registered to vote?

69 responses



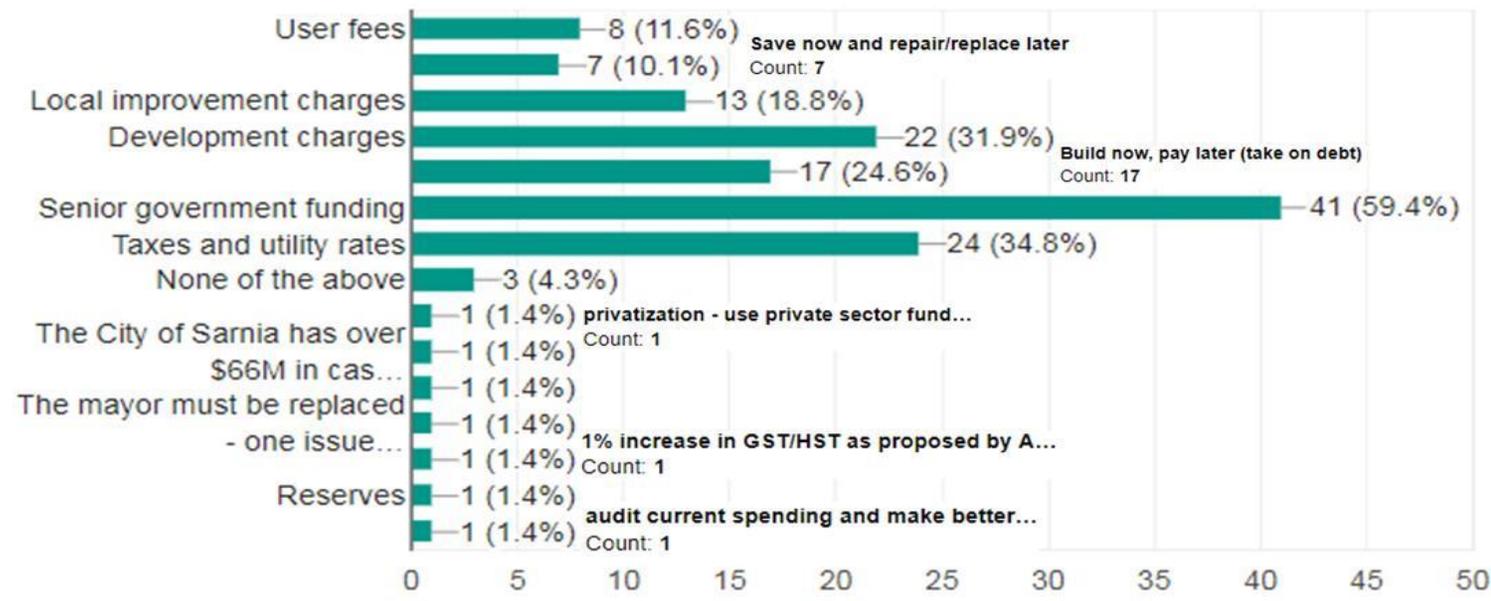
What are the top 3 issues that your elected mayor and council should address once elected?

69 responses



Municipalities across Ontario are developing financial strategies to repair and replace roads, bridges and sewers that are in poor to very poor condition. What revenue tools do you think your municipality should use to improve this infrastructure? (select as many as you want)

69 responses



What would you do to attract more business and/or industry into town and what can be done to better support existing businesses?

Recreational facilities, Taxes, Infrastructure

Introductory tax incentives to new businesses.

STOP ALL THE FIGHTING AND LET BRADLEY DO HIS JOB, ITS A HENHOUSE

Streamline government bureaucracy and red tape. more proactive approach by city/county councils to encourage small business retention.

Work with college, business and labour to create more businesses and hire more students at the college. The skills at the college and retaining them are the largest contributor to the economy. The students are at Lambton for a few years and live in town, we just have to keep them here.

Use models for attracting investment the same as other successful cities.

Improve rail and air services so they are reliable and consistent. With that in place, create a private/public partnership to develop a small/medium convention centre to attract new business and increase visibility of this great county.

ensure planning and development is not managed by the mayor at a coffee shop prior to the meeting of staff
review official plan to ensure existing zoning does not inhibit development, for example Mitton Village has been dying for a long time but some residential houses are in a business zone and therefore are limited to use of property

focus on younger generation and IT/marketing related sector i.e. tmrrw media model

A strong well connected person that will fight for us at the provincial and federal levels - for funding and grants. Bring out issues to the table. Show us a force to be seen! This will show industry that we are willing to work to get what is needed. This will bring business in! And support what we already have!!!!

Clean up our negative perception

tax and utilities incentives

Fire Mike Bradley

In some cases concessions have to be made by the city to attract businesses to move or expand here and make it attractive from a cost perspective. Is a catch 22 as businesses need workers and if you cannot find workers it is hard to attract businesses. There are a lot of people new to Canada who start businesses and have money to invest in buying businesses but they have to feel welcome to move to a community and I don't currently see this on a general basis.

We have high speed internet ,showcase that ,affordable housing

What would you do to attract more business and/or industry into town and what can be done to better support existing businesses?

improve quality of life the community provides

increased responsiveness to enquiries

drop fees and taxes to promote growth and resident population expansion

Reduce taxes, responsible spending

1. Tax incentives for big and small business,
2. Business lending at reasonable rates.
3. Do not have a repeat of the gong show that went on in our municipal government again. As a business owner and taxpayer in Sarnia, I was, and still am livid at the waste of money spent trying to resolve the drama at city hall

use social media to all of its advantages, keep everyone informed

Better local municipal gov't leadership. Less taxes, less energy costs, less labour costs.

Would be nice if the current mayor and council took time to say HELLO to new and current local businesses and show some type of support.

Support Shop Canadian strategy, redevelop downtown core as tourist destination for shopping and dining

get rid of development fees and be more user friendly

The mayor must be replaced - one issue election.

Improvement or start up grants

Reduce red tape

Timely return on permit approvals, minimize red tape.

Create the desire for new business development which would have an immediate impact on growing the Sarnia population. Increased population equals increased tax revenue. Provide some form of incentive to any new business that would add to our local work force. There could be a minimum # of employees required for the new business to qualify.

reduce taxes for small businesses (i.e., property taxes for business)

Encourage new industry- ie: technology in order to create a more intellectual community that will bring in new and different job opportunities instead of just labour and union mentality. We need a little of both to create a balance

What would you do to attract more business and/or industry into town and what can be done to better support existing businesses?

1. Market the area as a retirement destination for baby boomers in the GTA. Encourage investment in businesses catered to retirees.
2. Work with Lambton College to become the premier school/destination for nursing students, particularly as it related to geriatrics.
3. Work with Lambton College, UWO and local industry to become the premier destination for certain engineering students. We have the jobs here so we should provide more of the education here.
4. Take #1-3 and embrace our identity as both a college town and a retirement community. Wrk with local businesses to create and push this theme.

tax breaks, free or discounted office facilities

Adopt a business friendly culture that helps businesses with relocation and start up costs based upon job numbers and contributions to local economy

focus on our strengths like transportation (all modes)

control the Unions

not sure

We need to go after the business we want in Sarnia, not wait for them to maybe come to us. We need to think more progressively and welcome new ideas. Sarnia has a lot to offer and it should not be a hard sell-we are on the 400 corridor, have rail, have water and are a border crossing. Other cities near us seem to excel at growth. The question to ask is why we haven't grown.

New Leadership

Reduce red tape

Minimize the red tape. Streamline processes. Be Moreno business friendly. I work in finance and business owners and developers I deal with have altered plans to operate in surrounding municipalities because Sarnia is so difficult to deal with.

Get rid of Mike Bradley and get new blood in and this will stimulate the economy like it used to be.

The local IT connectivity infrastructure requires major improvement - depending on where you are located. Bad connectivity is a definite no-no for today's businesses.

Employers of all kinds are saying it's becoming harder to find qualified talent and business investors as the population is aging, youth are migrating to larger cities and not enough people are choosing careers in the skilled trades. What would you do to attract talent to Sarnia and retain them?

make Sarnia more appealing to the younger generation. Vibrant downtown, Water front development and recreational facilities.

Work closer with Lambton College to identify key areas and come up with sustainable strategic plan to meet employment needs of employers.

ELECT ALL NEW OFFICIALS AT CITY HALL

EASE OF TAX BURDEN TO BUSINESSES. TAXES ARE TOO HIGH HERE

In-house education programs. Good wages for those signing a 5 or 10 year commitment to stay with the company.

Figure out how to keep the international students at Lambton College in the local community

Use the internet more to advertise positions. The workforce development board indicates that employers rely too heavily on word of mouth.

Marketing and promotion - continue to support the bio industrial growth. Today's youth are environmentally conscious and Sarnia needs to make the connection with this age group about the exciting developments in the bio field. Youth want to be where it's at.

become a progressive city with younger fresh leadership. Stop doing the same things because that is all the mayor will allow. Have the courage to invoke change through dialogue, strategic alliances, informed by data and studies done to attract and retain. Our college does an excellent job of attracting the youth here. we have to have something that will keep them here. A city that is attractive to youth, like more bike lanes, free Wi-Fi downtown, music festivals, events catered to youth's likes

support young local businesses and market them on social media. people will come if they see Sarnia as business friendly

we need to keep diversifying our business. IE: Bio Fuels, what's next?

Family friendly activities. Invest in our youth. Business offer incentives and more

video campaign on TV, Social Media showing quality of life in Sarnia and financial possibilities via a skilled trade career.

Pay them more

Employers of all kinds are saying it's becoming harder to find qualified talent and business investors as the population is aging, youth are migrating to larger cities and not enough people are choosing careers in the skilled trades. What would you do to attract talent to Sarnia and retain them?

You have to make the town attractive to young people and it is not. It does not have the environment currently for them to want to move here and not to the cities. Do not find the city very inviting to newcomers and there are not a lot of events and such that would make them want to move here - night life, the arts., events more for 40 and under. City also needs to be more inviting to newcomers to Canada as this is a good way to fill jobs as well.

Show case in the Lambton school system the money to be made, send trades people into the schools in grade 10 age to recruit

develop a strategy to be more welcoming to immigrants

attract industry with attractive taxation and fee structure to support new resident influx for jobs-- look at different types of industry to attempt to insulate our economy from downturns

Jobs. There are not enough jobs.

1. Help pay for student loans in exchange for a contract term. I truly believe that once people live in the Sarnia area for a couple of years, they will remain.
2. Access to better health care. No "virtual" clinics. If you attend one, you WILL be de-rostered by your family doctor. Six hour wait times in emerg is unacceptable. We need to have Urgent Care clinics like they do in Windsor & London, just one or two would alleviate the emergency "abuse" and back log.

provide more full time work

The high schools should have the trades and the military at their career days instead of just universities and the colleges. The colleges have trade programs that are very beneficial to those who want skilled Valley jobs. A lot of the kids are not even aware of the vast opportunities in the trades fields. A lot of the companies do not support these co-operative trade programs as much as they could because they don't want to pay the wages. Even though some of the students wages are gov't paid. So they don't bring the students in as much as they could to allow them to get their "steam time" or other experience to become more marketable. The trade unions should work closely with the colleges

Hire more local and train

Promote our small town quality of life and low cost housing market

create more jobs

Advertise our great Lambton College, the quality of living here, the real estate prices and the high ethics of the people

Employers of all kinds are saying it's becoming harder to find qualified talent and business investors as the population is aging, youth are migrating to larger cities and not enough people are choosing careers in the skilled trades. What would you do to attract talent to Sarnia and retain them?

The mayor must be replaced - one issue election.

Incentive grants to purchase homes to keep them here

Offer comparable wages

Offer incentives

Support efforts to build clusters in innovative industries. Support the oversized load corridor project.

This should start within our own city first. Make High School students aware of the many local opportunities that are available to them here. What training / education would be required for these jobs and where this is available. Local business and trade would likely help support a program like this. Local business operations are often paying to bring workers into our community so if these businesses supported this type of program it would save them money in the long run.

Revitalize downtown core and other areas of interest for young people

employer incentives (hiring grants or business license reductions) to provide on-the-job training; employee incentives (receive a "hiring" bonus if you stay & contribute to our area for a minimum of 3 years).

Read above: I lived for almost 30 years in the Kitchen-Waterloo and saw the transition from manufacturing to technology. There is always room for diversified industries in a community. Sarnia needs that.

Talk more about numbers. Especially when marketing the area to post secondary students. Youth leave the area because it has a bad reputation as a boring city. Many end up coming back when they realize how good (high paying) the jobs are here. The skilled trades should make the point that they often pay higher wages than what a university degree will get you.

This is a job for SLEP - promoting of all the great reasons to locate here - and this City should be offering fantastic business incentives. If you promote it (globally) the talent will come. Sarnia-Lambton has so many reasons for good talent to locate here but they go where the businesses are that offer good jobs.

Work closely with colleges and universities with job fairs etc while working to attract new business.

Sell the quality of life in Sarnia Lambton

Make our communities very livable

Employers of all kinds are saying it's becoming harder to find qualified talent and business investors as the population is aging, youth are migrating to larger cities and not enough people are choosing careers in the skilled trades. What would you do to attract talent to Sarnia and retain them?

First we need to build the city to a place that the young want to live. They like entertainment and places to hang out. We have a beautiful waterfront that can be utilized as restaurants and hang out spaces. We need to learn a lesson from this town in Holland - <https://denhaag.com/en/scheveningen>

More productive Leadership

If you want to attract younger, qualified workers to the area, focus on creating a better quality of life for that demographic. These people are young and have families. There needs to be affordable, easy to access activities, programs and childcare for this age demographic. Kids need parks to play in, activities to keep them busy and other kids to play with. Families have vastly different priorities than the retiree community that has been traditionally focused on. There needs to be a balance between the two. If you want young people with families involved in local politics, organizations and service groups they need to meet at a time of day that this demographic is not at work.

Make it easier for those operating outdoor festivals / events (e.g., extend noise by-laws for musical events, allow beer tents, etc..). Municipality should promote more events and recreational opportunities for young adults.

Improve our social image and promote our strengths (beaches, lake, etc). Get younger people currently in Sarnia involved to assist with marketing.

Let new companies set up shop and this will bring in more people and the young people will stay. But don't let the Mayor scare them off because he wants this City to be a retirement City and does not want change.

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1. One possibility would be to attract more international students and provide internships to those students - after being successful here, they might stay.
 2. A strategy for new resident attraction could focus on families with school-age children. Parents are looking for safe environments for their children - can we provide such an environment or is the drug scene here worse than in the 'big' cities?
 3. Attraction into specific schooling can be managed by packaging the schooling with pre-arranged paid work placement.
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If you could ask the candidates only one question during this election, what would it be?

How am I supposed to think you've got good judgement when city politics is a disfunctional, low-performing, low-paying, high-bullshit mess and you're willingly venturing into it?

ARE YOU A SOCIALIST OR A CAPITALIST

CAN YOU GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE

Will you support the 'will of the people' even if it conflicts with your own personal feelings or agenda?

How will you help attract investment and create jobs

How will you attract economic investment to the City of Sarnia

Summarize your qualifications to make you a suitable candidate for this job.

will you have the courage to make change if the current mayor is re-elected and he disagrees with your thoughts or plans?

We have seen a year of inter-squabbling and have lost focus of what is necessary in the city. Are you ready to focus on Sarnia - developing and growing. And leave the pettiness at the door.

How would you raise money to repair our roads in the next 4 years

How do you intend to build on the foundation of what we have and increase our tax base?

What would Mike Bradley's position be if he worked for your company? (Answer: he would have been fired for cause.)

What do you plan to do if elected to start doing to attract new people to Sarnia to keep the economy growing?

do you understand what your role is, and what the role of staff is

will you listen to the people when questions are brought up

will you fix city hall? and what will you do to restructure Sarnia public works?

Do you have any experience?

What are you going to do about the lack of mental health care and addiction/rehab care in our city?

What would they do to encourage parents to have more children in Canada.

If you could ask the candidates only one question during this election, what would it be?

Why are you so closed minded to new people and ideas.

Will the City lead the request to Province and Feds for a community wide health study to dispel (or prove) the myths about the impact of the chemical valley

how are you going to move the City of Sarnia forward as we have not made any seriously gains in the last 25 years

WHat is your stance on helping (Children's) Mental Health?

The mayor must be replaced - one issue election.

Do you feel the legalization of Marijuana is a threat to the well being of your community?

What would you do to ease access and attract employees

What are your plans for economic growth.

How can you help our city?

What does "growing our community" mean to you and how will you achieve growth?

What is your goal as Mayor, Counsellor to better our community

Do you support pot stores in Lambton County? I do

why would I vote for you

What is your plan to address the fact that sarnia has not increased it's population in over a decade

Are they open to working with the members of the Chamber to build a better environment for ALL business

What would you do to attract investment in our area?

How are you going to make this beautiful city of ours great?

How do you plan to change Leadership?

What do you believe is the most important issue the new council will face during its term?

How will you protect public access to beaches and other current public lands for public use.

Why should I choose you?

**If you could ask the candidates only one question during this election,
what would it be?**

How will you find money to fix the roads?

How can you bring in new companies and new jobs.
