



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

HOW CITY DECISIONS AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS

A quick guide for Glebe BIA businesses — 2026 municipal election

City Hall can feel far away — until it shows up in your day. Here's where the decisions of the next Council land directly on your business.

And one thing most owners miss: whoever you elect in your ward helps decide policy for every mainstreet in Ottawa, not just theirs. A councillor votes on the whole city's budget, transit, permitting and policing — so your vote, wherever you live, shapes the street your business is on.

Your patio, your sign, your reno — permits, approvals, how long they take, and whether the rules are applied the same way twice.

The sidewalk out front — maintenance, snow clearing, lighting, whether it's a place people want to walk.

Parking and how customers reach you — parking supply and cost, transit routes, bike lanes, the roadwork that reroutes your foot traffic for a season.

Safety on your block — policing, response times, how the City handles the social challenges showing up at your door.

What you pay — commercial property taxes and assessments.

Construction — when the City tears up your street, whether anyone warned you or planned around your busy season.

None of this is abstract. Every one is a decision a councillor votes on — which is why this election is your business. **Then vote:** Monday, October 26 (or early, October 1–4). Check where candidates stand at ocobia.org.