



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CANDIDATE

A quick guide for Glebe BIA businesses — 2026 municipal election

The people elected on October 26 will spend four years making decisions that hit your business directly. You're not looking for someone who agrees with everything you think — you're looking for someone who'll be a functional partner to the business community. Here's what that looks like.

This guide is non-partisan. It's here to help you size up candidates — not to tell you who to vote for.

They understand small business — not just as a talking point. Do they know what it costs, in time and money, to open and run a business here?

They know what a BIA is — and treat it as a partner, not a nuisance. (If they don't, your BIA is happy to explain.)

They'll actually answer — vague enthusiasm is easy. Look for a straight answer about what they'd do and how.

They show up — do they know your district, or are they hearing about it for the first time from you?

They think past the ribbon-cutting — mainstreets need steady attention, not just an appearance at the summer festival.

Not sure where someone stands? Ask them directly — see Questions to Ask Your Candidates — and read the answers candidates gave OCOBIA at ocobia.org/municipal-election-hub.

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