

2018 PROVINCIAL ELECTION:

Municipal Priorities

Municipal governments own most public infrastructure and deliver critical services that we all depend on every day. And they do it with the smallest share of tax dollars.



Ask your candidate what they would do to make municipal government stronger and more affordable.



Municipal governments collect only 9% of all tax dollars

More **Affordable** Municipal Government.

Practical changes by the province would stretch our tax dollars and help municipal governments deliver many services more efficiently and affordably.

- Police and fire compensation should increase at rates that other municipal employees can relate to. This alone would save about \$100 million a year.
- Reasonable limits on municipal liability would reduce our insurance costs by about \$27 million.
- Cut out the red tape – there are dozens of reports municipalities must file that no one reads. Let's stick to reporting what matters.

Queen's Park should remove unneeded regulations and barriers, so that municipal governments can deliver services more affordably.

A Greater **Local Say** in How Services are Delivered and Funded.

- Municipal governments deliver most of the services that people in Ontario use every day.
- Local governments know their communities better than anyone, yet the Province regulates with a "one-size-fits-all" approach to what services are provided and how they are delivered. Local flexibility and control would make services more effective and affordable.
- If the province imposes any new municipal responsibilities or requirements, it must come with full, ongoing funding. If it's important to the Province, the Province must pay.

Municipal governments need a stronger voice in how municipal services are designed and delivered, with flexibility for local circumstances.

A Greater **Local Share** for Municipal Infrastructure and Services.

- Municipal governments provide essential daily services and own more than 60% of all public infrastructure.
- Municipalities face a \$4.9 billion annual gap to fund services and much needed infrastructure investments.
- Property taxes would need to increase by about 8% per year, every year for the next decade, to maintain current services and close the infrastructure gap. Revenue is a key challenge.
- After reviewing more than 40 options, the best path forward for all municipal governments is new sales tax revenue. If not this, then what else will raise \$2.5 billion annually for infrastructure?

AMO recommends a new 1% HST dedicated to funding municipal infrastructure and services, which would raise \$2.5 billion.