

Compare the Mayoral Candidates

Watch the Mayoral Debate, Owen Sound 2026

Brought to you by Andrii Zvorygin



Debate page: helpos.ca/mayor/debate

Andrii's full plan: helpos.ca/mayor/assets/flyer/andrii-zvorygin-candidate.html

How to read this comparison

This handout gives the compact public-position comparison. The online debate page provides the fuller resident-benefit, implementation, and cost/evidence details. Grey cells mean no explicit position was located. The summaries describe published positions; they are not an overall score or endorsement. Snapshot: September 27, 2026.

Resident priorities 1–2

Candidate	Homelessness, drug addiction, and downtown conditions	Property taxes and household affordability
Ray Botten	Address the drug issue and consider a drug drop box.	Reduce property taxes; a detailed budget method is not published.
Jodi King	Transitional housing on suitable empty lots with crisis support.	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Carol Merton	Housing First, wraparound supports, recovery resources, and downtown response.	Review operating and capital budgets while protecting core services.
Mike Seiler	Downtown revitalization and a public-safety scorecard; treatment details are limited.	Keep tax growth below the baseline through measured savings and public arithmetic.
Richard Thomas	Coordinate providers, police, County, and community groups with service standards.	Open budgeting, service review, and administrative efficiency proposals.
Andrii Zvorygin	Use vacant-home-tax proceeds to fund mobile meals and a civilian crisis-response pilot, while returning empty homes to use and easing housing pressure. Use a Golden Broom award to encourage shared stewardship of downtown, keep people housed, and offer voluntary recovery.	The 2027 draft budget is more than a quarter million below 2026. Software is one of its largest identified savings areas, with about one-quarter of current maintenance spending targeted for recurring reduction. Local procurement and import replacement can keep more spending and jobs here.

Green row: Andrii Zvorygin. Continue to the next resident-priority page for the rest of the comparison.

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Resident priorities 3–4

Candidate	Housing availability and security	Neighbourhood safety and follow-through
Ray Botten	No explicit Ray Botten position located in the reviewed sources.	Drug issue is a stated priority; response details are limited.
Jodi King	Reserve 10-20% of future developments for low-income families.	Supports security, police involvement, and behavioural expectations around housing.
Carol Merton	Affordable and non-profit housing through a working group and financing tools.	Safe neighbourhoods, downtown cleanliness, rapid response, and public-safety coordination.
Mike Seiler	Homes in every neighbourhood through suites and gentle density.	Safer streets and a public-safety scorecard; policing review is proposed.
Richard Thomas	Housing partnerships, development-charge tools, and affordable housing incentives.	Coordinated safety and order policy with enforcement and measurable results.
Andrii Zvorygin	Use a vacant-home tax to return empty homes to the urban housing supply, alongside attainable homes and County Affordable Rural Communities. A warm resident-owned family home with productive land is planned at about \$700/month.	Annual gatherings and Local Representatives help neighbours meet and give each Local Area a direct connection to its Ward Councillor for watches, cleanups, traffic calming, and follow-through. The 70-area plan is fully costed in the working budget.

Green row: Andrii Zvorygin. Continue to the next resident-priority page for the rest of the comparison.

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Resident priorities 5–6

Candidate	Roads, maintenance, water, and wastewater	Reliable transit and mobility
Ray Botten	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.	Mobility and senior challenges are mentioned; service details are limited.
Jodi King	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Carol Merton	Asset condition, service costs, and infrastructure decisions should be publicly reviewed.	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Mike Seiler	Pothole response, route studies, public numbers, and City-County coordination.	Route demonstrations, public route ideas, and a crossing and routing study.
Richard Thomas	Infrastructure planning, service-cost allocation, and water-rate explanations.	Transit is included in the municipal infrastructure and service platform.
Andrii Zvorygin	Show residents what drives infrastructure costs: publish service costs and repair priorities, trace wastewater contamination to find sources before damage spreads, and compare capital, rate, and levy effects before approval so Council can choose reliable, affordable work.	Stabilize current routes and Mobility Transit by auditing vehicles, publishing reliability results, and preserving service through the 2027 contract decision. Prepare City-owned, locally maintained accessible buses, then add evening service to 10 p.m. and Sunday service from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. when verified recurring funding covers it; the first year adds no property-tax cost.

Green row: Andrii Zvorygin. Continue to the next resident-priority page for the rest of the comparison.

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Resident priorities 7–8

Candidate	City Hall transparency and accountability	Local jobs, enterprise, and economic opportunity
Ray Botten	Strong-mayor authority is a stated priority; disclosure details are limited.	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Jodi King	More open governance and an end to closed-door political meetings.	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Carol Merton	Council highlights, reasons for decisions, shared costs, and tender information.	Affordable employment, business attraction, retention, arts, and tourism.
Mike Seiler	Quarterly scorecards, working documents, public arithmetic, and data stewardship.	Support downtown businesses, new founders, events, and local buying groups.
Richard Thomas	Open budgeting, an Ask the Mayor portal, and a Council Digest.	Tourism, advanced manufacturing, local business, and development incentives.
Andrii Zvorygin	Andrii created HelpOS.ca to make Owen Sound agendas, transcripts, meeting results, and local articles easier to access. As Mayor, he would bring that public-facing clarity to City Hall, while residents would have Local Representatives to turn to with questions, local concerns, and ideas, with follow-through to their City Councillor.	Use a local economic revitalization plan: publish City purchasing and repair needs, build local production and repair for import replacement, buy locally where competitive, then help successful businesses create jobs and reach export markets.

Green row: Andrii Zvorygin. Continue to the next resident-priority page for the rest of the comparison.

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Resident priorities 9–9

Candidate	Food affordability and regional resilience
Ray Botten	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Jodi King	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Carol Merton	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Mike Seiler	AgriHome Canada is a stated priority; broader food policy is limited.
Richard Thomas	No explicit position located in reviewed sources.
Andrii Zvorygin	Support regional food production, gardens, processing, and local purchasing. ARC pairs a warm resident-owned family home with sufficient productive land for household food, firewood, and a perennial food forest, at about \$700/month under current planning.

The comparison uses the same evidence rule for every candidate. The online page separates resident benefit, policy proposal, implementation method, and cost or evidence for each issue.

Transparency ■ Participation ■ Compassion

Read the full source record and submit a sourced correction at <https://helpos.ca/mayor/debate>.