2026 Municipal Election
Candidate Questionnaire Results

Muskoka Lakes

About these results. The Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee (SSMHC) invited municipal election candidates to state their positions on issues affecting the future of hospital care in South Muskoka. Candidate responses are presented to help residents understand where candidates stand. Written comments are reproduced as submitted; SSMHC has not interpreted or paraphrased candidates' positions.

At-a-glance key: Yes • No • Undecided / Need more information • Written response. "Written response" means the candidate supplied a narrative response rather than selecting one of the offered response choices. See the candidate's detailed response for their complete wording.

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Candidates Who Did Not Submit a Response

The following candidates were invited to complete the SSMHC 2026 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire but did not submit a completed questionnaire or written statement by the stated deadline.

Muskoka Lakes

Office	Candidate
Mayor	**Peter Kelley**
Ward A / Ward 1 Councillor	**Leslie Orchard**
Ward A / Ward 1 Councillor	**Mary Ellen McIntyre**
Ward A / Ward 1 District & Township Councillor	**Ruth Nishikawa**
Ward A / Ward 1 District & Township Councillor	**Glenn Zavitz**
Ward B / Ward 2 Councillor	**Gordon Roberts**
Ward B / Ward 2 Councillor	**Mitchell Shea**
Ward B / Ward 2 District & Township Councillor	**Susan Mazan**
Ward C / Ward 3 Councillor	**Rob Bosomworth**
Ward C / Ward 3 Councillor	**David Skoric**
Ward C / Ward 3 Councillor	**Pam Jeffery**
Ward C / Ward 3 Councillor	**Sally Moyer Kent**
Ward C / Ward 3 Councillor	**Tanner McNabb**
Ward C / Ward 3 District & Township Councillor	**Guy Burry**
Ward C / Ward 3 District & Township Councillor	**Barb Bridgeman**

At-a-Glance

Municipal / Ward Council

Issue	Allen Edwards Ward B	Jeff Bird Ward A	Rick Flannigan Ward A
1. Equitable access	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. Minimum 60 acute-care beds	Yes	Yes	Undecided / Need more information
3. Local acute-care services	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Equitable ALC resources	Yes	No	Yes
5a. Fully functioning obstetrics	Yes	Yes	Yes
5b. Obstetrics affects support	Undecided / Need more information	Yes	Yes
6. Population & seasonal demand	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. Transparency & disclosure	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Pine Street site demonstrated	Undecided / Need more information	No	Undecided / Need more information
9. Municipal funding if plan inadequate	Undecided / Need more information	Yes	Yes
10a. Active municipal advocacy	Yes	Yes	Yes
10b. Support municipal resolutions	Yes	Yes	Yes
11. Current MAHC model adequate/equitable	No	No	No

Detailed Candidate Responses

Candidates are grouped by office sought. Responses below are reproduced from the submitted questionnaire. Email addresses, timestamps and the candidate declaration are not included in this public presentation.

Municipal / Ward Council

Allen Edwards

Towmship Councillor Ward B | Ward: Ward B

1. Equitable Access to Hospital Care

Do you believe residents of South Muskoka should have equitable access to acute hospital care comparable to residents elsewhere in Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Both Bracebridge and Huntsville are growing we need equal care.

2. South Muskoka's Future Acute-Care Capacity

Do you support advocating for a minimum of 60 acute-care beds at the future South Muskoka hospital to better address current utilization, projected population growth, seasonal demand and future healthcare needs?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

I have been asking at the District for equal beds for both hospitals

3. Access to Hospital Services Close to Home

Do you believe the future hospital model should provide South Muskoka residents with appropriate acute-care services locally and minimize routine transfers to Huntsville that occur because of limitations in South Muskoka's capacity or allocation of services?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Local access to health care is important. Just the extra time and cost of gas to visit a patient is not being considered.

4. Transitional / Alternate Level of Care (ALC)

Do you support an equitable allocation of transitional and Alternate Level of Care (ALC) resources between the two hospital communities rather than concentrating these resources at one site?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

As explained above. Just the inconvenience to the patients and their families causes stress.

5. Obstetrical Care

Do you support maintaining a fully functioning obstetrical service at the future South Muskoka hospital so that South Muskoka families are not routinely required to travel elsewhere for maternity care?

Selection: Yes

Would the absence of a fully functioning obstetrical service at the future South Muskoka hospital affect your support for the proposed redevelopment model?

Selection: Undecided / Need more information

Candidate comments:

Obstetrical care should be at both hospitals

6. Population Growth and Seasonal Demand

Do you believe the capacity of the future South Muskoka hospital should account for projected permanent population growth, Muskoka's aging population, significant seasonal population increases and anticipated future healthcare demand?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Of course

7. Transparency and Public Accountability

Do you believe MAHC should publicly disclose the information, assumptions and supporting evidence used to make major decisions regarding hospital capacity, allocation of services between the two sites, site-development requirements and costs, and projected patient transfers — and provide meaningful opportunities for public questions and input before major decisions are finalized?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

All the studies

8. Pine Street Site and Future Expansion

Do you believe MAHC has adequately demonstrated that the selected Pine Street site can accommodate the proposed hospital, necessary site-development requirements and reasonable future expansion in a financially responsible manner?

Selection: Undecided / Need more information

9. Municipal Taxpayer Funding

Would you support committing municipal taxpayer funding to the hospital redevelopment if you were not satisfied that the final plan provides adequate and equitable acute-care capacity and services for South Muskoka?

Selection: Undecided / Need more information

Candidate comments:

The District has already allocated substantial funds of taxpayer dollars. I would need more information

10. Municipal Advocacy & Action

If elected, will you actively advocate throughout your term to MAHC, the District Municipality of Muskoka and the Province of Ontario for a hospital redevelopment model that provides equitable access to acute hospital care for South Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Would you support municipal resolutions, where appropriate, calling upon MAHC and/or the Province of Ontario to address concerns regarding the hospital redevelopment model?

Selection: Yes

Candidate response / actions:

Support resolutions to the Health Ministry

Support fund raising

Keep attending meetings with the hospital board.

11. Do You Support the Current MAHC Redevelopment Model?

Based on the information currently available to you, do you believe the proposed MAHC redevelopment model provides adequate and equitable access to hospital care for South Muskoka residents?

Selection: No

Candidate comments:

Bracebridge is expanding therefore more beds are required.

My record will show that I support Health care.
Along with my wife, we secured over 13 acres for the Brock & Willa Wellness Centre and raised over 2 million dollars to build the Harry Debes Health Hub.
Andy's House/Hospice Muskoka is also located on the same property.

If you would like a further explanation, please call me at 705-769-2214.

Allen Edwards

Jeff Bird

Municipal Councillor | Ward: A

1. Equitable Access to Hospital Care

Do you believe residents of South Muskoka should have equitable access to acute hospital care comparable to residents elsewhere in Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

I believe that the residents of South Muskoka should have close access to an emergency room in the event that life threatening emergencies, sudden illness or major traumas happen.

2. South Muskoka's Future Acute-Care Capacity

Do you support advocating for a minimum of 60 acute-care beds at the future South Muskoka hospital to better address current utilization, projected population growth, seasonal demand and future healthcare needs?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

At least 60 beds or more depending on local need.

3. Access to Hospital Services Close to Home

Do you believe the future hospital model should provide South Muskoka residents with appropriate acute-care services locally and minimize routine transfers to Huntsville that occur because of limitations in South Muskoka's capacity or allocation of services?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Local service is critical to effective healthcare. Transportation to Huntsville is not in the best interest of local residents.

4. Transitional / Alternate Level of Care (ALC)

Do you support an equitable allocation of transitional and Alternate Level of Care (ALC) resources between the two hospital communities rather than concentrating these resources at one site?

Selection: No

Candidate comments:

The optimal solution is to have critical care locally in South Muskoka.

5. Obstetrical Care

Do you support maintaining a fully functioning obstetrical service at the future South Muskoka hospital so that South Muskoka families are not routinely required to travel elsewhere for maternity care?

Selection: Yes

Would the absence of a fully functioning obstetrical service at the future South Muskoka hospital affect your support for the proposed redevelopment model?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Obstetrical care in South Muskoka is critical to serving the local population effectively.

6. Population Growth and Seasonal Demand

Do you believe the capacity of the future South Muskoka hospital should account for projected permanent population growth, Muskoka's aging population, significant seasonal population increases and anticipated future healthcare demand?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Lives are at risk if we do not plan to serve these populations and increases.

7. Transparency and Public Accountability

Do you believe MAHC should publicly disclose the information, assumptions and supporting evidence used to make major decisions regarding hospital capacity, allocation of services between the two sites, site-development requirements and costs, and projected patient transfers — and provide meaningful opportunities for public questions and input before major decisions are finalized?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Public disclosure and consultation is critical to effective decision making.

8. Pine Street Site and Future Expansion

Do you believe MAHC has adequately demonstrated that the selected Pine Street site can accommodate the proposed hospital, necessary site-development requirements and reasonable future expansion in a financially responsible manner?

Selection: No

Candidate comments:

At 45 acres, the proposed site seems too small for future development. 60 to 80 acres seems more appropriate to me.

9. Municipal Taxpayer Funding

Would you support committing municipal taxpayer funding to the hospital redevelopment if you were not satisfied that the final plan provides adequate and equitable acute-care capacity and services for South Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

South Muskoka needs proper healthcare. If the Province is unwilling to pay for it, other sources of funding must be explored.

10. Municipal Advocacy & Action

If elected, will you actively advocate throughout your term to MAHC, the District Municipality of Muskoka and the Province of Ontario for a hospital redevelopment model that provides equitable access to acute hospital care for South Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Would you support municipal resolutions, where appropriate, calling upon MAHC and/or the Province of Ontario to address concerns regarding the hospital redevelopment model?

Selection: Yes

Candidate response / actions:

Solicit private donations from high net worth individuals who may want their name on the hospital.

Lobby the Provincial government for additional funding.

Creat a Muskoka lottery to generate funds.

11. Do You Support the Current MAHC Redevelopment Model?

Based on the information currently available to you, do you believe the proposed MAHC redevelopment model provides adequate and equitable access to hospital care for South Muskoka residents?

Selection: No

Candidate comments:

Transporting patients to Huntsville is a poor solution for South Muskoka residents.

Rick Flannigan

Township Councillor | Ward: A

1. Equitable Access to Hospital Care

Do you believe residents of South Muskoka should have equitable access to acute hospital care comparable to residents elsewhere in Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Anything less than full service is criminal

2. South Muskoka's Future Acute-Care Capacity

Do you support advocating for a minimum of 60 acute-care beds at the future South Muskoka hospital to better address current utilization, projected population growth, seasonal demand and future healthcare needs?

Selection: Undecided / Need more information

Candidate comments:

Minimum 60

3. Access to Hospital Services Close to Home

Do you believe the future hospital model should provide South Muskoka residents with appropriate acute-care services locally and minimize routine transfers to Huntsville that occur because of limitations in South Muskoka's capacity or allocation of services?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Local access only

4. Transitional / Alternate Level of Care (ALC)

Do you support an equitable allocation of transitional and Alternate Level of Care (ALC) resources between the two hospital communities rather than concentrating these resources at one site?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Two sites only

5. Obstetrical Care

Do you support maintaining a fully functioning obstetrical service at the future South Muskoka hospital so that South Muskoka families are not routinely required to travel elsewhere for maternity care?

Selection: Yes

Would the absence of a fully functioning obstetrical service at the future South Muskoka hospital affect your support for the proposed redevelopment model?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

It's a question of safety for mother and child

6. Population Growth and Seasonal Demand

Do you believe the capacity of the future South Muskoka hospital should account for projected permanent population growth, Muskoka's aging population, significant seasonal population increases and anticipated future healthcare demand?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

78% of the population in Muskoka over the summer months is Seasonal Residents. Will they want full services or travel to Huntsville? Easy answer is full service

7. Transparency and Public Accountability

Do you believe MAHC should publicly disclose the information, assumptions and supporting evidence used to make major decisions regarding hospital capacity, allocation of services between the two sites, site-development requirements and costs, and projected patient transfers — and provide meaningful opportunities for public questions and input before major decisions are finalized?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

Funding model

8. Pine Street Site and Future Expansion

Do you believe MAHC has adequately demonstrated that the selected Pine Street site can accommodate the proposed hospital, necessary site-development requirements and reasonable future expansion in a financially responsible manner?

Selection: Undecided / Need more information

Candidate comments:

Haven't seen full proposal

9. Municipal Taxpayer Funding

Would you support committing municipal taxpayer funding to the hospital redevelopment if you were not satisfied that the final plan provides adequate and equitable acute-care capacity and services for South Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Candidate comments:

We need full healthcare model for two hospitals

10. Municipal Advocacy & Action

If elected, will you actively advocate throughout your term to MAHC, the District Municipality of Muskoka and the Province of Ontario for a hospital redevelopment model that provides equitable access to acute hospital care for South Muskoka?

Selection: Yes

Would you support municipal resolutions, where appropriate, calling upon MAHC and/or the Province of Ontario to address concerns regarding the hospital redevelopment model?

Selection: Yes

Candidate response / actions:

Complete a full funding for two hospitals

Complete and full funding

Complete and full funding

11. Do You Support the Current MAHC Redevelopment Model?

Based on the information currently available to you, do you believe the proposed MAHC redevelopment model provides adequate and equitable access to hospital care for South Muskoka residents?

Selection: No

Candidate comments:

Two full functioning hospitals is only solution