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Questions for all Ward 7 candidates of the upcoming by-election:

1. In 2017 the City of Windsor passed its [Community Energy Plan](#) committing to a 40% reduction in 2014 emission levels by 2041. In November 2019 it passed unanimously the [Climate Change Emergency Declaration](#) and in May 2020 the report on [Acceleration of Climate Change Actions in response to the Climate Change Emergency](#) (see page 503 at link), was passed unanimously by Windsor City Council. Which, if any, of these documents have you read?

**I have looked at these documents while creating my platform on climate change: <https://michellegajewski.ca/climate-change>
I am the only candidate to have climate change outright in my platform.**

2. How do you intend to ensure the City's effort remains on climate mitigation in addition to climate change adaptation? For example, although continuing to address the flooding in Ward 7 would be a beneficial climate change adaptation response, how will you work to ensure the City also takes sufficient measures to reduce emissions, and in a way that benefits all residents?

I like to discuss with residents, community groups, and experts on coming up with effective solutions that suit our own community needs. While flood mitigation is a major topic, especially for Ward 7, the City of Windsor also developed a Community Energy Plan to help meet Provincial targets in reducing emissions. Windsor currently uses 35% more energy per household than the Ontario average. Not only does this contribute to emissions, but it will financially cost us. Implementing energy efficient mechanisms is needed to not only help the environment, but to also reduce costs for residents in the long run.

3. If you are elected as Councillor for Ward 7, where will the necessity for climate mitigation action rank in your priorities when it comes to the City's budget decisions? What is your position on allocating funds in the 2021 and future budgets to address climate mitigation (i.e. reduction of emissions) in Windsor-Essex?

The reason that my platform includes climate change and not simply flood mitigation (one of the top issues facing Ward 7 residents) is because

flooding is one of the biggest risks our city faces due to climate change. We need to address the problem holistically, rather than putting temporary band-aids on it.

4. What do you think about the idea of a [carbon budget](#) for the City of Windsor?

I think it is a useful metric to keep track of to see how successful we are at reducing emissions and to spur action to keep us going in the right direction.

5. Urban sprawl has been called "[Ontario's oil sands](#)". If elected, how would you ensure that the City of Windsor makes climate-friendly urban planning decisions?

I think its important to work with city planners, engineers, and look at what is working (or not working) in other urban centres across the world to ensure we are making sound urban planning decisions.

6. What are your ideas on how the City of Windsor can work with the County of Essex, surrounding municipalities and the City of Detroit in order to actualize climate mitigation action?

Not only should we be working together with neighbouring municipalities to develop attainable solutions, but all levels of government need to be supporting policies and mandates to actualize climate mitigation action. This includes proper investments and funding from upper levels of government for municipalities to invest in green initiatives.

7. Climate action is a priority for many youth voters. Why should young voters come out and vote for you?

I am the only candidate to include climate change outright in my platform. I am also considered to be a young candidate (being 30 years old). It is time for the next generation to reach our full potential as leaders, volunteers, and be strong, contributing members of our communities.