

**MCMASTER STUDENTS UNION
WARD 1 CANDIDATE PROFILE
LYLA MIKLOS
FALL 2018**

1. What inspired you to run for City Council this year?

Two words: Aidan Johnson. I am a long-time activist in Hamilton's LGBTQI2S+ Community. When Aidan became our very first out member of the LGBTQI2S+ community elected to City Council he not only inspired me, but citizens across the City of Hamilton. His spearheading of the city's trans protocols along with other progressive policies made him an exemplary elected official. I will miss Aidan's presence at City Hall and wish he had continued on as our Ward 1 Councillor. I wish him all the best with his newest life adventure as the Executive Director of Niagara's Legal Aid Clinic.

2. If elected, how do you envision the relationship between the McMaster students and Ward 1 during your term?

I would like there to be a vibrant and robust relationship between City Council and McMaster students moving forward. Our McMaster student population will go on to be our leaders of the future. We need to ensure they are a part of the decisions that will impact their future and their present. We also need to hear new ideas and perspectives. I'd like to have an ongoing dialogue with McMaster students. I envision regular town halls that will take place in the McMaster community so there is true face to face engagement between students and their elected officials

3. The HSR has seen various issues over the past few years and students don't feel like they can rely on public transit. What are your plans to ensure everyone in ward 1 is given access to reliable and safe public transit?

I am a non-driver and rely on public transit to get me to the spaces and places where I live, work and play. This is an issue that is very near and dear to me. I used to work at Westdale Secondary School when I was living in Hamilton's East End. The daily reality of students from Westdale SS, Columbia College, McMaster University, and St. Mary's CSS all fighting for real estate on the B Line Bus to and from school painted a very painful picture. I see the LRT as being a partial solution to some of these congestion issues, but we also need more buses on more routes running at all hours. There are far too many parts of our city that are inaccessible

to transit riders, which creates far too many barriers. A truly world class city has a public transit system that is the envy of everyone around them. I want the HSR to be so fun and easy to use that car owners would prefer to take the HSR and leave their cars in their driveways to get around our city.

4. The status of the LRT is up in the air and the decision to either continue with the project or go in a different direction depends on the incoming City Council. What is your stance on the LRT?

I support the current LRT plan that the City has already received a funding commitment from the Province to move forward with.

5. Many students have reported unsafe living conditions in their student houses across Ward 1. What are your plans to ensure that houses are being adequately maintained and that predatory and absentee landlords are being held accountable?

I would like to see an education piece for all McMaster students who live in off campus housing, so they know their rights as tenants. A community booth supported by The City on campus for any students who live off campus to find answers to questions. Similar to the services offered by the Housing Help Centre. I'd also like to see an information pamphlet given out during orientation week along with ongoing information at reoccurring town halls with the student population. There also needs to be bylaw enforcement to ensure that rental properties are being maintained as required by law.

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