
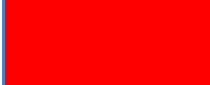





# Candidate Kelly Elliott

## Thames Centre – Councillor – Ward 1

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### 1. How would you define poverty? Please select all that apply.

Response	Chart	Count
Lacking the resources to meet one's physical needs for survival (e.g., lacking shelter, food and clothing)		1
Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community		1
Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient		0
I don't know		0
Other (please specify)		0

### 2. What do you think are the 3 most important actions County Council can take to help reduce poverty in Middlesex County?

The actions that a County Council can take to reduce poverty are as follows:

1. Create a round table discussion with members of our communities, health unit and council to address poverty issues that are occurring in our community to create a strategy that is specific to the needs of our communities.
2. Create a poverty strategy that consists of setting policies that relating to affordable housing, child care/development, education and income security.
3. Begin to implement the strategies that are prioritized for best outcomes specific to our community.

**3. In your opinion, rate each of the following on their responsibility to reduce poverty. Please select one response for each item below.**

	No Responsibility	Some Responsibility	A Lot of Responsibility	Don't Know
Charitable Organizations and Not-for-Profits	0	0	1	0
General Public NOT Living in Poverty	0	1	0	0
General Public Living in Poverty	0	1	0	0
Private Business	0	1	0	0
Municipal Government	0	0	1	0
Provincial Government	0	0	1	0
Federal Government	0	0	1	0

**4. Based on the review of the evidence, there are a number of different roles municipal government could play in poverty reduction. Read each of the statements below and state whether or not you think Middlesex County Council should play that role.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Attractor of new businesses to Middlesex County, including tax incentives and programs and policies that support new business growth	1	0	0
Connector of organizations and partners from various sectors to work together on poverty reduction	1	0	0
Exemplary employer, including implementing employment practices that reduce poverty and providing a living wage to internal staff and outsourced services	1	0	0
Investor in community programs and processes that support poverty reduction	1	0	0
Leader and champion for community based poverty reduction initiatives, including raising community awareness about poverty and advocating to the federal and provincial levels of government	1	0	0
Provider of services that support local business development, job skills and training	1	0	0
Provider of social services that help reduce poverty, such as child care, social assistance, arts and recreation	1	0	0

**5. Based on the review of the evidence, municipal governments across Canada are taking various steps to assist in poverty reduction including:**

**Affordable housing strategies which identify the ways in which the municipality will assist with housing affordability**

**Affordable transit programs and services to increase residents' ability to participate in employment, attend important medical and other appointments, and participate fully in community life**

**Affordable library services to support literacy, skill building and access to technology**

**Food charters to provide statements of values, principles, and priorities that guide municipal food related planning, policy, and programs**

**Food policy councils to support a variety of community food initiatives and promote a healthy sustainable and accessible food system for all**

**Housing First Policy, an approach to ending homelessness that involves giving people direct access to permanent housing, along with the services they need and want to maintain it**

**Sports, recreation and other leisure activity access to promote inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being**

**Free income tax clinics to help residents access the tax credits available to them**

**a) If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following public policies and programs in Middlesex County? Please select one response for each item below.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Affordable housing strategy	1	0	0
Affordable library services	1	0	0
Affordable transit programs and services	0	0	1
Food charter	0	0	1
Food policy council	0	0	1
Housing First Policy	1	0	0
Discounted supplies for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs	1	0	0
Discounted registration/admission for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs	1	0	0
Free income tax clinics	0	0	1

**b) Please list below any other public policies or programs related to poverty reduction that you would support in Middlesex County.**

There are no responses to this question.

**6. Investments in affordable housing can translate into long term savings because people may be healthier, more ready for employment and better able to handle other challenges in their lives. How do you think Middlesex County Council should support the development of affordable, supportive and/or co-operative housing?**

If affordable housing was an issue that Middlesex County addressed as a key issue in a poverty reduction strategy, there are programs that as a county council we could look at implementing for affordable housing for families in need. Such programs that could be looked are building grants and/or rent supplementations. As well, financing for the purchase of first homes is something else that could be addressed.

**7. Nutrition-related diseases (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers) cost Middlesex County and Ontario millions of dollars annually. Low income residents can't afford to eat a healthy diet, once housing and other essential bills are paid. What do you think Middlesex County Council could do to increase access to and availability of healthy foods?**

Nutrition related diseases are a huge concern and cost residents substantial amounts of funds via taxes. There are several programs that Middlesex County can look at such as mobile food banks, community food gardens, farmers market food banks and more importantly, dietitian services for at risk residents to assist in learning how to prepare more nutritional meals.

**8. Children in low-income families have significantly more psychosocial difficulties than other children, including more mental and physical health problems, academic troubles and behavioural issues. Quality early childhood interventions have been shown to improve performance in school, lessen the learning risks associated with low income and enhance parents' childrearing and coping skills.**

**a) If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following initiatives in Middlesex County? Please select one response for each item below.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Advocacy to the Provincial and Federal levels of government for the development of supportive public policy	1	0	0
Educating parents/caregivers about available subsidies and programs (e.g., tax benefits, Canada Learning Bond)	1	0	0
Financial assistance for child care	0	0	1
Funding of community programs and services that support early child development	1	0	0
Leading and/or participating in the development of a community plan for children and youth	1	0	0
Providing centralized intake to licensed child care centres	0	0	1

**b) Please list below any other initiatives related to early childhood that you would support in Middlesex County.**

I have seen it in our community, child care (and more importantly, affordable child care) is a huge concern but I don't believe this falls only on county council's shoulders. This is an issue I strongly believe that we have to coordinate with all levels of government to properly address.

**9. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Please provide any additional comments, opinions or ideas that you would like to share.**

Although our rural communities do not see poverty as an issue as we see in larger urban areas, it is still a concern that County Councils need to look at so we are properly addressing the concerns of all of our residents. If elected, I look forward to working more with the Middlesex London Health Unit, our residents and Middlesex County Council to address the concerns of poverty reduction.