Dear Mayoral Candidates,

As a Cambridge resident, property owner, and organizer of a rapidly growing coalition of Cambridge voters, I am writing to ask for your clear position on an urgent affordability issue that will be a deciding factor for many voters in the October 26 municipal election.

Our household, alongside hundreds of residents who have signed our online petition, has experienced significant increases in municipal costs. In some cases, residents are seeing increases of as much as 10.3% year over year when their 2026 property tax assessment is combined with separate municipal utility charges.

A significant concern for our coalition is the City's decision to move stormwater management funding out of the general property tax levy and into a separate user-fee system. Residents were told that this transition would be revenue-neutral. Yet many property owners are now facing substantially higher combined municipal costs.

We believe stormwater management is essential public infrastructure and a public good—not an optional individual service. Funding it through a separate utility charge also raises serious questions about equity.

For example:

- Residents in older areas of Galt, Preston, and Hespeler can be charged stormwater fees even where their immediate blocks have no physical storm sewers or catch basins.
- Property owners whose lands are subject to GRCA floodplain restrictions may face permanent limitations on development while still being charged the same stormwater-related fees.
- The separate fee places the financial burden on individual properties in a way that does not necessarily correspond to the infrastructure or services immediately available to those properties.

We do not charge residents separately for snow removal based on the physical dimensions of their street, nor do we fund public education according to the number of children living in each household. Essential municipal infrastructure is generally funded collectively because it serves the community as a whole.

Accordingly, we are asking every mayoral candidate the following direct question:

If elected Mayor, will you commit to introducing a motion during the next term of Council to abolish the separate stormwater utility fee and return stormwater management funding entirely to the general property tax levy?

We are asking candidates to provide a clear **yes or no** position, along with any conditions or qualifications they believe are necessary.

Our coalition is actively organizing to make this a central issue during the campaign, at upcoming all-candidates debates, and through formal delegations to Council. We intend to share the responses we receive with Cambridge voters so they can make an informed decision on October 26.
We look forward to your public position on whether you support restoring stormwater funding to the general property tax levy and establishing a more equitable approach to funding this essential municipal infrastructure.

Sincerely,
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