

Ward 11 - University-Rosedale

Responding Candidates:

[Alice Li](#)

[Gian Pileri](#)

[Paul Viret](#)

Alice Li

Questions

Responses

1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy

Mildly agree

2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.

Strongly agree
These measures should be proportionately balanced with accessibility, park use, and the needs of responsible dog owners. While understanding the immediate need for this, it would also be beneficial to focus on long-term solutions and long-term goals.

3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.

Strongly disagree

4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.

Mildly agree
By-law patrols and ticketing can be a part of a balanced approach, rather than a blanket and arbitrary escalation. Education and public awareness should come first, with enforcement where needed.

5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.

Neither agree nor disagree
I support effective tools and solutions, which can include by-law enforcement, but any expansion of authority should operate within legal and accountability frameworks with clear rules and oversight.

6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?

I understand this issue from much personal experience and I recognize how important it is to residents. As a future Councillor, I am prepared to work collaboratively with the community and city staff to improve off-leash areas in practical ways. That includes supporting the city's 202OLA, maintenance, safe and accessible designs, clear rules, public education, awareness initiatives, and continuously monitoring outcomes. I am prepared to listen to local residents and work with them directly on both short-term and long-term

	planning for a balanced and inclusive approach.
7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	As Councillor, how would you address any discrepancy by working directly with the community and staff to review how effective current resources and enforcement approaches have been. With any initiative, it is important to set clear, measurable performance metrics. When the evidence identifies gaps, I'd support through the City's budgeting process so that allocation can be re-evaluated in a responsible manner that considers resident input. As a CPA, CA with a background in finance, audit, and accounting, I would apply those skills to carefully review the budgeting process and aim for fiscal accountability.
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	As City Councillor, dog licensing is very important and it supports responsible pet ownership while helping fund services. Efforts to improve licensing rates need to be practical, such as easier online renewals, community outreach, public education, and implementing positive incentives before punitive measures. Awareness campaigns can be very effective in today's media and even remind everyone that proper licensing and identification can even help reunite a lost dog with its owner. Strategic public outreach is key to connecting with people and sparking action.

Gian Pileri	
Questions	Responses
1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy	Strongly agree I would advocate for a clear implementation timetable, adequate resources and public progress reports on the directions Council has adopted. That includes maintaining and improving designated off-leash areas, protecting sensitive natural spaces and consistently enforcing the rules. Residents should be able to see what has been completed, what remains outstanding and when they can expect action. Following through on commitments is central to the proactive City Hall I want to help build.
2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.	Strongly agree I value parks where dogs can exercise safely and everyone can feel comfortable. I support appropriate fencing and consistent enforcement where needed to protect wildlife, vegetation and other park users. Fencing should suit the location, protect sensitive habitats and preserve accessible routes. This should go alongside well-maintained, appropriately located off-leash areas that give dog owners practical places to exercise their dogs responsibly.
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Strongly disagree Education is necessary, but it needs to be backed by consistent enforcement. Clear signs and accessible information help people understand their responsibilities. When people disregard the rules, there must be meaningful consequences, particularly where their actions put people, other dogs or wildlife at risk. Residents should be able to rely on the City to address recurring problems without having to confront other park users themselves.
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Strongly agree I support increased, targeted patrols and appropriate ticketing for dogs off leash outside designated areas. Patrols should take place when and where problems occur, with sustained follow-up at locations with recurring violations.

	Enforcement should be fair, proportionate and supported by sufficient staffing. I would seek public reporting on whether these measures improve compliance and safety, alongside the number of patrols and tickets issued.
5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.	Mildly agree I support giving bylaw officers the lawful authority and practical tools needed to enforce the rules, including addressing situations where a person refuses to identify themselves during a valid enforcement interaction. I would support a carefully defined special constable model where a legal and operational review demonstrates that it would address this problem effectively. Any additional powers must come with appropriate training, clear limits, accountability and a transparent complaints process. I would also expect the costs and expected benefits to be explained publicly.
6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	I would work with City staff, dog owners and other park users to identify problems in off-leash areas and establish priorities for improvements. These should include secure fencing and gates, accessible entrances, suitable surfaces and drainage, regularly emptied waste bins, and shade and drinking water where feasible. Clear signs should explain boundaries, owner responsibilities and where dogs must be leashed before leaving. I would also support separate spaces for smaller dogs where space and demand justify them. Regular inspections, timely repairs and consistent enforcement should support these improvements. Residents should have a straightforward way to report problems and receive updates. As someone with two dogs, I want these spaces to be safe, welcoming and well maintained, while respecting neighbouring residents, other park users and wildlife.
7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As	Enforcement must be planned and funded alongside the construction and upkeep of off-leash areas. In my first budget process, I would ask for a clear account of existing enforcement resources and a costed plan to address gaps, then advocate for dedicated, recurring funding to deliver it. That plan should provide regular patrols at the times and locations where violations occur, including parkland beside designated off-leash areas and environmentally sensitive spaces. It should include appropriate ticketing and sustained follow-up where problems persist.

Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	I would seek public reporting on staffing, patrol coverage, enforcement actions and improvements in compliance. Residents deserve to know whether Council's directions are being implemented and whether spending is making parks safer and protecting natural areas.
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	Dog licensing is an important part of responsible ownership. It helps reunite lost dogs with their owners, supports animal services and provides information that can help the City plan. I would support clearer information about what licence fees fund, easier registration and renewal, and effective reminders. Partnerships with veterinarians, shelters, pet businesses and community organizations could help reach owners during everyday interactions. Registration assistance at community events and parks could also make compliance more convenient. Affordability and accessibility matter. I would support fee assistance for residents who need it, alongside consistent licence checks during appropriate bylaw enforcement interactions. I would also seek annual reporting on registrations, renewals and revenue, and examine how additional revenue could support responsible park use while protecting funding for shelters and essential animal care.

Paul Viret	
Questions	Responses
1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy	Strongly agree As a whole I don't think this city is doing nearly enough to enforce this or most other bylaws.
2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.	Mildly agree I'm not a dog owner myself, so I only have so much experience here, but I feel the fencing around off leash areas is good. Please let me know how I'm wrong. Enforcement on the other hand, needs to be stronger.
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Mildly disagree Some people won't think beyond themselves. There still needs to be some penalties, not just education.
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Strongly agree I feel there should be more patrols and ticketing in general, not just for off-leash activity.
5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.	Mildly agree
6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	I'm not a dog owner so forgive me if this already exists. Some toys, fixed to the ground for the dogs to get excited for about. I'm picturing a shaft coming out of the ground with a large ball on top of it, large enough the no dog can get their mouths over it. The shaft will bend and move around when over a dog tries to bite it. If this is already a thing, or just sounds absurd please let me know.

7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	Badger them. Phone calls, emails or even worse in person chats. essentially, annoying them into action. If you think that's too small to make a difference try sleeping with a mosquito in your room.
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	I think they're important for a few reasons. They are a good source of money for the city , they can help find lost dogs, and they help keep track of who is responsible for what animal. A good way to improve this would be smaller fees on the licenses and the people who sell the dogs must be able to prove that they have given the licensing information to the people they are selling to.