

## **Ward 22 - Scarborough-Agincourt**

Responding Candidates:

[Jackson Ho](#)

[Serge Khatchadourian](#)

[Rakhee Kotecha](#)

Jackson Ho

**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 disagree

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 disagree

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

Mildly disagree

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

Mildly agree

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?

As a future Councillor, I would work to make off-leash areas safer, cleaner, and better designed so dog owners are more likely to use them responsibly.

I also believe enforcement should be balanced with education. Most dog owners want to follow the rules when those rules are clear and the facilities are designed properly. At the same time, repeated irresponsible behaviour should be addressed so that off-leash areas remain safe and welcoming for everyone.

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| <p>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)</p>                                             | <p>As Councillor, I have to see the budget before making any commitment. It would be nice to allocate more money on enforcement as long as it doesn't affect other services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>Yes, I believe every dog owner should have a licence for their pet. However, I don't think lowering the fee would make much of a difference, since the cost is already relatively low. Instead, I think the City should focus on raising awareness through social media campaigns, community outreach, and better communication so more pet owners understand why licensing is important and how easy it is to register their dogs.</p> |

## Serge Khatchadourian

| Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Responses                                                                                                                                           |
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| 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<br>Municipal Licensing Standards operations should have this included in their portfolio with adequate staffing and resources.       |
| 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<br>I am not sure how and what the costs would be. However, I believe we should have dog park areas segregated from other green spaces. |
| 3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.                                                                                                                | Strongly disagree<br>Education without enforcement and fines need to send a message.                                                                |
| 4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.                                                                                                             | Strongly agree<br>Yes per my comments in #above.                                                                                                    |
| 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. | Strongly agree<br>The past approaches or lack thereof have not changed behaviour that is required.                                                  |
| 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?                                               | Obviously, signage warnings.                                                                                                                        |

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| <p>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)</p>                                             | <p>Fines to go back into the enforcement program. Review budget considerations for this.</p>            |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>I support this. Licensing needs to be reasonable. Say for example a five year permit at \$100.00</p> |

## Rakhee Kotecha

| 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                                                                   | 5 Strongly 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.             | 5 Strongly agree  |
| 3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.                                                                                                                | 2 Mildly disagree |
| 4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.                                                                                                             | 5 Strongly agree  |
| 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. | 5 Strongly 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?                                               |                   |

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| <p>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)</p>                                             |                                               |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>I dont believe pets should be licensed</p> |