

# Mid-Campaign Mayoral Candidate Report Card

## Environmental Priorities



July 2010

### Dear Torontonians,

This mid-campaign report card examines what the top Mayoral candidates have said about six Environmental Priorities identified by the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA). These priorities are endorsed by a growing list of community and environmental organizations across Toronto.

Candidate evaluations are based on remarks and statements made publicly at debates, in the media and on their websites, as well as on-the-record to TEA.

We hope this mid-campaign report card will help guide candidates as they develop their environmental platforms. We also hope Torontonians will use this report card to discuss environmental issues with candidates.

Sincerely,

The TEA TEAM

### Environmental Election Priorities

In February 2010, the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) and 11 other local, provincial and national groups identified six priority actions Toronto's next Mayor and Council must work toward implementing when elected:

- 1 Build Transit City and Fund it**
- 2 Achieve 70% Waste Diversion by 2012**
- 3 Buy and Support Locally-Produced Green Products**
- 4 Build Transportation Infrastructure everyone can use**
- 5 Implement the City's Sustainable Energy Strategy**
- 6 Provide tools to Prevent Pollution**

# Candidates' Progress Report

-  Candidate going in right direction
-  Unclear – needs improvement
-  Unsatisfactory performance
-  Has not commented on this issue

## Environmental Election Priorities

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Build Transit City &amp; Fund It</b>	<b>70% Waste Diversion</b>	<b>Buy Local Green Products</b>	<b>Complete Streets</b>	<b>Sustainable Energy Strategy</b>	<b>Provide Tools to Prevent Pollution</b>

### ROB FORD

	<b>Shows Little Interest</b>						
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### JOE PANTALONE

	<b>Progressing Steadily; Needs to Speak Up</b>						
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### ROCCO ROSSI

	<b>Shows Lack of Understanding</b>						
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### GEORGE SMITHERMAN

	<b>Shows Potential but Needs to Apply Himself</b>						
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### SARAH THOMSON

	<b>Eager Participant; Misses Key Lessons</b>						
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# Comments on Candidates

## **Rob Ford – Shows Little Interest**

Rob has shown no interest in the environmental priorities. On the rare occasion when he does talk about the environment, it's clear that he needs to spend more time studying the issues. For example, he confuses streetcars with LRTs and wants subways even where there isn't enough density to support them. To earn a passing grade, Rob must put some time into understanding that there is more to being Mayor than complaining about Councillors' expenses or talking about football.

## **Joe Pantalone – Progressing Steadily; Needs to Speak Up**

Joe is doing well. His knowledge of the environmental priorities is impressive: he understands the importance of public transit and building Transit City, sustainable energy, complete streets and Toronto Hydro's role in greening the city. However, he can improve his grade by supporting these priorities in an official platform. He is distracted by what others say and needs to focus to get his points across. For Joe to excel he must learn to speak more about the priorities.

## **Rocco Rossi – Shows Lack of Understanding**

Rocco is unsure about the priorities. While he talks about them, his plans suggests he doesn't understand them. His focus on subways shows he doesn't get the environmental importance of the Transit City Plan that will bring transit to all parts of Toronto. He also doesn't seem to realize that selling Toronto Hydro could jeopardize the City's Sustainable Energy Strategy. Rocco needs to spend the summer studying the priorities if he hopes to do well.

## **George Smitherman – Shows Potential But Needs to Apply Himself**

George likes to talk about the environment, but his enthusiasm doesn't match his work to date. Compared to Transit City and the Toronto Bike Plan, his integrated transportation plan is not as good for the environment: it will take longer to build, reach fewer people and keep bike lanes off main roads. He has also mentioned the possibility of burning garbage, which harms people and the environment. For George to succeed, he needs to match his enthusiasm with solid planning to achieve a better grade.

## **Sarah Thomson – Eager Participant; Misses Key Lessons**

Sarah is very eager and wants to do well. She acknowledges the need for blue and green bins in apartment buildings, but has no plan to get them there. She supports public transit, but her plan ignores the lessons from the past: subways don't work in low density neighbourhoods. She also cares about cyclists but doesn't want to build the routes they need. Sarah, like others, needs to spend the summer reviewing the priorities if she hopes to do well.

**For more details about the mid-campaign report card, including how it was developed, sources of information, details on the scores and the 6 Environmental Priorities, please visit [www.torontoenvironment.org/voteto](http://www.torontoenvironment.org/voteto).**

**Watch for the final report card on the candidates to be issued a few weeks before the October 25th election. That report will be based on a comprehensive election questionnaire that will be distributed to all candidates.**



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