



LAWSON

Ottawa deserves better.

ALEX LAWSON FOR MAYOR

The influence firewall.

A four-year wall between campaign money and City Hall lobbying.

01 / OVERVIEW

If you bankrolled a politician, you shouldn't get to lobby them.

Ottawa's basic services are failing, and too often the people who get City Hall's attention aren't the residents who pay for it. They're the insiders who bankrolled a campaign and then came back to collect.

That's not how a city should work. It's how a city stops working.

So as mayor, Alex Lawson would build a firewall between campaign support and the lobbying that follows it. If you bankrolled a politician, you shouldn't get to turn around and lobby them.

It's entirely within the City's own authority. It costs the taxpayer nothing, and the office that would enforce it is already there.

02 / THE PROBLEM

Money shouldn't buy influence.

Ottawa already has a Lobbyist Registry and an Integrity Commissioner who serves as Lobbyist Registrar. That's a start. But the current rules leave the one relationship most likely to buy influence completely unguarded.

Today, someone can donate to a candidate, staff their campaign, or hold a paid contract with it, and then turn around the moment that person is elected and lobby them on a rezoning, a procurement, or a development file. The registry records the meeting, but it does nothing to prevent the conflict.

The existing cooling-off rule only covers people leaving City Hall: a former official can't lobby the City for one year after they go. There's no rule at all covering the people who put officials there in the first place.

That's the gap. The money and labour that go into a campaign are exactly the relationship the rules ignore.

CURRENT LOBBYING COOLING-OFF

1 year

And it only covers officials who leave City Hall

Lobbyist Registry By-law No. 2012-309.

THE LAWSON FIREWALL

4 years

For campaign insiders, matched to the term of council

Lawson for Mayor proposal, June 2026.

NEW COST TO TAXPAYERS

\$0

Enforced by the office we already pay for

Integrity Commissioner / Lobbyist Registrar, City of Ottawa.

REGISTRY IN PLACE SINCE

2012

The machinery already exists

Lobbyist Registry By-law No. 2012-309.

03 / WHAT WE'LL DO

A four-year cooling-off on bought influence.

The rule's plain: if you backed a campaign, you can't lobby that official for four years. The window matches the term of council.

MOVE 01

If you backed the campaign, you can't lobby the official.

Anyone who donated to a campaign (any amount), worked on it for pay, held a contract or vendor relationship with it, or volunteered in an organized capacity would be barred from lobbying that official for clients, once elected, for four years. The City would do this by amending the Lobbyist Registry By-law (No. 2012-309), which it has clear authority to do on its own under the Municipal Act, 2001. It applies the same logic the City already uses for departing officials to the influence coming in the door, and enforcement sits with the Integrity Commissioner, who already runs the registry.

MOVE 02

Protect the resident, not the insider.

This rule targets paid and organized influence, not ordinary people talking to their councillor. A resident raising an issue about their own property, their own permit, or a problem on their street isn't a lobbyist and never has been under Ottawa's by-law. That stays exactly as it is. The firewall is for the people selling access, not the people who live here.

MOVE 03

Lead by example.

Alex Lawson won't ask voters to trust that he'll resist the insiders. His own campaign will publish its supporter list against the lobbying registry and hold itself to the four-year firewall, whether or not the rule



has passed. And as mayor, he'd bring the by-law to council inside his first 100 days, once the filings and records are in order.

04 / HOW IT GETS ENFORCED

No new department. No new budget line.

The Integrity Commissioner already serves as Lobbyist Registrar, already maintains the public registry, and already has the power to impose escalating sanctions for breaches. So this plank adds just two things to machinery we already pay for.

First, a short campaign-affiliation declaration filed with the registry, so a lobbyist's recent campaign support sits on the public record alongside their lobbying.

Second, a clear four-year bar the Commissioner can apply, with the same escalating sanctions used today, plus public naming of breaches.

We need to change whose voices are heard at City Hall.

It's entirely within the City's own authority. No new law from anyone else, no waiting. Council can do it, and enforce it, on its own.

05 / WHY ALEX

The outsider walls the insiders out by law.

Residents are paying more and getting less, and they suspect the system is wired for insiders. On the biggest files of the last four years, the perception that access was bought has done real damage to public trust. This plank answers that suspicion with a rule, not a slogan.

It also draws the sharpest line in this race. Alex Lawson is the outsider in the field. He isn't asking voters to take his word that he'll keep his distance from the people selling access. He's proposing to wall them off by law, beginning with his own campaign.

You hit your deadlines or you eat the cost. You negotiate hard because it's not your money. The same standard should decide who gets City Hall's ear.

Ottawa deserves better.

06 / SOURCES & VERIFICATION

Every claim here is sourced.

OTTAWA LOBBYIST REGISTRY AND INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

The City of Ottawa Lobbyist Registry is established by By-law No. 2012-309. The Integrity Commissioner is appointed as Lobbyist Registrar under section 223.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001, and oversees and



enforces the registry and the Lobbyist Code of Conduct, with escalating sanctions for breaches. The City can amend its own by-law and code without provincial approval.

<https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/laws-licences-and-permits/laws/laws-z/lobbyist-registry-law-no-2012-309>

EXISTING ONE-YEAR COOLING-OFF

A former public office holder of the City cannot lobby the City for one year after leaving, including unpaid lobbying. This is the only cooling-off rule the by-law currently contains, and it covers departing officials, not campaign supporters. This plank extends that same tool to the supporters who help elect an official.

<https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/open-transparent-and-accountable-government/lobbyist-registry/lobbyist-registry-law-and-reports/interpretation-bulletins/post-employment-prohibitions-lobbying>

Authorized by the official agent of the Alex Lawson campaign.