

**ELECT**

# Peter RODRIGUES

**REGIONAL**

**COUNCILLOR**

**WARD 3**

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## Regional Councillor

**Your Voice for a Better Pickering**

**Experience and Trust** I have a proven record of Experience and Trust. I was involved in Pickering politics, and supporting residents' concerns, long before I successfully ran as a candidate and was elected to Pickering Council and Durham Council.

**Property Taxes are Simply Too High** The biggest issue in Pickering is Property Taxes are simply too high! As a Regional Councillor, I continually voted against raising property taxes. I moved several motions each year to further reduce the budget expenditures, so that you would have more money in your pocket for your family's needs. Your property taxes should not keep increasing by more than your income, or more than the cost of living index.

**Community Engagement** Related to high property taxes is the lack of real Community Engagement. When only a few people are at the all-day Budget Committee meeting, and the vast majority of residents are completely unaware of it, then there is a real disconnection from true and meaningful community engagement. Sure, the city tries for some involvement with residents in the social aspects of life in Pickering, but when it comes to critical matters involving property developments and financial budgets, meaningful inclusion is lacking. Many residents feel that their councillors do not act in the best interests of their residents. I have seen many Council meetings where residents express their desires, but realize that councillors ignore their concerns.

**Community Advocate** I have a solid record of representing the interests of residents, as a Community Advocate and serving the community's needs. Unlike most councillors, I will be available **full-time** to serve and assist residents with all matters and concerns, as before it will be my sole focus.

**Accountability and Transparency** Some members of council have become too complacent. There should be **Term Limits**, as well as a **Recall** mechanism for removing Councillors, who say one thing to get elected, and then don't act in accordance with the demands of their residents. I will be bringing forward many positive motions in Council to hold our representatives accountable. We need to have **Recorded Votes** on all matters, so that you can know easily how your councillors voted on all matters. Councillor expenses should be much more readily visible.