

**2020 Monash City Council
Oakleigh Ward
Candidate Statements**

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COLLINS, Danny

Like most of us, I am not a member of a political party and our council doesn't need more politicians. It needs a hardworking and independent voice, capable of making important decisions without party influence. If you feel the same, I'd be honoured to serve you on council. I will fight to protect our area from over-development, keep our community safe, and always listen to your feedback. About me; I am 44, married with two children, working as a senior manager for an Australian fabric manufacturer. My daughters represent the fourth generation of my family in Oakleigh Ward and I can proudly say my father played for Oakleigh's 1960 VFA premiership team. This family history has fuelled a real passion for preserving our area's unique character and we cannot allow poor quality and high-rise developments to put this at risk. I will work with other councillors to ensure that new developments in Oakleigh, Clayton, Oakleigh South, Oakleigh East, Huntingdale, Hughesdale, and Notting Hill serve the community, not just the interests of a few. As a result of COVID 19, the way we work, study, and socialise has been turned upside down. As we exit lockdown, council services will be relied on more than ever and I look forward to working with other councillors to help get us all through this period. My suggested voting order is 1. Danny Collins, 2. Josh Fergeus, 3. Pierce Soulsby. If you vote 1 for any other candidate, put me as your number 2 and I promise I will be the hardest working candidate on your ballot paper. In both cases, remember to number all remaining boxes in your order of preference.

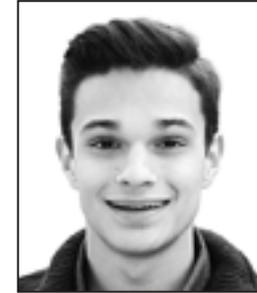
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LAKSHANA, Esha

The Indian community has given so much to Monash. Its now time that it has a representative on our local council. When I heard that there was not a multiculturally diverse woman as one of our councillors and as a Clayton resident, I decided to put myself forward to serve. I have been very impressed with Theo Zographos who has set the standard in local government. I own a business and hold an MBA so will have the skills to make the key decisions required. Im fully committed to supporting families in our area by being a loud voice for better services in maternal health and kindergarten. Your vote for me will mean Oakleigh Ward can have a woman as one of its three council members along with people like Theo. My platform includes proposing new trees be planted in our neighbourhoods to reinvigorate our green open space. Utilising my passion in business I will bring back and lead the Monash Womens Business Network. I strongly believe the relationship between Monash and the Indian community is very important and adds to our multicultural fabric. If elected, I will host a virtual Bollywood extravaganza until restrictions are removed then I will advocate to double the funding for the Clayton festival. Your vote for me will ensure compassionate, inclusive and responsive representation across the council chamber. After a careful analysis of all other candidates I have decided my indication of preferences are: Zographos 2, Jaeger 3, then number all other candidates in the order of your choice. You can go to esha-for-oakleigh.my-free.website for the full list. Thank you for your support.

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SOULSBY, Pierce Thomas

As a community focused, selfless, compassionate person, I'm not afraid of a fight. I'm a proud Indian Australian who is ready to give back. My mother arrived in Australia at a young age as her family fled strife in Fiji, my father was a paperboy in Box Hill. They took strength and inspiration in hard work, as they built a happy life for our family. I believe public service is a challenge, but worth the opportunity to work for a proactive post Covid-19 recovery for the Oakleigh, Clayton, Mount Waverley, and Huntingdale communities. We need a plan for getting back on our feet after this year's lockdowns. But earlier this year, Council voted against urgently considering economic impact of coronavirus. We can't afford such indifference anymore. My promise is that every vote I cast will respond to the need to create and protect jobs in Monash. Despite the global pandemic, climate change continues to be an issue that threatens our way of life. It will threaten our economy if we do not get on top of it. I'll push Council to support common sense, non-punitive, economically friendly measures to address climate change. Developments in Monash have great potential, but also great risk. They can permanently add to the character of the city, or detract from it. But last year, Council voted against requiring transparency from Councillors in disclosing their contacts with developers. I'll fight to ensure that any developments are transparent and add to our community. This guarantees more complete public scrutiny and stops inappropriate development. Pierce Soulsby, a fresh take for Monash. You can find out more at [Facebook.com/PierceSoulsbyforOakleigh/](https://www.facebook.com/PierceSoulsbyforOakleigh/). Please consider preferencing positive candidates: 1 Pierce Soulsby. 2 Naureen Choundry. 3 Tamika Hicks. 4 Stuart James. 5 Josh Fergus. 6 Danny Collins and then number all the remaining boxes.

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FERGEUS, Josh

I am proud to be running for re-election as the first ever Greens Councillor to serve Monash. I have been connected to Monash ever since my great-grandparents built a home in Oakleigh 80 years ago. I have recently completed a PhD in mental health outcomes for children. I work as CEO of disability charity Kevin Heinze Grow. I have been a strong, independent progressive voice for Monash over the past four years and will continue to stand up for our community. I do not take donations from property developers or the pokies lobby. If re-elected I will continue to be your advocate for people and places over profit. I believe we can create and maintain a safe and nurturing community through consultation, action on climate change and social justice. My priorities for the next four years if re-elected: 1) Protecting our trees, improving and expanding our public open space; 2) Sustainable, liveable housing and planning outcomes for our local neighbourhoods, rejecting inappropriate development proposals; 3) Reducing waste and creating a zero-net emissions community; 4) Affordable, accessible Council services; 4) A fair, equitable Monash free from discrimination, celebrating the wonderful diversity of our community. Vote for me to i) Protect Scotchmans Creek; ii) Invest in our libraries and playgrounds; iii) Improve our walking and cycling infrastructure; iv) Say no to pokies; v) Stop clear-felling of trees; vi) Deliver a community-first outcome for 1 Beryl Avenue and Talbot Quarry. Contact: 0466 465 421 josh.fergeus@vic.greens.org.au Instagram/Twitter @JoshFergeus Facebook.com/JoshFergeusGreens to find out more. Vote [1] Josh Fergeus for a safe and sustainable future. Consider voting 2 Collins 3 Choudhry 4 Hicks 5 Soulsby 6 Jaeger then number all remaining boxes according to your preference.

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LEE, Rachel Alexi

I would like to advocate for women's rights and especially protect their privacy and freedom of speech. Furthermore, I would like to promote diversity in the workplace and more female senior roles in the commercial world and organizations. It is a long way ahead of us to achieve gender equality and close the gender pay gap. Female employees have not had enough exposure to promotions and career development. I acknowledge there is more work to be done as an advocate for womens rights. I also would like to extend my resources and effort as a local councilor to advocate for small to medium enterprises and self-employed professionals and artists to achieve attainable goals and a better future. As a local politician for people, I stress that the COVID-19 disease and restrictions declared a cold war on our economy and local communities, as a result, our economy is declining and our middle-class community is shrinking, and the lower income families are further saddened by the shutting down of non-essential businesses. It is such a worrying situation for all of us. So far, to be on a positive note, we have worked together by following the rules to combat this disease patiently and effectively during the harsh lockdown stage. During this period of COVID-19 lockdown, I revisit music as a music enthusiastic, I believe in the power of music to heal peoples wounds and scars, the language of music delivers various direct messages to audiences and let us use the power of music in a positive way to engage local communities for lots of good vibes during this difficult time. Last but not least, I exercise my faith in christianity and humanity on a daily basis during COVID-19 health crisis and I recommend local communities to be more involved in religious beliefs.

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SILVA, Francisco

Francisco Silva is passionate about making a difference. He has 20 years corporate experience and exposure at KPMG, Shell and other complex organisations covering a diverse range of industries. He holds several accounting and business qualifications including Fellowship of CPA, Fellowship of CIMA (UK), B.Sc. Accountancy & Financial Management, Post Grad Diploma in Corporate & Commercial Law from Monash University and Executive MBA from Melbourne Business School. Most recently he has established Global Virtual Corporate Services to assist businesses in need of professional corporate services but are not in a position to have them on staff. Francisco believes that with his background he could introduce in Council an ecosystem to exceed rate payers and customers expectations and thereby also reduce the waste and the need to increase rates continually. Francisco Silva is a member of the Lions Club as well as a past president. He has been a Director for 10 years has supported the underprivileged with funding approx \$300k worth of projects. The scope of possibilities in Council to make the money go further will be enormous. A local resident, father of two young kids, Francisco knows the challenges faced by migrants and professional working parents. This insight will be invaluable to assisting Council in supporting businesses post-Covid. Francisco declares that he is not a member of any political party. He sees far too much Labor and Greens influence on Council which ruins the opportunities that council has to best serve the people of Monash. Vote 1 Francisco Silva, 2 van der End, and then complete all numbers on your ballot and post it by 23rd October for it to be counted.

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ZOGRAPHOS, Theo

As your Councillor Theo Zographos continues to lead the way in Monash since his election eight years ago. His proven experience continued to be effective on council this year by working in a bipartisan way during the pandemic to implement the first rate reduction in Monash history. His pet project, the new \$24.5 million Oakleigh Recreation Centre is now almost complete. He delivered stage 1 of the \$5 million Caloola Reserve multi-sports redevelopment and stage 2 is now under construction. Without Theo on Council, the 195 space multi-level carpark in Oakleigh which was opened this term would not exist. Now more than ever our community needs experienced leadership. When the COVID-19 hit our community, Theo stepped up. His motion in February, the first of any Councillor, focused on aged care centres in Monash as well as local small businesses. If re-elected Theo will advocate for no rate rises for the next four years. He will work to revitalise Eaton Mall with a detailed reinvigoration plan. Theo will deliver more public toilets in more places across our city. Whether it be on radio, in the newspaper or social media, when people want to know about Monash, they turn to Theo. Essential. Effective. Experience. Fiercely independent, always putting Monash first. Now is not the time to risk the leadership of our community. Away from local council Theo has an accomplished career in an ASX top 10 company. To receive the latest up to date information about Theo's positive plan, including Theo's detailed video message to you, please visit Theo4Oakleigh on Facebook. Theo's recommendations for like-minded candidates are: Zographos 1, Van Der End 2, Jaeger 3, then number every other box.

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HICKS, Tamika

It's been a tough year for our community. We need representatives on Council who have a passion for connecting community, who have strong leadership and an understanding of small business. Rebuilding at a local level starts with electing the right people to represent you at Council. This Council term, only 2 of the 11 Councillors were women (18%) and Oakleigh Ward was represented by 3 men. It is important to have a Council that is reflective of the community we live in. As a mother, as a businesswoman, and as a local, I believe I am best placed to be your ideal Councillor. Having three teenagers and running a business, I know how hard it can be juggling finances. We all work hard, I want to see that Council invests your money appropriately. My priority will be to ensure our rates remain low during our COVID recovery. I commit to maintain and upgrade our public parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities in order to reconnect and stay healthy. We are proud of where we live, I will make sure our streets and footpaths are safe and tidy. Inappropriate development in our residential streets will not be given an automatic nod. I will protect the unique character and identity of our suburbs. The food recycling program is a brilliant initiative to reduce our impact on the environment. However, with summer coming we don't want our bins smelling of rotting food, our green bins need to be collected weekly. Its important that we have decision makers on Council that are a true voice of our local community. I will be your voice at the table, and I want to hear what matters to you. Vote: 1 Hicks; 2 Chowdhury; 3 Soulsby; 4 James; 5 Fergeus; and then number all remaining boxes.

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LIU, Rachel

As a young professional Chinese Australian woman, I am standing in these elections to end the discrimination rampant in the workplace, particularly for first generation immigrants. As an independent, I'm not a member of any political party. As an observer of Monash Council the last few years, most councillors have been engaged in useless bickering with minor exceptions like Theo Zographos, a good and effective local councillor. This is why I want to represent you to bring a renewed professionalism to the council decision making process and advocate for equality in local government. My commitments are simple. We need childcare that's both affordable and available. It's time to bring back Neighbourhood Watch in a big way so that we get a renewed sense of community. We need more bus stops with new benches for our older citizens. I will also advocate that council compulsory acquires new open space when it becomes available, not be sold to developers. I will work to remove the burdensome red tape inducing vegetation protection overlay which stops people form removing trees in their own home when its a safety risk. As a proven quality improvement specialist, holding a Master of Applied Commerce from Melbourne University, I will use my knowledge mastering the Six Sigma quality management technique for a full review of council deliberations and services. Some of the worlds biggest companies and brands have used it to great results. Your support for me will ensure that our local council is run in an honest, accountable and efficient way. As there are three positions available in Oakleigh Ward, my recommendation for like-minded candidates are: Zographos 2, then number other candidates from 3 to 14. Vote 1 Liu - a better council for you.

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VAN DER END, Alex

Alex van der End is someone who is adept at overcoming challenges. With almost two decades in law enforcement, mostly in the Military Police, being solutions focused becomes second nature. Alex operates his own business as a professional Remedial Massage Therapist in Mount Waverley and is also a qualified pilot. His plan is to help provide better access to healthcare to remote locations through a new charity he is setting up. Clearly driven by a desire to achieve great results, Alex is sick and tired of Council ignoring common sense and wasting their time and our money on things that don't matter. If elected, Alex will focus on putting the community first and getting rid of the party politics and virtue signalling in Council. At a recent Council meeting, the top issues discussed were Climate Change and BLM! Whatever your thoughts are about these, they should not occupy time at council. There is a tier of government to take care of that and it is not here! Council should focus on local needs instead. Furthermore, Council plans to spend \$200,000 on buying carbon credits and then more money buying the most expensive electricity available. Again, the focus should be to save not spend money and ensure the community actually benefits with more than just warm fuzzy feelings. Like everyone else, Council needs to learn to live within their means. By first increasing rates by 2% this year, and then providing a temporary waiver of 10%, next year could see rates increasing 12% when the waiver is removed! A vote for Alex van der End will ensure a vote for lower rates, less waste and more community benefits. Visit Alex4Monash.online for more info. Alex recommends you vote 1 van der End, 2 Zographos, 3 Silva, 4 Jaeger and then all others.

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JAMES, Stuart

My priorities are simple, but important; family and community. I'm a local resident, just like you, living and raising my young family in Oakleigh, and I want a better and brighter future for my kids. My record speaks for itself. As your mayor over the past year, I have lead council through arguably the toughest period our city has ever faced, but coming out of this crisis will be even more difficult. I've heard the call for council to concentrate on core services. I've focused on funding new roads and footpaths whilst working hard to ensure Monash delivers the lowest rates in the State. I suggested the 10% rates waiver in recognition of the tough times we've all been experiencing during COVID-19. And I championed the introduction of our food and organics recycling which has dramatically reduced our waste to landfill. But council is more than just roads, rates and rubbish. My highlight was the introduction of assisted playgroups to help deal with the social isolation faced by new parents and associated mental health issues. I've focused on upgrading and building new playgrounds and sporting facilities. My budget bids have seen us begin a feasibility study for a new community hub in Oakleigh and the first stage of precinct plans for the Clayton and Huntingdale activity centres. I would love the opportunity to see these come to fruition. I recommit to being approachable, accessible, consultative and transparent. I would be honoured to have your support to continue the work that we have started together. We need more women on council. Tamika Hicks is a local resident, mother and business owner with a terrific vision. Vote 1 Stuart James, 2 Tamika Hicks, 3 Naureen Choudhry, 4 Pierce Soulsby, 5 Josh Fergeus, 6 Danny Collins then number all remaining boxes

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GARDNER, Michael James

Thank you to the mums, dads, teachers and carers for stepping up to the challenges of educating our children online; to communities for reaching out to support our vulnerable; to businesses for navigating many ways forward and to the health and community services for coordinating our resources for the well-being of all. Local government has a special focus on community. As a grateful member, I want to share my energy and 2020 vision in service to you all as your councillor in the Oakleigh ward. I will reduce rates by reducing waste. As a local designer and manufacturer, studying, living and operating within Monash for 45 years, I have the skills, experience and grass roots commitment to help restart this beautiful city. I will apply wisdom and prudence to each dollar spent on improving our collective home; allocating resources with careful respect to new needs, new circumstances and tighter budgets. My recent efforts to build strength, resilience and opportunity include: Developing ordering apps and street vending solutions for our retailers; Redistributing food to over 100 families; saving them thousands of dollars and eliminating 700kg/week of methane emissions; Supporting 70 faith communities to connect through live stream broadcast; Composting 5000 kg of local fruit and vegetable waste into our schools gardens; Promoting Warrawee Park Christmas Carols through Oakleigh's 360 retailers; Organizing the 2019 Environmental Forum at Brickmakers park; Encouraging students voices and ideas through public speaking; Recycling millions of litres of Styrofoam destined to landfill yearly. In the midst of great uncertainty, my vision for a stronger and cleaner Monash saves money, builds vitality and provides certainty. Together, well take the path to recovery, restart our opportunities and revive our community as a home of love, peace and prosperity. Please Vote 1 Michael Gardner and number all remaining boxes. Michaelgardner.com.au 0451 511 510

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CHOUHRY, Naureen

I am standing for thee core reasons: relief for traders and ratepayers, better community infrastructure and a more accessible and representative council. I am committed to inspiring positive change and enriching community services, including maternal and child health services; highlight social issues, with a specific focus on family violence and mental health programs; strengthen sports infrastructure for local clubs and explore sustainable solutions for reducing our carbon footprint. At the core of this election are the residents of Oakleigh Ward. I know many in our community are facing unprecedented challenges in the wake of the global pandemic. The coronavirus has placed extraordinary pressure on local families, businesses, sports clubs and community groups. The City of Monash Council needs to be at the forefront of this response, supporting our community through the provision of rate and fee relief and taking an active approach in assisting clubs and community organisations. As your Council representative, I will work towards advocating for policies that actually work for local residents and community. I will draw on my work and volunteer experience in community advocacy to put the wheels in motion from day one. I will remain active and accessible so I can be your voice on Monash Council. As a proud Australian, a mother, and a grassroots activist, I will give your voice a fair go. My vision for Oakleigh Ward is that it is a place of choice with top-notch infrastructure, facilities and community services. I hope for increased inclusion and to see values, ideas and identities of all people represented in decision-making. My success is when I will meet the needs of my community. Please vote for me! 1 Naureen Choudhry facebook.com/Vote1Naureen; 2 Tamika Hicks; 3 Pierce Soulsby; 4 Stuart James; 5 Josh Fergeus. Fill each box; make your vote count.

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JAEGER, Jennifer

Born in Oakleigh, I have lived all my life in the area and feel our Oakleigh ward is a unique area of Melbourne. I am a past President of History Monash Inc and have been directly involved in local heritage issues. I am a small business owner and I have also served for seven years as a community representative on two health regulatory boards. I will take on and welcome feedback from residents and my approach would be a consultative one, in other words I will listen to you. I am not a politician but a person with real life skills of problem solving with a strong work ethic. I bring to the role no-nonsense grit combined with empathy and sensitivity. I am a Mother of an adult daughter, and a carer for her Father in aged care. My policies are improving key services in at home care for the elderly and disabled, our mental health services and Headspace for teens. Open Local Government, listening to concerns and respecting community views. To keep council spending at an affordable level and manage rates responsibly. To have Monash Council be in the forefront of waste management in Melbourne. To protect the Heritage buildings, trees, parks and flora of our area, which we can all enjoy. We have all had a tough time this year with the Covid 19 lock down and I am very keen to get our Monash back to normal in a timely manner. You vote is important I ask for you to Vote 1. J Jaeger, Vote 2. T Zographos, Vote 3. J Fergeus, Vote 4. A Van Der End, then mark all boxes for your vote to count. Let's make our Monash a better place to live and work together.