

Social Issues and Challenges: For Discussion and Engagement with Candidates in the 2017 Municipal Election

Mayoralty and Councilor Candidates:

Issue	Description	Questions
Poverty Reduction	Calgary has adopted Enough for All, a 10-year poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of those living in poverty by 50% by 2023. Much has been accomplished: Fair Entry, the regulation of pay day lending organizations and the sliding scale transit pass, for example.	Share with us how you will support the ongoing implementation of the strategy.
Living Wage	The 2017 living wage for Calgary is \$18.15 per hour before taxes. This is a calculation of what is required to meet one's basic needs of food, housing and transportation.	Do you support a living wage for all Calgarians? What are some ways in which you could advance a living wage? Would you support the inclusion of a living wage in the City's procurement policy?
Affordable Housing	15,600 Calgary households are at risk of becoming homeless and nearly 4,000 are on waiting lists for affordable housing. The city has a corporate housing strategy. It has made some city-owned lands available for affordable housing. It is expediting the process for affordable housing proposals.	How will you advance the housing strategy? Will you support the legalization of secondary suites?
Affordable and Accessible Child Care	There is a large gap between the need for affordable, quality and licensed child care and what is currently provided in Calgary.	How will you champion the expansion of licensed child care in your community?
Needs of the Indigenous Communities	City Council has adopted the White Goose Flying Report and the Indigenous Strategy.	How will you support the implementation of both reports within the City's organization? How would you assist in the development of an Indigenous gathering place?
Climate Change and a Green City	The City adopted the Climate Change Accord in 2009 (http://bit.ly/2vWjiuj). The City of Calgary is currently developing a comprehensive plan to build Calgary's climate resilience. Climate resilience, an approach utilized by communities around the world, recognizes the importance of both reducing carbon emissions to address the underlying causes of climate change (mitigation) and	Will you support bold action to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Calgary? How will you help build accountability for ongoing reductions of GHGs? How will you prepare Calgary's most vulnerable for extreme weather events in the future?

Climate Change and a Green City continued from page 1	reducing population vulnerability. 2017 in Calgary is set to be the hottest, driest and smokiest on record, with 2016 being one of the wettest years on record. The changing climate is evidenced to disproportionately impact those with lower incomes.	
Mental Health	260,000 Calgarians this year will experience a mental health challenge. 12,000 young people will get support from a mental health professional this year – a number that continues to grow.	With demand far exceeding the ability of health services to deliver support, how will you meet the needs and improve the mental health of Calgarians? What city programs do you think improve the community’s (especially the youth’s) mental health and wellbeing?
Drug Use and Addiction	In 2016, 343 Albertans died from Fentanyl overdose – Calgary has more deaths to overdose than any other city in Alberta. Calgary has the highest rates of hospitalizations due to alcohol consumption, along with relatively high sales and heavy drinking in comparison to the national average.	What is the City’s role in reducing the number of overdose deaths? In your opinion how does the sale and use of alcohol impact the City of Calgary?
Accessing Food	There are a growing number of people who have difficulty accessing food. They are food insecure.	How would you assist in changing the current systems so that all Calgarians can access food with dignity – i.e., they are able to choose the food that they access?
Basic Income	A basic income guarantee would enable all Calgarians and Albertans to live a modest lifestyle with dignity, regardless of employment status. The impact of poverty is often most greatly felt at a municipal level where local resources are stretched attempting to alleviate symptoms of poverty.	Do you support the concept of a principles-based basic income guarantee? Would you support Calgary City Council calling upon our provincial and federal governments to develop a principles-based basic income guarantee for all Albertans?
Supporting Non-Profits	Municipal regulatory changes and bylaws have the ability to impact non-profits in their work. Without appropriate consultation, such changes can negatively impact a non-profit’s ability to serve the community. <i>Example: From a housing perspective, introduction of recycling and organics programs for multi-residential properties has significantly impacted operating budgets. Without a mechanism to pass on costs to tenants, operators must absorb costs and hope to find savings in other areas, or face the tough decision to reduce their level of service or maintenance programs.</i>	How will you work with non-profits to ensure regulatory changes and bylaw proposals or amendments consider the impact to the important work these groups do to serve our community?

School Trustee Candidates:

Funding	Public funding for education	<p>Do you believe in public funding for public education? How would you advocate for that?</p> <p>Please share your beliefs about the concept of equity in public education and how your beliefs would inform policy.</p>
Supports	<p>We know the early years 0-8 are the most critical in a child's development.</p> <p>The research is clear - children who are not reading successfully by the end of grade 3 will face many challenges in school and are more likely to drop out of high school.</p>	<p>What would you suggest needs to happen in Calgary schools to provide each early learner with optimal conditions for learning?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ensuring Calgary's furthest from opportunity children receive the level of support required to succeed in school?</p> <p>How would you ensure teachers and parents have the necessary skills and resources to support each child to read successfully by the end of grade 3?</p>
Testing	<p>Since the Province abolished Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) at the grade 3 levels we have had a shortage of independent data collected on how children are faring in different disciplines.</p>	<p>How would you overcome this shortfall?</p>
LGBTQ	<p>There has been a great deal of discussion on the rights of LGBTQ in our schools.</p>	<p>What are your views on affirming LGBTQ programs and safeguards?</p>