

Winnipeg Election Candidates Survey 2014

Below are six survey questions the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is issuing to all candidates participating in the 2014 municipal election in Winnipeg. Please provide your responses by **September 26**. Results will be posted at Taxpayer.com and distributed to our supporters.

CANDIDATE NAME: Anne Thompson SIGNATURE: _____

1) Council members are currently required to disclose their ownership in businesses and property within Winnipeg. Would you support expanding disclosure for council members to include ownership of all businesses or property worldwide? (Circle one answer, space is available if you have any additional comments)

YES/~~NO~~ Comment: Absolutely. Anything that increases transparency, openness and full disclosure

2) Would you support the creation of an informal freedom of information council committee to hear appeals from the public when the administration has refused to release city records?

YES/~~NO~~ Comment: This might not be necessary once proper policies and procedures are in place.

3) Property taxes have been increasing faster than inflation and wage growth. Would you table or support a bylaw capping property tax increases at inflation?

~~YES~~/NO Comment: The former administration has left Winnipeg on her knees in financial straits. The extent of the damage dealt to the City of Winnipeg may not be recognized for even up to 18 months. To blindly endorse any financial commitment without a good handle on the City of Winnipeg's actual financial situation is irresponsible and goes against logical thinking. I make no promises on this matter. This is not evasiveness, it's reality.

4) Roads have been neglected as millions have been spent on nice to have projects (eg. stadium, new museum, etc.) Would you support a four-year freeze on new spending for non-essential projects (eg. art gallery expansion) so that road repair becomes a priority?

YES/~~NO~~ Comment: Until I have a firm understanding of exactly how badly the former administration has damaged our City finances, and since the previous administration ignored the tendering process already in place, I will insist on a complete halt to all real estate transactions and out an emphasis on active transportation and accessibility on our streets and sidewalks.

5) The city has been raising taxes while putting more money into its pension plans; which allow for city staff to retire in their early 50s. Meanwhile most taxpayers don't have a workplace pension. To be fair to taxpayers, would you start putting new employees in a less costly plan?

~~YES~~/~~NO~~ Comment: Nice leading question. Please re-phrase it.

6) Do you support using managed competition (having both public and private sector employees bid for existing services) and gainsharing (sharing savings with employees that bring forward cost saving ideas) to reduce costs?

Managed competition ~~YES~~/NO Comment: There are just some things of which the City ought to take care.
Gainsharing ~~YES~~/NO With the implementation of policies and procedures in place based on agreed to principles

and values – applicable to all City of Winnipeg employees, including senior executives – that would ensure everyone knows what to do, why they're to do it, and how to do it; that ensures everyone receives support to make them successful in their respective jobs; that ensures everyone follows through and is accountable for meeting their performance expectations and obligations, the need for Thank you for completing the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's 2014 candidate survey. Please email responses to ccraig@taxpayer.com by **September 26, 2014**.
extra compensation will be a moot point. I believe in a balanced approach towards the giving of rewards and would gladly look at something with qualifiers, regulations and limitations. Besides which, "gainsharing" may be too open for abuse.