## Mimi Williams Ward 7

1) Will you introduce a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to scan & post council expense receipts online? (Just as the province does for MLA expenses) **YES** 

2) Will you protect taxpayers from additional financial risk and excessive costs by introducing a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to place new city employees, and council members, in a less costly pension plan? (Defined contribution) **NO** 

**Comment:** Many city employees' wages & benefits are covered under bargained collective agreements. The best place to bargain is at the bargaining table. Other city employees' wages & benefits are negotiated in a manner that sees both parties (the city's & the individual's) rights & interests respected. I have no desire to politicize or publicize either one of these processes. With respect to council remuneration, I will always respect the wishes of the advisory committee. I don't believe elected representatives should be setting their own wages & benefits.

3) Will you vote to freeze or reduce city employee salaries – just as many employees in Edmonton's business sector received during the recession? ) **NO** 

**Comment:** As stated above, I respect the collective bargaining process. The right for unions to bargain on behalf of their members has been affirmed and reaffirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada many times. Similarly, we have seen the courts place restrictions on public sector employers' (i.e. governments') attempts to impose salary cuts or freezes and sidestep bargaining. (Remember Bill 46, anyone?) Trying to do so with respect to bargaining unit employees would cause unnecessary labour unrest and waste a whole lot of public money fighting a losing battle in court. A route that could compromise the delivery of services and cost a lot of money is not a very wise route for people concerned about the expenditure of public money. Not in my view, anyway.

With respect to management and excluded employees, I would imagine the city's financial situation is already taken into consideration when wages and benefits are negotiated.

4) Will you introduce a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to cap property tax increases at inflation? (Statistics Canada's CPI for Edmonton) **NO** 

**Comment**: I wouldn't oppose a budget that accounts for inflation and population growth. That said, no one can anticipate what might happen in each year of the next four years. A motion that put a blanket cap on increases in perpetuity would be nothing more than grandstanding given that it is neither enforceable nor necessary.

5) Will you support a motion to halt spending on public art until the city's unemployment rate is below the national average? **NO** 

**Comment:** The purpose of public art is to engage with the community and provide those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to interact with art the chance to do so at no cost. When we study civilizations past, we don't stand and admire their general ledgers. Art gives us life in the here-and-now and it will be art that is preserved into the future. From another perspective, I have never met an artist who is not also an entrepreneur who contributes to their local economy. Edmonton has a thriving community of artists who rely on the ability to compete for public art installations around the world and here at home. I strongly support seeing that continue.

6) Do you support reviewing city services & exploring activities that could be contracted out to save taxpayers money? **NO** 

**Comment:** I'm not sure what more the city could contract out that it hasn't already contracted out. I oppose the privatization of public services because there's a reason public services are public. Adding a layer of profits for shareholders does nothing to save money and usually results in sub-par services to the public and removes all accountability when city officials and elected representatives' answer to every problem now is to blame the contractors.

7) Will you proactively disclose a list of those who contributed over \$250 to your campaign (and the amount) prior to the October 18 vote. **YES**