

## 2017 Municipal Election Survey 2017 – Calgary –

Thank you for participating in the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's election survey. Please provide your responses to Colin Craig ([ccraig@taxpayer.com](mailto:ccraig@taxpayer.com)) by **September 29** (end of day). Results will be posted at Taxpayer.com, sent to the media and emailed to our supporters.

Name: Jeff Brownridge

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>1) Will you introduce a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to scan and post council expense receipts online? (Just as the province does for MLA expenses)</p> <p><i>Comment: I stand for increased transparency and support the opportunity for our taxpayers to have greater access to knowing what expenses councillors are being reimbursed for.</i></p>	YES
<p>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)</p> <p><i>Comment: <b>72.7 percent</b> of government workers in Alberta are covered by a registered pension plan, compared to <b>24.1 percent</b> of private sector workers based on data from a recent study. Defined Benefit plans are becoming increasingly costly for governments to support and maintain and Calgary is currently experiencing some significant budgetary pressure to meet our current obligations on programs and spending while revenues from property tax have declined and revenues from departments like Calgary transit have dropped due to decreased ridership.</i></p>	YES
<p>3) Will you vote to reduce city employee salaries by 5% (or reduce total salary expenditures by 5%) – just as many employees in Calgary's business sector received during the recession?</p> <p><i>Comment: I wouldn't vote for the first part (5% salary reductions across the board) as it establishes us in a very adversarial position at the bargaining table with the unions and I think that could be counterproductive to achieving some concessions that will be needed. I would support a motion looking at ways to reduce salary expenditures by 5% with a combination of methods and techniques that could be necessary (hiring freezes in certain departments and not replacing staff due to retirements and attrition in those departments where demand for those services have decreased – like the current situation with the decline in Calgary Transit ridership).</i></p>	Yes *
<p>4) Will you introduce a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to cap property tax increases at inflation <b>or inflation plus population growth</b>? (Statistics Canada's CPI for Calgary)</p> <p><i>Comment: I would work towards delivering a property tax freeze for 2018 as Calgarians are still feeling the pinch from the economic downturn. This commitment may not be one that can be guaranteed as there is currently a \$170 million dollar shortfall to produce this goal for the 2018 budget. If a tax increase is required we can't continue to have a scenario like what took place from 2005 to 2015 when property taxes increased at almost three times the rate of inflation.</i></p>	YES
<p>5) Will you support a motion to halt spending on public art until the city's unemployment rate is below the national average?</p> <p><i>Comment: I do support the current suspension of the public art program and complete review of the program. The Public Art program does need to take into consideration what the current economic and employment conditions are and having mandatory minimum</i></p>	NO

<p><i>Art is an easy target right now; however, a good program derived from proper public consultation can have benefits in contributing to a vibrant city and in attracting companies like Amazon to locate offices in places like Calgary. In Chicago as an example – tripadvisor ranks Cloud Gate (public art) as the #3 item to see while visiting their city.</i></p>	
<p>6) Do you believe a referendum should be held prior to council approving any bids to host the 2026 Winter Olympics?</p> <p><i>Comment: I lived here in Calgary when the '88 Olympics took place and while it was an amazing event to experience we also need to recognize that the modern Olympics is a far different event today. The costs of hosting an Olympics have escalated dramatically due to the significant expectations from the International Olympic Committee and due to the</i></p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>7) Do you support reviewing city services and exploring activities that could be contracted out to save taxpayers money?</p> <p><i>Comment: There are certain non-essential roles that are currently being staffed with employees at considerable costs where the private sector can supply those services at considerably lower cost structures.</i></p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>8) Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames?</p> <p><i>Comment: The current City council has already offered direct contributions of \$185 million dollars (33% of the funding for a new arena) while the Flames proposal is \$280 million (50% of the funding for a new arena). In this regard we are already committed to spending public funds. The taxpayer needs to see some return on our investment and I would want to see a commitment to ensure that we develop a vibrant economic district similar to what Edmonton has done with the Ice District. Under this model taxpayers can benefit from enhanced property tax revenues versus what we currently collect with vacant and underdeveloped lands. I also think that taxpayers should see some additional concessions from the Flames such as some levels of property tax contributions or other revenue sharing options.</i></p>	<p>YES - with conditions</p>
<p>9) Have you accepted or will you accept financial or in-kind donations from the Calgary Flames, any of the team's owners or their companies?</p> <p><i>Comment: My election campaign is currently completed self-funded as of 9/29/2017.</i></p>	<p>NO</p>