

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) by September 29 (end of day).

Results will be posted at Taxpayer.com, sent to the media and emailed to our supporters. Name:

_____ Signature: _____

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) Comment: YES/NO

Councillor expenses are right now a matter of public record.

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) Comment: YES/NO

Council and Administration have spent considerable effort over my time on Council shoring up holes in our existing pension liabilities. I view our pension situation as a similar (but much smaller) problem to the massive infrastructure deficits we've inherited from decades of subsidizing diseconomy of scale growth on the edges of our city—as per all my work on Council, I'm focused on moving forward in a way that equitably balances past obligations with future opportunities in the context of a total cost accounting and risk management framework.

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? Comment: YES/NO

Out of a deep sense of responsibility to the prudent fiscal management of our City government—and the City we're building together—I'm proud of the work the two councils I have served on have done in controlling the cost of government while building our way into a better and more cost-effective future (ending the sprawl subsidy, investing in a massive tax-base positive infrastructure building regime with transit and main streets, public engagement on budgeting and business planning, rotating departmental zero-based reviews, the cut red tape program, organizational restructuring, workforce management, executive pay reform, and maintaining the separation between politicians and their pay, are only some of the controls and reforms we've implemented).

In response to the downturn, this Council has increased the velocity of our capital spend to keep Calgarians employed and take advantage of lower costs, it's frozen tax rate increases and fees, supported our non-residential property tax rate payers with a fund that softens the base redistribution on account of our downtown core's loss of value, implemented a hiring freeze, is working closely with our unions and has taken a pay cut. If more needs to be done, as we begin to crawl out of the downturn, I'm willing to consider other measures.

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 Calgary) Comment: YES/NO

I support a cap on tax rate increases to growth plus inflation (MPI) for operational expenditures. Additionally I believe Calgarians need to be able to retain the ability to target set increases for specific capital project requirements if necessary/desired.

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

I support Council's unanimous suspension of the program pending improvement of outcomes as laid out by Council. The benefits of the current program are (and the reformed program will continue to be) its role as a job creator and economic development tool - keep in mind that 80% of the \$500,000 budget of the most recent public art installation went to local construction firms for fabrication and installation; also keep in mind that Amazon's headquarter request for proposal requires cities that apply to have a public art program.6) Do you believe a referendum should be held prior to council approving any bids to host the 2026 Winter Olympics? Comment: YES/NO

I believe there should be deep public engagement on the subject, supported by the data and answers developed through the bid exploration committee's work and we should only engage the public if a bid is determined to be prudent (we now only know that it's feasible). I'm agnostic as to whether that engagement takes the form of a referendum (which is non-binding and expensive) or some other mechanism.

7) Do you support reviewing city services and exploring activities that could be contracted out to save taxpayers money? Comment: YES/NO

I'm always willing to explore ways to increase/maintain the level of City services provided to Calgarians at the best prices while balancing that with providing living wages for Calgarians.

8) Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames? Comment: YES/NO

While I'm convinced a new arena can be built and managed successfully with 100% private investment, I'm willing to explore the use of public funds provided it comes with commensurate public benefit. The City's current offer to the Flames is as generous as I'm willing to be with public funds.

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? Comment:

Not to my knowledge, but my position on issues is well defined through my *Great Neighbourhoods* strategic plan and I view any contributions from any parties as an endorsement of that work and not as an agreement to put any interests ahead of the interests of Calgarians in general.