


# 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: GEORGE CHAHAL WARD 5 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>Comment: <u>SEE ATTACHED</u></p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p>
<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>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p>
<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>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del></p>
<p>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)</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del></p>
<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>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del></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>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del></p>
<p>7) Do you support reviewing city services and exploring activities that could be contracted out to save taxpayers money?</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del></p>
<p>8) Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames?</p> <p>Comment:</p>	<p><u>YES</u>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del></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>Comment:</p>	<p>YES/<u>NO</u></p> <p><del>YES</del></p>

## George Chahal Ward 5 – Calgary

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### Comments

1. Yes - In 2007, I posted my campaign expenses when it was not required. I have no problems doing the same, once elected.
2. Yes - We have to make hard choices, this is any easy one, compared to cutting services.
3. Yes with exceptions- Will not vote to reduce % on the first fifty thousand earned. Although everyone has to contribute, the lowest salary earners should not bear a proportionate burden. Reduction percentage can increase as salaries increase.
4. Yes with exceptions -Businesses pay proportionally higher taxes. Although, I am in favour of limiting property tax increases to the rate of inflation it should not be at the expense of a business tax increase. We need to ensure the City of Calgary's operational deficit is addressed through cuts in spending/savings and property/business tax increases are fair and proportionate.
5. Yes with exceptions – I favour public art expenditure. We need to ensure we meet any contractual and trade obligations. However, public art spending should be limited in the near term and any investment should be directed, when possible, into a collaborative effort with local post-secondary institutions. I would encourage and support local design competitions in relation to public art. I am personally dissatisfied with some of the recent efforts.
6. Yes with exceptions – I am in favour of the Olympic bid, subject to full transparency and review of costs with the public. Referendums, can be divisive and costly. Ultimately the proponents may have greater resources to spend than those who are opposed, as well as the general costs of administering a referendum. I favour full transparency, public consultations and research polling. In the event residents were closely divided on the issue, then I would favour a full referendum to obtain a clear result.
7. Yes with exceptions – First responders and Calgary Transit would be excluded.
8. Yes with exceptions - I favour the use of public funds. I do not favour a blank cheque and believe that both parties will need to find common ground. Calgary has outdated sports facilities, additionally funds have been allocated for a future fieldhouse. Ultimately, it has to be in the public interest financially.

9. No with exceptions. We have not received any financial or in-kind donation. However, in the interests of full disclosure, I was advised that my campaign did contact one of the owners (personal relationship) earlier in the year for a potential contribution.