


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: Alex Columbus 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> Calgarian's and Ward residents need to ensure council is working for them and not on unaccounted projects</p>	<p>YES/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><i>Comment:</i> All city employees going forward should be on a defined contribution plan that is fair and equitable to city employees, council members and the tax payer</p>	<p>YES/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? Yes, but I will also look to enhance top line revenue by 5% in a sustainable way and without any burden to the tax payer so this impact can be reduced. In addition to salaries all expenses should be evaluated in a prudent manner to see if we can save money in any areas.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i></p>	<p>YES/NO</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><i>Comment:</i> Yes, 50% property increase over five years when CPI inflation is not close to this is unacceptable</p>	<p>YES/NO</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><i>Comment:</i> This policy needs to be reviewed but not at a high cost study, Art is very important, local artists should be favored and strict criteria should be prevalent. In tougher times spend should correlate to that and we should not have a guaranteed budget for this, we should review but not abandon art.</p>	<p>YES/NO</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> No if we are electing capable officials we should not have to do so especially if the decision process is clear and transparent and not in camera. I believe we should do all we can to host the Olympics with at worst case the effort being no worse to the tax payer after it is all said and done than us not hosting. We can also put in a non binding bid to ensure if we are to host it is for the benefit of Calgary and not just the IOC.</p>	<p>YES/NO</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:</i> Yes only if the service is done as good or better than currently without creating unintended negative consequences. No sense in saving pennies to throw away dollars.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p>
<p>8) Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames?</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> I believe a structure can be established that does not burden the tax payer and that also gets an arena built.</p>	<p>YES/NO</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:</i> No I will not accept any donations from the team, its owners or its affiliated companies.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p>