

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: Mark Dyrholm Ward 13

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> I would actively pursue this, the closer to real time the better</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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> I have long held that defined contribution is the ONLY acceptable plan</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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><i>Comment:</i> City expenditures should reflect what is happening in the city.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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> I would actually want a small tax cut in the first year</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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> I have released an article on this subject attached.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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> First I would vote against the Olympics - full answer attached.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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> This fits in perfectly with my commitment to efficiency.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>8) Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames?</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> I have proposed my solution to this problem - attached</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</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> I don't believe in vilifying any citizen, their contribution would be <5% of total spending on my campaign.</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>✓</p>

Mark Dyrholm Campaign - Ward 13
Press Release August 16, 2017

Public Art
Art is Beautiful, Bureaucratic Art is Bad

Let me be clear, in my experience bureaucracy is about MINIMUM standards. Over time bureaucratic process does not lead to excellence and eventually, it stops it.

Firstly, in a time when Calgarians are struggling, I call for a moratorium on the public art component of the infrastructure budget.

Secondly, let me clarify why bureaucratic art is bad.

Roads, bridges and transportation should be primarily about safety and moving people and goods. Art is designed to be looked at - if it is not to be seen what is the point. Is the city telling Calgarians that as we drive we should be looking off to the side of the road for an artistic experience?

Art is designed to be experienced, and have an impact on the observer. I recently went to get a personal picture near the blue ring. As far as I could tell I would have to break traffic laws to do so.

Conclusion: the current bureaucratic process regarding art is not just controversial it is bad. Identifying problems is easy. Solutions are harder. I would suggest that the art should become citizen based, not at the individual community level but at the Ward level. Each city public art dollar should be divided amongst the 14 Wards. Then the residents and councillor would develop experiential art projects that truly enriched their local areas.

How many more people would be enriched by an artistic experiential walk & playground in large park regions. Let the art be experienced by local citizens both in the creation and the appreciation.

Other areas of the city will develop themes that suit them.

I love the idea of public/private partnerships for art projects. To support that the city could set up a charity designed to support these public art projects that donors could get charitable receipts for contributing. A project that attracts local money not just 'other (government) money' is much more likely to be impactful on the citizens.

Emotionally art should be experienced.

Safety wise art should not distract from driving

Fiscally, public art funding should stand up to the light of day and in best practice have some private money follow the transaction.

Olympics:

*I say no to a plebiscite because I have had the meetings and done the research to make a fully informed decision, which is what the job of councillor is. I know the Olympics are a bad investment for Calgary based on the current numbers. Most recent Olympic Games have lost money, some billions. The IOC has not been a good business partner in most cases. **I would vote no to host the games and if the city was moving towards hosting them, I would want a referendum held on the issue.***

Arena:

The Arena is a big issue in this election. Unfortunately both sides are debating the issue like it is the 1950s. The city needs to look at how they can capture the intangibles that the Flames bring and only put the burden on people that benefit from the Flames, not spread it over all the taxpayers. The flames on the other hand need to acknowledge that no building supports itself when it is only in partial use. Real-estate costs will only go up in this city so let's build a venue for the future not for today. A visionary building will create more revenue by serving more than one purpose. Tell me one business that could survive if its building was only in use 3 days a week 4 hours at a time.