

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: Jyoti Gondek, Councillor Candidate for Ward 3

Note: These are not simple yes/no questions in many cases and I have provided rationale for my responses that are not one-word answers.

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)*

This is a logical exercise in transparency that I would support, and I believe this is now required through bylaw.

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)*

The Council pension plan seems generous and should be examined. It's a bit more complex for employee pension plans which are part of multi-year collective bargaining agreements. I would advocate for a consolidation of the multiple pension plans that exist so a greater number of participants can potentially bring down costs.

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?*

City employee salaries are part of the collective bargaining agreement. As a member of Council, I would be voting on the recommended agreement. Within that, I would welcome the inclusion of a provision that recognizes economic realities of a recession (i.e. offers the ability to freeze wages in a downturn). I have also heard that there are employees at the City of Calgary who are presently facing forced retirements, layoffs and termination of short-term contracts – placing these hardworking Calgarians in a terrible economic situation like their private sector counterparts.

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)*

I would like to see the Assessment Department provide a more robust proposal that incorporates this idea into the complete context of residential and non-residential property tax reform and mill rate review. We also need to seek out savings in annual departmental budget reviews that can be channeled towards unfunded priority projects, rather than increased taxes. There's no quick silver bullet.

5. *Will you support a motion to halt spending on public art until the city's unemployment rate is below the national average?*

If this question is intended to demonstrate the flaws in current public art policy, I am in agreement that the process needs to be overhauled and the provincial preference for art tied to infrastructure locations is ineffective and wasteful. I'm wondering how you came

up with the correlation between art and unemployment, or if this is simply a way to rile up voters using apples and oranges in a comparison.

6. *Do you believe a referendum should be held prior to council approving any bids to host the 2026 Winter Olympics?*

A referendum based on limited public release of information is an exercise in futility. If the public does not have access to in-camera meeting minutes or full reports, how can we be expected to make informed decisions? Transparency in the process of bid exploration is the key, combined with a clear deal that allows Calgary to participate in revenue generated from the Games.

7. *Do you support reviewing city services and exploring activities that could be contracted out to save taxpayers money?*

I believe this is already in place for some departments and should be considered in more areas.

8. *Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames?*

Expenditure of public funds should result in public benefit. The public should also see the details of the deal. To date, we have had release of information in pieces from both the Flames organization and the City of Calgary. Has there been a proper proposal process where finance teams from both the City and the Flames generate a few models (based on examples from other cities) that are then vetted by senior administration (Jeff Fielding and Ken King) before moving forward for decision-making by Council and Flames ownership?

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?*

If the implication is that I can be bought with a campaign donation, then that should be your question. Let me assume that's your intent. No, I cannot be bought. And no, I have not and will not accept such donations.