

Winnipeg Election Candidates Survey 2014

Below are six survey questions the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is issuing to all candidates participating in the 2014 municipal election in Winnipeg. Please provide your responses by **September 26**. Results will be posted at Taxpayer.com and distributed to our supporters.

CANDIDATE NAME: **Sachit Mehra (St. Norbert Ward)**

SIGNATURE: _____

1) Council members are currently required to disclose their ownership in businesses and property within Winnipeg. Would you support expanding disclosure for council members to include ownership of all businesses or property worldwide? (Circle one answer, space is available if you have any additional comments)

YES/NO Comment: _____

2) Would you support the creation of an informal freedom of information council committee to hear appeals from the public when the administration has refused to release city records?

YES/NO Comment: _____

3) Property taxes have been increasing faster than inflation and wage growth. Would you table or support a bylaw capping property tax increases at inflation?

YES/NO Comment: _____

4) Roads have been neglected as millions have been spent on nice to have projects (eg. stadium, new museum, etc.) Would you support a four-year freeze on new spending for non-essential projects (eg. art gallery expansion) so that road repair becomes a priority?

YES/NO Comment:

I believe that infrastructure repair will be among the top, if not the number one priority of our newly elected city council and mayor. That said, I feel projects should be examined on their own individual merits, rather than an across the board freeze.

5) The city has been raising taxes while putting more money into its pension plans; which allow for city staff to retire in their early 50s. Meanwhile most taxpayers don't have a workplace pension. To be fair to taxpayers, would you start putting new employees in a less costly plan?

YES/NO Comment:

My vision is one in which all Winnipeggers can have a secure retirement. There are many factors that need to be taken into account when negotiating salaries and other benefits, including pensions, and ultimately, these decisions are made at the bargaining table.

6) Do you support using managed competition (having both public and private sector employees bid for existing services) and gainsharing (sharing savings with employees that bring forward cost saving ideas) to reduce costs?

Managed competition
Gainsharing

YES/NO
YES/NO

Comment:

I support open, transparent and competitive procurement and tendering processes. I believe that city administration and employees should regularly discuss ideas about how to find cost savings.

Thank you for completing the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's 2014 candidate survey. Please email responses to ccraig@taxpayer.com by **September 26, 2014**.