

Name: Greg Miller, Ward 4 Council

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)

Comment: I support this idea. I also think we need to ensure council expenses are not used for campaign purposes. For example how could a councillor expense fridge magnets be delivered to prospective voters who didn't live in his Ward?

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)

Comment: I've spent thirty years in the private sector. I've never worked in the public sector and I do not have a defined benefit pension plan, however we must treat all city employees with respect. As the City of Calgary faces a looming budget shortfall, I will keep an open mind on ways to address it. Council salaries and benefits should be set by an independent panel, free of council's interference.

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?

Comment: Any cost cutting measure that doesn't consider the impact on city services is arbitrary, and needs far more review. There are a number of areas to look at to better controlling city costs. An important way is to encourage more of the city's future growth within existing city boundaries, which reduces the cost of providing services.

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)

Comment: I believe the CPI index is a good, open standard for measuring inflation. Like other major cities we must also factor in the city's population growth as well.

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

Comment: I remain supportive of modest funding for public art as long as the city continues to spend the vast majority of funding with local companies to construct and install. The process by which these contracts are awarded and where public art is located must be reviewed.

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

Comment: A city plebiscite would be non-binding and wastes taxpayer dollars. I am not in favour of spending billions of taxpayer funds to host the Olympics and would be accountable for my decision if I were elected councillor.

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

Comment: The city already contracts for some services. The city should also consider more "own bids" if they demonstrate that services can be provided for better quality and/or at a lower cost.

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

Comment: Public investments in private sports facilities or teams almost never show a positive return to the public. I want the Flames to continue to prosper here in Calgary, and I'm confident an agreement can be reached that works subject to reasonable, thorough negotiation.

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?

Comment: No.