

CTF Survey of UCP Leadership Candidates

Question 1: Will you balance the budget by 2021-22 without raising taxes?

Jeff Callaway: “Yes, I will rationalize spending in Edmonton by bringing a common sense approach to government. The NDP is raising spending at unsustainable rates to such a degree that we are borrowing to keep the lights on. We must get government out of the way of those who want to invest in Alberta and create jobs.”

Brian Jean: “Yes, as I outlined in both my pre-budget recommendations in 2017 and in my first announcement in this leadership race, “Rebuild the Alberta Advantage, “if the NDP continue on the path that they have laid out in their financial reports my plan is certainly to balance the budget within three years. I have outlined a series of specific savings in year one, and will immediately convene a Fiscal Reform Commission of experts to review all spending practices and provide recommendations for the ensuing years to ensure we end all wasteful spending and focus on delivering the programs Albertans need effectively. I will also be tasking each of my ministers with a 33% reduction in regulations and this too will have the benefit of focusing everyone’s attention on what government does and does not need to be doing. I encourage everyone to go to brianjean.ca for more information on my policy announcements.”

Jason Kenney: “Yes, barring a major economic downturn.

As the first Director of the Alberta Taxpayer Association and first President of the CTF, I have spent most of my adult life fighting for governments to live within taxpayers’ means.

We must eliminate the NDP deficit, and start paying down their debt by growing the economy, and restraining spending. Growing the economy will require restoring investor and consumer confidence, which means reducing, not increasing, the tax burden. As Ralph Klein used to say, Alberta has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Alberta would have a balanced budget today if we spent at the same levels per capita level as British Columbia.

I was Minister of some of the biggest departments in the Canadian government, and I can tell you that there’s definitely room to be more efficient. I oversaw a program of 10% reduction in operational spending. I’m proud to say that I achieved that goal with no noticeable effect on frontline services. With determination and the right set of experience leading our province, it can be done.”

Doug Schweitzer: “Our four-year fiscal plan (beginning in 2019) will be achieved through a return to flat budgets and providing Albertans with the largest tax relief in Alberta’s history.”