

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 would support measures like this that would promote transparency and accountability.

YES/NO: **YES**

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:

We must look at the full picture of the city's budget—this includes current pension liabilities, proposed savings from the plan, impact of the new plan on employee retirement income, employee retention rates, and the ability of the city to recruit top talent. The perceived advantages for the private sector employer in shifting from defined benefit to defined contribution pension plans may not translate as clear benefits to the public sector employer, which may face greater negative implications. I am committed to making evidence-informed decisions, so I would not commit to making such a significant change without a full analysis of the consequences.

YES/NO: **NO**

3) Will you vote to freeze or reduce city employee salaries – just as many employees in Edmonton's business sector received during the recession?

Comment:

I would require reporting from City administration on union agreements and related employment obligations before making such a decision. To commit to breaking such agreements without compelling evidence and legal advice could be unnecessarily antagonistic and do more harm than good. The City must recruit and retain a high-quality workforce if we are to fix other costly challenges, such as our capital project management.

YES/NO: **NO**

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 Edmonton)

Comment:

The City should continuously seek out cost savings, and when significant savings may be found, the property tax rate may increase below inflation. However, when there is a demand for service expansion or enhancement, such as the need to extend municipal services into distant new developments, then the tax rate may need to increase at a rate greater than inflation. While City Council should aim to keep tax increases near inflation,

we would have to weigh that against the consequences of unmet service demands and strike the right balance. An arbitrary cap is not an effective approach to decision-making and governance.

YES/NO: **NO**

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 believe art is an important part of creating vibrant and healthy communities, but the City could find efficiencies in how public art is procured and commissioned. For example, a community artist suggested to me recently that we could cut costs on public art installations by using community artists rather than professionals. These are the types of initiatives I would encourage the City to explore in order to cut costs while showcasing local talent, rather than an absolute prohibition on public art spending.

YES/NO: **NO**

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

Comment:

It is important to explore efficiencies and opportunities for savings in order to either lower tax rate increases, pay down debts, or invest in underfunded areas. I would commit to seeking information and reviewing options, but this does not mean a commitment to external contracting in the absence of strong supporting evidence.

YES/NO: **YES**

7) Will you proactively disclose a list of those who contributed over \$250 to your campaign (and the amount) prior to the October 18 vote?

Comment:

I have already released the names of all donors who have contributed over \$100, with a lower disclosure limit for greater transparency. Moreover, I have publicly challenged all other candidates to do the same. I am not accepting any corporate or union donations, which aligns with the standards already set for provincial and federal elections. I am not waiting for this level of transparency to become mandatory, but rather am leading by example. I will release another update before voters go to polls on Oct. 16. Please see my most recent press release about financial disclosure (http://www.kerentang.ca/media_release_sept_19_2017).

YES/NO: **YES**