

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:

Raymond Ulasz

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:

I feel that one of the issues plaguing City Hall is a lack of transparency. All council members should voluntarily disclose all businesses and properties they own within Winnipeg, and I would support taking it one step further, to include all ownership worldwide.

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:

Ideally we would like to see property taxes capped at the rate of inflation, however not at the cost of maintaining infrastructure, and other required amenities.

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:

We definitely would have to say no to some frivolous project in order to upgrade aging infrastructure. Currently, the city has committed to many projects into 2015, so I would support the continuation and completion of these projects

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:

We feel that under their current agreement, if we were to attempt putting new employees on a less costly plan, that this could potentially cause labour unrest. We are willing to work with both sides to negotiate what is best for the city.

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

YES/NO

Comment:

We are not opposed to private sector employees demonstrating their service offerings, but at the same time we have to take into consideration that we do not compromise current employee hours, wages and benefits.

7.

YES/NO

Gainsharing is becoming more popular in the workplace. It is a way to encourage efficiency and productivity and minimizing waste. However, it would depend on the structure and how it would be implemented. I have seen in the past where gainsharing has posed as a problem when not implemented properly, and could cause friction in the workplace if not administered correctly.

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