

Inner City Coalition

Of Calgary Society



5. DEMOCRATIC PROCESS & POLICIES

We believe that the financing of election campaigns at the municipal level should be subject to the same financial scrutiny of federal and provincial elections.

Issue

Democratic representation is based on aldermen representing the interests and beliefs of their constituents, even when this may be contrary to their own personal opinions. Other influences, such as industry lobbying, can overwhelm this representation. At the same time, donations to municipal election campaigns is unregulated and open to influence by opaque financial election support. The current election financing system is rife with potential for abuse and discourages balanced representation of its citizens.

Background:

Aldermen represent population bases much larger than their Provincial equivalents, yet there are few rules and disclosure requirements for election financing.

The perception that the will of constituents or communities is not always represented by elected representatives is intensified by unbridled financial support by certain industries and lobbyists.

In addition community volunteers represent their issues without adequate financial resources. There are individuals and organizations that have the resources to make sure aldermen understand their point of view. Average citizens and community volunteers, unlike industry professionals, experience greater difficulty in getting their message, issues, and concerns across to the elected officials, due to the need to take time off work, the impact on personal costs, and the lack of technical or professional credentials.

QUESTION

What election financing policies would you champion to provide limits, checks and balances against actual or perceived preferential treatment?

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AN ON-LINE ELECTION FORUM
CALGARY 2007