

Questions for the Candidate:

Do you support limiting the total civic election expenditures by individual candidates? If so, what limits would you suggest?

I would support spending limits for civic elections as a way of ensuring the process is fair and democratic and open to all. I think a limit of \$50K for aldermanic candidates and \$700K for mayoral would be fair and attainable for most people. The \$700K figure is based on \$50K per ward. Financial contributions are a significant determiner of grassroots support, and not just a matter of professional allegiances. Obama built his campaign on \$100 contributions and had an unprecedented level of support from the public.

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

I support the disclosure of all donors and the current 5K cap from any one donor, as well as the current limit on how much money an individual can put into his own campaign to ensure transparency and accessibility to the process.

Do you believe there should be new rules in regard to people and organizations lobbying Council members?

My platform is built on listening to everyone and weighing all the information, finding balance wherever possible. I have responded to every survey I have received, whether from a professional group or from grassroots organizations, such as this one. I believe the internet and social media have gone a long way to levelling the playing field, as grassroots organizations seem to have a greater grasp of these tools. The democratic process is about accessibility and transparency, and all groups should have equal access to their elected representatives.

Questions for the Candidate:

How would you, as an elected alderman or mayor of Calgary manage to direct these various entities to the benefit of all the citizens and the future of Calgary?

I am very keen on implementing processes that streamline the administrative work of the city and make efficient use of our taxes. Overall, I think Calgary has been doing very well, and it can be challenging to manage the growth we have seen over the last 10 years. However, there are areas where the administrative function needs to be reviewed and better managed so that we can continue to grow and have access to the services that make this not only a great city to work in, but to live in. As someone who has run public companies for the last 15 years, I am eager to bring those processes to the City and ensure that we remain profitable for our shareholders, the citizens of Calgary.

How would you assure the citizens that they are being treated fairly, efficiently, and honestly by these various organizations and their processes?

When processes are working, there is no question of fairness and efficiency. I believe in making the business dealings of the city public. We are accountable to the citizens of Calgary and they should have access to the decision-making process and rationale behind the decisions council makes on their behalf. I plan on issuing quarterly statements to my constituents and hosting an annual general meeting where I present the financials and look for feedback.

Do you support increasing the number of aldermen in The City of Calgary?

Rather than increasing the number of aldermen, which can be costly, I support enforcing a two-term limit on members of city council. I believe a two-term limit would ensure that people serve on city council because they have an interest in public service and not because they want a job or permanent career.

What number of aldermen do you think there should be in Calgary to adequately govern and represent ward residents and on what basis do you base your position?

I believe the current number of aldermen can work more efficiently and set up processes that increase the two-way communication between themselves and their constituents.

Do you support exploring the concept of a city charter for Calgary?

I certainly support exploring the concept of a city charter for Calgary. However, before we embark on such an ambitious project, we have to make sure that this is what our constituents want.

Would you please expand on the rationale for your answer to the above question?

In talking to residents of my Ward while campaigning, there seems to be a lot of confusion over what falls under provincial and municipal jurisdiction, as well as where the City is limited in its power. The City is the construct of the Municipal Government Act – Provincial Government. I would want to do more research and get feedback from my constituents. Exploration is always a good thing, and perhaps a committee could be formed to look at this potential and report back.

Do you believe that Calgary would be better served by having increased jurisdiction on matters facing a large city?

Increasing our jurisdiction would necessarily mean more expenses that are currently being paid for by the Province. Before we agree to any such increase we should have clear assurances from the Provincial Government that any increases to our expenditures are covered by them.

Do you support expanding recycling to multi-family developments?

I do support this initiative – I think it's been demanded by the community, it can be funded through increased efficiencies in other areas and it makes sense environmentally.

Would you support encouraging use of transit by City employees?

This is an area I would like to explore and I believe it has been made more feasible by recent LRT expansions.

Would you be willing to work with the private sector towards increasing use of transit by their employees?

I am open to finding creative ways of increasing transit use across the City for financial and environmental benefits.

What other measures would you support towards reducing our ecological footprint?

As the former Chair of Seair, a clean-water technology company, I know that economic success and environmental sensitivity can go hand in hand. Some other ideas I have are...

What do you believe The City could do to increase the supply of more affordable housing in Calgary?

I have built 2 homes in Ward 6 over the past 20 years and during that time the city has seen dynamic growth and that has led to a vibrant housing industry. I had many options available to me in regards to choice and affordability, so I believe we have policies and processes in place that have helped facilitate that growth and to continue housing choices. Saying that, we must always strive for efficiencies and improvements to help streamline and manage the process. We need to ensure there continues to be a "value added customer service" attitude across the board at City Hall which can help further enhance and streamline processes in various departments. Time is money. If we can reduce the time required on development applications waiting for approvals from the various departments, this should then translate to lower costs to developers/builders and then ultimately to the people buying the homes.

What is your position on secondary suites?

We need a much more cohesive policy on secondary suites and it appears that the decision made at the last council meeting of this term was made in haste without really addressing the issues. It appears we almost must start the process from the beginning with a more collaborative and cooperative approach.

Do you agree that land use planning is an essential tool for achieving Calgary's transportation objectives?

Land use planning is essential to achieving not only Calgary's transportation objectives but the objectives we have of providing the best quality of life to our citizens.

Will you take a leadership role in implementing Plan It?

Plan It was the result of a visioning process that engaged thousands of Calgarians. Therefore I believe it is worth implementing.