

GIAN-CARLO CARRA

www.carra4ward9.ca

1. Perceptions of Influence

a/ Issue Statement:

We believe that civic election campaign total expenditures should be limited to reduce the potential for abuse. YES

Questions for the Candidate:

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

A cap of \$100 000 provides a beyond-reasonable budget for anyone running for an aldermanic position in Calgary.

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

I would support measures which would require candidates to disclose their donation list a week prior to the election, in order to ensure that citizens are aware of whom candidates receive their campaign finances.

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

Yes, transparency is key when it comes to the development and direction of our city and neighborhoods.

2. Council's Leadership Role

a/ Issue Statement:

We believe that Council should be setting the priorities and provide clearer direction to civic administration and related civic authorities and organizations. YES

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?

Fundamentally, I believe that a great city is made by great neighborhoods, and that neighborhoods should have a much greater say when it comes to their service needs. Currently, City Administration uses

far too often a “top-down”, “one-size-fits-all” approach, which fails to recognize the diversity of Calgary’s neighborhoods. Additionally, the separation of departments within the city administration makes it more difficult to address complex, nuanced issues unique to each neighborhood. As part of my ‘Neighborhoods First’ platform, my intention is to create “Community Councils” made up of residents, businesses, and local institutions, which are guided by a collaborative neighborhood “Master Plan”. Members of Calgary’s city administration would be pulled out of their segregated departments and, working together with one another, be at the service of each neighborhood in order to ensure a much more responsive, collaborative approach to problem-solving.

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

The system of Community Councils would be much more responsive to citizen engagement, and would hold City Hall accountable at the local level.

3. Number of Aldermen / Wards

a/ Issue Statement:

We believe that the number of aldermen in Calgary should increase. Not necessarily.

Questions for the Candidate:

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

Not necessarily.

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?

It is true that Calgarians are not being adequately represented at City Hall, and that their voices often go unheard. However, it is not guaranteed that by increasing the number of aldermen, people would necessarily be better represented. Instead, by putting more accountability and governance power at the local level through a system of Community Councils, effective representation would take place in a much more effective and efficient manner.

4. City Charter

a/ Issue Statement:

We believe that The City of Calgary should approach the Province of Alberta to explore creating a city charter for Calgary. YES

Questions for the Candidate:

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

Absolutely.

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

A City Charter is critical to ensuring sustainable growth at equitable representation as the city continues to grow. A better-defined relationship between the province and the City of Calgary needs to be established in order to maintain (and improve) the quality of services at all levels, and clarify who will be responsible for funding the services in question. That said, the province, the city, and its neighbouring regions are inextricably interlinked, and it remains integral to foster collaborative, constructive relationships at all levels of governance.

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

YES

5. **Environment and Sustainability**

a/ **Issue Statement**

We believe that the City needs to continue to strive to improve its ecological record and implement additional measures and steps towards this goal. YES

Questions for the Candidate:

Do you support expanding recycling to multi-family developments? *YES*

Would you support encouraging use of transit by City employees? *YES*

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

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

A complete overhaul of the current system is needed in order to provide Calgarians with more options to live in places that are less demanding on the environment. This involves revitalizing our inner city by reforming current rules and regulations, which make it easier for innovative projects and developments to come to light. This also means returning to the neighbourhood level, and giving people the option to live, work, and access services without needing to rely on a vehicle to do so.

6. **Housing**

a/ **Issue Statement**

We believe that The City needs to be proactive in the implementation of these housing plans and explore additional means to address the provision of adequate housing. YES

Questions for the Candidate

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

We need to get back to creating complete communities that are accessible and affordable to people of all ages, stages, and wages. This means integrating affordable housing together with the community in areas that are serviceable by transit and close to necessary services. There are several innovative initiatives happening around North America to address the affordable housing challenge while avoiding a cycle of poverty and social segregation, such as allocating a certain number of suites in any new development to residents on limited incomes. This allows for children of different socio-economic backgrounds to grow up together and is instrumental in fostering a sense of cohesive community.

What is your position on secondary suites?

I support secondary suites, with one significant caveat: they are urgently needed in some neighbourhoods, but not in all. Secondary suites should not be a “Yes or No” question, but should instead be framed in the context of “Where and How”. In order to find where secondary suites would be beneficial, it is again necessary to return to the neighbourhood level and work collaboratively with the residents of a given community to determine what works best for them.

7. Transportation

a/ Issue Statement:

*We believe that land use is critical for achieving Calgary’s transportation objectives. **NO- It’s part of the problem.***

Question for the Candidate:

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

NO. Land use planning is part of the problem, not part of the solution. It is a dated and confining tool that has only served to further unsustainable suburban developments. In order to really address transportation issues (and myriad other issues our city is currently facing), we need to use innovative approaches to get away from land use, including adopting form-based coding scaled at the neighborhood level.

Will you take a leadership role in implementing Plan It?

Yes. While Plan It was the product of good intentions, it is seriously lacking in its ability to provide tools to actually implement it, and is lacking some core steps to achieve real sustainability objectives. I am intimately aware of what specific rules and regulations are in need of overhaul in order to address the goals of Plan It, and obtain the results demanded by the citizens of Calgary in the Imagine Calgary process.