

3. **Number of Aldermen / Wards**

a/ Issue Statement:

While the mayor is elected by the city as a whole, aldermen are elected to represent a specific ward. Issues and perceptions of Calgary residents can vary significantly, depending on where they live. Aldermen need to be in a position of representing those issues and perceptions, hopefully for the ward as a whole. The larger the ward, the more difficult it is to represent the various points of view within a ward.

Currently, there are 14 wards for a population that has grown to over a million people. As the city has grown, boundaries of wards have been adjusted. This has become an increasingly more difficult task and one that is more open to political tinkering.

As the number people represented per ward has increased, access to our elected representatives has decreased due to very heavy time demands on them. Being an alderman has become a huge job time wise. The ability of aldermen to have sufficient time to consult with their constituents and research the issues in their ward is ever decreasing.

We believe that the number of aldermen in Calgary should increase.

b/ Background:

In 1950, there were 12 aldermen to represent 120,000 Calgarians. In 1976, the number of aldermen increased to 14 when the population had reached 470,000. There have been no changes in the number of aldermen since.

In 1976, each alderman represented around 34,000 people on average. This had increased to around 76,000 in 2009, more than double the 1976 number. By comparison, there were 23 MLA's representing an average of 46,000 Calgarians in 2009. This means that aldermen represented on average 80% more people than an MLA in Calgary. There have been many reviews and adjustments on the number of MLA's over the years. The latest proposed change would add 2 MLA's to Calgary.

c/ Questions for the Candidate:

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

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?