

Abed Harb - AUPE Questionnaire Answers
Candidate for Calgary City Council Ward 10

1. Will you oppose privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including Public-Private Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

Answer:

1. I am a firm believer in the public sector, and I do not believe in a “race to the bottom” when it comes to the provision of public services. Rather, I believe that a healthy public sector can bring great value to a growing city. For future projects as we continue to grow, we will need to consider options for investments that the government alone cannot access. The next council’s decisions should be based on our financial capacity and the overall benefit to our community.

2. Will you support your employees and your community by ensuring the municipality employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights?

Answer:

2. I will support the people of Ward 10 and the businesses in our community in creating jobs in our city. The economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic have created a significant blow to our community’s economic stability. To ensure our city can continue to provide the quality jobs Calgarians need we must work together to diversify and find ways to innovate to ensure our community’s economic stability.

3. Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against municipal staff including cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

Answer:

3. As a City Councillor I support meaningful community engagement. Government officials should never forget the people who they represent and as a City Councillor I believe it is essential to remain in touch with the residents of Ward 10 and to provide them with the best possible representation at City Council.

4. How do you propose your municipality deal with funding shortfalls, cuts, and downloading of responsibilities from federal and provincial governments? Do you favour spending cuts over tax increases?

Answer:

4. Reckless cutting of basic city services is not the path to long-term prosperity. Ward 10 has already been neglected for far too long and requires serious reinvestment in basic public infrastructure. Taxpayers from Ward 10 have contributed with our tax dollars to the growth of Calgary, but now we are at a critical point in our infrastructure life cycle, where not investing in Ward 10 risks having the established neighbourhoods of the area become degraded. This is not a solution that I am willing to accept.

5. Do you support measures such as mask mandates, vaccine “passports”, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your municipality?

Answer:

5. I fully support the people and businesses of Ward 10 who wish to return to work and engage with their community again. I stand behind the efforts currently being made to move past the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as possible, if all actions take into account the health and safety of the members of our community.

6. Do you support measures to reduce municipal reliance on services fees and fares, such as eliminating transit fares?

Answer:

6. Transit is the lifeblood of our city when it comes to mobility and access. It should be more affordable, more accessible, and more reliable. I support investing in stable funding to allow better access and more transit to enhance the mobility of all Calgarians around the City, complementing the Downtown Strategy and our economic recovery.