

Andrea Hinton responses

Candidate for Calgary City Council Ward 14

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

Calgarians deserve to have their money spent in a responsible manner by their municipal government. If it is found that a city service could be provided to Calgarians in a more cost-effective manner while maintaining the same level of service by moving to a private provider, then I would be in favour of doing so. Of course, I would also be in favour of moving privatized services in house if it would be more cost effective, while maintaining the same level of service or increasing it. Calgary needs to focus on providing services to the community in the most cost-effective manner as possible, while maintaining a level of service Calgarians deserve.

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?

I believe the municipality should employ individuals that are best qualified for the jobs that are needed, and provide them with a wage which would be similar to a wage found in the private sector for a similar position. If a position for the municipality requires an employee to work full time hours, then the position should be as such. I would be against hiring individuals as full-time employees if a job position did not require it. I do not believe municipal employees are immune from the ups and downs of the economy when it comes to job security. As for collective bargaining rights, I believe that employees should be able to voice their concerns. All municipal services, and jobs created by those services exist to serve the community.

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?

If the provincial government brought in legislation to bring cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, I would be for it if the legislation was to ensure municipal staff were not at an unfair advantage compared to the private sector. The Local Authorities Pensions Plan is heavily tax funded, and I believe tax money should go towards services for the community. I do not believe that the provincial government should restrict individuals' ability to strike. The right to strike is needed to ensure that the collective voice is heard at times.

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

All three levels of government should work together for the benefit of the people they represent. In recent times Calgary's municipal government, and the provincial government have not been working together in a cohesive manner, which has only harmed Calgarians. I am hopeful a new city council will allow for positive progress to be made between the two levels of government. Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, I am in favour of Calgary cutting spending on areas that are wants vs needs. Most Calgarians have had some sort of financial loss, or hardship due to COVID-19, and I do not believe that increasing taxes, especially during this time, is the right thing to do. Calgary has a spending issue, not a revenue

issue. Through fiscally conservative choices, I believe Calgary will be able to continue to provide essential services to the community, while keeping taxes at their current level.

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?

Earlier this month the city made the decision to bring in a COVID-19 vaccination policy which requires city staff to be fully vaccinated by October 31st, 2021. There will be vaccination exemptions for individuals with medical reasons, or for other protected grounds under the Alberta Human Rights Act. Those individuals who are exempt from vaccinations will have to provide a negative COVID-19 test before being allowed to work. The city has also implemented its own mask bylaw. I am hopeful these measures will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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

Service fees, such as transit fares, are used to financially supplement services the city provides. If services fees were to be eliminated, then a service would be entirely tax funded. The only way services could be entirely tax funded would be to increase taxes on property owners, and businesses. I am not for increasing taxes; therefore, I believe Calgary needs to continue charging service fees.