

Responses submitted by Kourtney Branagan. Ward 11 Calgary Candidate.

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?

I can't 100% oppose all P3 partnerships. As an example I would say partnering with the YMCA has proven generally successful (though it has drawbacks too). There are going to be cases for infrastructure and delivery where partnerships make sense. I think the City needs to explore how and why we create partnerships and choose quality partners which support living wages, benefits, and healthy work environments.

For services (eg waste collection), I've yet to see solid evidence that the long term value exists by moving to privatized service. For this reason I will not be keen to initiate or support the privatization of services. Private services are unpredictable in their delivery, susceptible to market shocks, and have less oversight.

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?

Yes.

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?

Yes.

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?

Calgary needs to have an honest conversation about our residential property tax rate. I am not here to explicitly say we need to raise taxes, however, I've never seen a government cut their way out of a revenue problem. Calgary needs to invest to get return. We need to review our land use bylaws to encourage diversity in housing, transforming empty lots, and up scaling existing light commercial and industrial areas to residential. I believe we're also not making the best use of our capital budget to support life-cycling of infrastructure and continue to find ourselves in an operating shortfall as a result.

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?

Yes

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

Yes. Fees are the worst form of flat tax. Beyond transit we need to look at waste and recycling costs as well as a flat fee which negatively impacts fixed and low income earners.

