

Courtney Walcott responses
Candidate for Calgary City Council Ward 8

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 support bringing previously privatized services in-house. It allows the City to more closely provide strong employment that supports a high quality of life for our citizens. While there are short term opportunities for P3's to exist, any ongoing or long-term municipal services and infrastructure must remain with the City.

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?

- This is an easy yes. These protections should be a part of any employee/employer relationship. The City of Calgary should consistently be leaders in high quality employment that include living wages, full time hours where available, job security, and collective bargaining rights.

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, I will. The provincial government should not interfere with the LAPP and municipal employees' right to vote, especially if motivated by austerity.

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?

- Neither are a good option. What I will say is that there are baselines for quality of services that need to be maintained in a municipality. How we go about funding them is always a challenge, but the solution is never to cut our way to prosperity. Instead, we must seek to diversify our funding models, advocate for an updated taxation model from the province, and to more sustainably build our city to establish a more balanced tax and revenue base.

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?

- I do. We have an opportunity here to protect ourselves against the spread of COVID-19 through the use of scientifically proven vaccines. The use of passports

allows for greater consistency and will allow for our many facilities to return to some degree of normalcy in operations.

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

- My goal for services in Calgary is to eventually diversify their funding model to such a degree that we reduce pay barriers such as fees and fares. In particular, with transit playing such a critical role in our long term goals of universal accessibility, climate action, economic stability, and social cohesion, we need to ensure that we are offering a transit system free of barriers to use.