

**Darcy Logan responses**  
**Candidate for Lethbridge City Council**

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 am unequivocally against privatization and the contracting of private 3-party operators for essential municipal services. Essential being both infrastructure, and a spectrum of service delivery from emergency response to recreation & culture.

I have never understood the ethos of profits over people, and would challenge anyone to find examples where the privatization of services has made things either cost effective for the consumer long-term, or socially effective. Who would you rather trust? Individuals invested in the community who are making choices that will benefit all stakeholders, or a contracted company who will make the choice to trim expenses/services to maximize profit, even against the interests of the citizenry?

Privatization does save dollars, but is short-term savings with long-term deficiencies. Private enterprise is best left to mercantile exchange, while service delivery is kept in the public interest. It is hard to claw back those services once they are privatized, but we can try. It is best to avoid it happening in the first place.

But for the sake of transparency, I do also support municipal FFS agreements in exceptional cases for the delivery of certain niche services, provided the organizations are not-for-profit.

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 will vociferously advocate for the above whenever possible.

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?

Organized labour should have their pensions protected. The choice to strike is an inalienable right of unions to protest against exploitation. If we didn't have it, we would still be working 6 days a week, and children would be in factories instead of schools.

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?

We do offer extraordinary services for which we are highly taxed, and we should be looking at sustainable ways to operate. We can ameliorate shortfalls by exploring new revenue streams. One way is to increase the tax base by making Lethbridge a desirable place for private investment, and another by making us a destination for tourism and culture. Cutting services and

jobs is always undesirable.

The divide between spending cuts and tax increases is always difficult topography to navigate. Tax increases directly affect both low income citizens in Lethbridge and constituents on fixed incomes that don't increase as the Cost of Living and CPI creep higher; we all understand that spending cuts hurt workers and service delivery. This should be a case by case basis with decisions made that will damage individuals in the community the least. I do disdain ideologies that position themselves as "cut service as a first resort" on principle.

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 support health passes, or proof of vaccination to enter large gatherings, some retail, restaurants, and other non-essential commercial enterprises. In essential businesses I support distancing and masking. Something has to be done to mitigate the growing strain on our health care system. Optimally, this would come from the province, not municipalities. So, to ensure my position is clear, I support "vaccine passports" and public health measures.

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

Moving away from municipal reliance on service fees would be an ideal outcome. Service fees, whether for transit or sports & should be affordable for everyone. Poverty should not be a barrier to transportation, recreation, or cultural experiences. These need to be kept as low as possible.