

Dwight Hickey responses
Candidate for Mayor of Red Deer

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?

A. I believe that all city services should sit under one roof. That roof should be under The City of Red Deer. The City of Red Deer should do it's best to ensure all services it uses are under one umbrella, this will save tax funds in the treasury. I am aware that sometimes things must be outsourced to be completed, both professionally, and in a timely manner. In the case of outsourcing, multiple bids must be attained, before anything can go through.

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?

A. I believe that a work force should be paid a living wage. This increases productivity, job satisfaction, and retention of trained employees. Full-Time vs. Part-Time is the choice of the employer. Employees will be designated "Full-Time", "Part-Time", or "Full-Part" at the time of hire for service. This will always be subject to change, but not without notice. Job Security is dependent on the employees performance. I would not look to terminate trained staff, as long as they are performing their assigned jobs properly. I am open to discussing projects with unionized contractors.

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?

A. I will do my best to ensure the smooth operations of The City of Red Deer for its citizens.

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?

A. Spending cuts are a tool often used in lean times. Tax increases are only a good policy when density increases in certain areas. I think balance is more of a wise choice. Elimination of non-productive programs, old hat ideas, and failed infrastructure are where monies are best retained for new, or other necessary projects that are underfunded. I think that partnerships with other levels of government to ensure funding of assets, and projects is key to maintaining, and improving our way of life here in Red Deer.

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?

A. I support what is decided upon by Council in chambers, and what is legally mandated.

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

A. I think fares are a necessary component to service. I do think that some streamlining could improve fares, and the access to services. Fares are also necessary to prevent abuse of services. By collecting fees & fares you can monitor use of services, and prevent over-booking of services by no-show clients. The funds should be enumerated, and amounts should be posted publicly (on the city website). People who are unable to pay the fees & fares are able to currently access through Income Support (www.albertasupports.ca).

You wouldn't expect to go into a store and walk out with something, without paying the clerk first, would you? Remember: Not everyone using the municipal services in Red Deer are from Red Deer. Fees & fares make up for this short fall from visitors to our fine city. You might be surprised about how many people use Red Deer services that are from other regions, and municipalities.

