

Gary Bobrovitz responses
Candidate for Calgary City Council Ward 8

Answer 1.

I value the hard work of City of Calgary employees. Their contributions are even more vital because of this pandemic. I believe that there are certain services the City is the only organization capable of providing to Calgarians. These should not be handed over to private companies. As for current services contracted out by the City to third-party providers, I believe that these contracts must be regularly reviewed for cost-effectiveness and to ensure they meet labour standards. If they do not, City Council's responsibility is to consider the best way to provide those services, including having the City provide them directly.

Answer 2.

Yes. Living wages, full-time hours (where desired), job security, and collective bargaining rights are important to ensure that experienced, committed individuals are hired by and continue working for the City of Calgary.

Answer 3.

Yes. A pension is a pledge made by employers to their employees. In return for their hard work today, employees will be looked after tomorrow. Unilaterally cutting the LAPP and other actions suggested by the current provincial government breaks that pledge and harms workers. The right to strike is constitutionally protected in Canada, and restrictions on that right must be opposed.

Answer 4.

I have committed to diversifying the City of Calgary's revenue streams to ensure stable budgeting for future years. This ensures that vital services are not first on the chopping block when it comes to city budgeting. It also ensures that Council does not needlessly raise taxes on Calgarians. I do not support reckless spending cuts on vital city services. I will also vigorously oppose downloading responsibilities onto the municipality from both the federal and provincial governments.

Answer 5.

Yes. All levels of government have a responsibility to protect their citizens. COVID-19 is a real and present danger in this province. The City of Calgary has previously initiated programs and policies based on the best recommendations from the medical and scientific community to stem the spread of this pandemic. I have supported this strategy, and I continue to support it.

Answer 6.

I believe in reviewing service fees across all city departments. Some are required to cover reasonable costs incurred by the City in providing a service. Others are prime candidates for reduction or elimination. With respect to Calgary Transit specifically, I will fight to ensure that overhead costs and fares are lowered while protecting service and reliability.