

## **Giselle General responses**

### **Candidate for Edmonton City Council Ward sipiwiniwak**

#### **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?**

*Giselle's response: I believe there is a time and place for P3s, privatization, or other creative funding models so I won't oppose them on the outset. As a specific example, for the two-year, on-demand bus pilot project, it makes sense that there is a private contract because setting up the pilot project quickly was a priority and there is no guarantee yet that this will become a permanent service. Once the pilot has concluded and if it becomes a permanent component of the transit services by the city, then integrating in to ETS and having the operators as city employees makes sense to me.*

*The argument of private vs public (union) is common and heavily politized. I think that it's best to evaluate the funding model for each project individually, based on its merits. I will support bringing previously privatized services in-house if the numbers make sense. Numbers don't necessarily mean just salaries and benefits, but also the economic and social impact of having more Edmontonians with good jobs and living wages.*

#### **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?**

*Giselle's response:*

*Short answer is yes I do. Everyday Edmontonians deserve jobs that provide living wages, job security and bargaining rights. Having a living wage can help working class families, uplift themselves from poverty and have a secure life.*

*One important action that needs to be taken moving forward, is educating the general public about unions, addressing misconceptions about unions, and addressing any real issues that happen within unions. I've observed that Edmontonians who are not part of a union assume that union jobs are "too secure", resulting to poor quality of work because employees are "difficult to fire". While I think that these have some validity, I think it's overgeneralized. The resentment I've been observing regarding unions is something that needs to be addressed, in a way that makes sense to those who don't work in government.*

#### **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?**

*Giselle's response:*

*Regarding the cuts to the LAAP, the short answer is yes I will oppose attempts to cut it. To my understanding, the LAPP is not owned by the governments and is managed and grows through investment so I'm baffled as to why the provincial government would want to impose cuts to the plan. I would appreciate a more detailed conversation about this.*

*Regarding restrictions on the right to strike, I want to first state upfront that I came to Canada as a teen, has never worked in a workplace with a union, and unions are not commonplace where I immigrated from. So, my firsthand exposure on unions is limited and I'm still learning the intricacies and dynamics of bargaining, strikes and how it impacts the community whenever this happens. With that said, I am running for city council to fight for everyday Edmontonians. From that angle, if restrictions on municipal staff's right to strike means that the wellbeing of everyday Edmontonians will be harmed by having their worker's rights compromised, then I will oppose this legislation.*

**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?**

*Giselle's Response: There needs to be a balance and cutting jobs should not be the first thing that comes to mind for any government. Some ideas to help deal with funding shortfalls are as follows:*

- *Implementing already existing reports and audits such as the 2019 audit outlining excessive numbers of middle managers.*
- *Harnessing the potential of volunteers and local initiatives. I've heard at the doors that residents are willing to do their part of connect with their neighbours, help with local cleanup, set up community safety and youth programming. Programs that are comparatively low-budget and amplify impact, like Capital City Cleanup and community league supports, can help give agency to residents in improving their neighbourhoods and improving quality of life.*
- *Evaluating the impact of the pandemic on workplace practices and expenses.*

**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?**

*Giselle's Response: Yes, I support this. The health and wellbeing of Edmontonians is important to me, and people in vulnerable populations are typically the most hard hit.*

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

*Giselle's Response: In theory, yes. But I would like the opportunity to look at the numbers to identify ways to make it work. If the city is able to make the numbers work, then yes I would support it. To be clear, numbers are beyond just the expense line item in the city's budget. I also want to see any identifiable impacts such as social return on investment (ex. How much usage of municipal services (like transit) will increase if transit fares are eliminated, and how much economic activity in our local businesses would that translate to.)*