

Glyn Grüner responses
Candidate for Mayor of Grande Prairie

"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?"

My proposition is to make Grande Prairie a direct democracy. As Mayor I would only do what the majority voting online support, essentially hijacking representative democracy with direct democracy.

I'm not ideologically possessed enough to make a blanket statement implying I will always support or oppose privatization even for my personal opinion.

But I did decide to propose two solutions to show that solving problems is within my skill set.

My secondary suggestion is to double the cities road repair staff and triple windrow removal for year-round employment. Contractors prioritize taking the easy repair jobs leaving the most expensive repairs for city employees. This skewed the cost of city employees vs. contractors, especially since the city has a lot of idle equipment for a 2nd crew. It will only save money in the long-term, but we immediately get extra snow removal and hot-mix winter repairs.

"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?"

Voting online enables voters to collectively bargain through me. Whatever 75% of voters support, I will enact with absolute conviction. My primary solution is for preventing theft of the possessions you traded your time for. With a direct line to voters, labour negotiations should be more productive.

"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?"

Direct democracy will grant the Mayor greater authority than a politician can ever attain. Knowing the true desires of the populace means it will be easy to defy the Provincial and Federal politicians. Voting online enables greater communication, better informed voters and more authoritative decisions.

I've only ever seen politicians opposing the right to strike, but never during an election. Ideally as Mayor you avoid strikes in the first place, and resign when you don't.

"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?"

Increasing property taxes when GP has the highest in Alberta is a hard sell. We're 33% higher than the 2nd highest (Lethbridge). High property tax rates push fixed-income out of GP, right at the age when they should be closer to city services. We might need a complex solution, with serious sacrifices to make. With online voting, figuring out what the most agreeable sacrifices are, becomes easier to determine

"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?"
If elected I'll make it the very first thing everyone can vote online for or against. It's probably the perfect problem for direct democracy to solve.

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

That is a great ballot idea for everyone in Grande Prairie to get to vote on... if I'm elected.