

RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATE JYOTI GONDEK

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?

There should be a review of the services we have outsourced to ensure there is alignment with the benefits driven procurement policy that prioritizes partners who operate safe, equitable and local businesses. Where the City does not specialize in a service area and a P3 may be warranted for projects, there must be attention to the partner's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

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?

Dated human resources and labour relations policies and practices at the City of Calgary must be modernized. All employees, unionized or not, must be treated with fairness and respect.

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?

In dealing with the provincial government, I will continue to advocate for the best interests of Calgarians, including those whom we employ at the City of Calgary.

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?

Presently, the City has been offloaded millions of dollars in service delivery costs because the provincial government has shirked its responsibility. They have also not responded to repeated requests for a fair deal that fixes the broken & regressive system of property taxes as our only predictable revenue source. Cuts to operating budgets over time have compromised service delivery. We must persist in asking for a financial agreement that allows more tax dollars to stay in our city. We must also seek smart land use decisions that add to our tax base, and strike partnerships within the region to share costs and benefits.

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?

Yes.

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

Affordable public services are key to a strong city, and sliding scale measures can be tools that offer accessibility to all Calgarians.