

## **AUPE Responses**

**Lauren Herschel**

**Candidate for City Council Ward 11 Calgary**

**Will you oppose privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including Public-Private-Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?**

I do not believe that the City of Calgary's operational services should be privatized as it has been shown overtime to provide less service for more money. The City also provides some very unique services that could not easily be done by third parties. I would support bringing outsourced services in house after reviewing the details to ensure it makes the most sense for workers and the City.

In terms of infrastructure and facility projects – both new builds and day-to-day operations, in some cases public private partnerships make sense and mean we can have more as citizens with less risk to the city and less burden on taxes to manage operating costs. This means less potential cutbacks in other areas of administration. A good example was the construction and management of the newer recreation centres in Calgary. They were built by the city with support from private industry from a funding perspective, and are managed by a third party (the YMCA) with additional services being managed by civic partners like the Library, and public vendors (Good Earth, Booster Juice). It means we have a much better centre than if it were entirely city built, funded and managed by the City of Calgary. Each project would need to be evaluated based on a criteria, including what is best for the City, tax payers, residents and city workers. P3s may not always make sense, but in some cases they do. I would support the ones that bring a strong benefit to residents and local businesses.

**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?**

I believe everyone should be paid a living wage, have a safe workplace, flexibility in hours and location of work and job security.

**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?**

I do not believe it is right to make changes to programs and benefits for public servants for things like pensions which people have contributed to for years, without meaningful consultation. From a city councillor perspective, many of these provincial decisions are out of the scope of council's work, however I will always endeavor to work well with other levels of government to support Calgarians.

**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?**

We need to overhaul the municipal taxation process for businesses and residents. I believe we also need to look at the city's money management processes to determine if funds are being properly allocated and utilized, rather than the focus being solely on taxes going up while cutting back on services (many departments are already operating on a very lean budget). We need a better, more sustainable balance in how the city approaches revenues and spending.

**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 the province is unable or unwilling to do more to protect residents, our healthcare system and our economy, I support the city looking at ways to do so. These are unprecedented times and I believe that the City may have to do some things outside of their regular scope to keep our city healthy and functional. Residents and businesses need more certainty and predictability in their day to day and I think the City plays a role in making that happen in the short term until our situation improves.

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

I would very much like to increase the efficiency and affordability of transit, to ensure it is well used and accessible.