

Marilyn North Peigan responses
Candidate for Calgary City Council Ward 7

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

I was once a front line service delivery person attached to a private company contracted out. The manner in which I was employed did not parallel that manner in which the employees I served were employed. My company did not have the culture training within management and was prone to pushing supervisors into roles where they were subjected to be “yes” people as opposed to being there for the team needs. I was working in a field whose policies were not up to the company's policies I was attached to. I understand the importance of bringing privatized services in-house. In a world where we are struggling with systemic racism, we should be advocating for systems to identify gaps that cause large turn-over rates, or those that utilize immigrant and minority workers without providing proper supports in their roles.

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?

Everyone deserves job security, especially now that we will be going into a recovery with the city. A large portion of the mental health issues are stemming from employment issues. As part of a recovery, we do need to ensure employees have a living wage, full-time hours, job security and collective bargaining. This further leads into the health and wellbeing of families. In order to have a strong recovery, we need a workforce that feels confident that they are valued for the skills they bring to the table.

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

I intend to advocate to the province against cutting municipal staff, including the LAPP. The fact is the province has proven they are not here for Calgarians. We need to stand our ground as municipal leaders to state more cuts to our municipal areas is not the solution. However, I am also here to work with the province to ensure the best solution for Calgarians is achieved that will protect our fragile work communities.

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

Calgary has always been a resilient city. We will recover and prosper into the future. We do require sustainable taxation and service funding. This would include restoring the City Charter and getting a fair deal for Calgary so you can get the value for your tax dollars and the sustainable service you deserve. We need to ensure what we have within municipal governance is structured to protect so there will be no need to cut or increase the tax burden. This would also include ensuring our downtown core does see a near future where its 14% revenue to the city is back to just that. This will require strong leadership advocacy, this is what I plan to do.

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

My first job was as a Canadian Forces Medic. I am fully aware we are not in a normal everyday world. And I do understand the challenging times we are in with the pandemic and changing global economy. We will be dealing with both for sometime into the city’s recovery. I do support mask mandates, vaccine passports and vaccine mandates for staff. As a front line worker over the pandemic, I have seen what COVID-19 can do. I have also lost a few clients over pandemic and dealt with COVID within my own family and Piikani community in helping to protect our traditional knowledge keepers. We do need to take this seriously, but continue to educate along the way. There is a lot of miscommunication out there. As a person who is empirically based, I find it of most importance to keep the education and mandate measures on the same level through staff and public communication. In other words, it must be done with transparency.

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

An important piece of my platform under “recovery” deals with avoiding a “K-shaped recovery”. A K-shaped recovery occurs when different parts of the population recover from a recession at different paces. To avoid this process we need to invest in Calgarians, including services we rely on. This would include examining fare free transit. There are ideas around expanding the fare free zone as a pilot project, these are great places to be. Bottom line, we need to ensure Calgarians can grow and

prosper out of this pandemic without compromising our commitment to protecting the environment and supporting those less fortunate than us.