

Michael Janz responses
Candidate for Edmonton City Council Ward papastew

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?

Yes. I have a record of opposing P3s and privatization over my 11 years as EPSB Trustee and have received the endorsement from labour groups and unions for the last three elections because of my record. In fact I have received the Edmonton District Labour Council's endorsement for Ward papastew in this election because of this record. I will absolutely continue to fight to oppose attempts to privatize municipal services and infrastructure. I firmly believe we need to strengthen public-services and resist efforts to privatize or outsource services wherever possible. We need to ensure as elected officials we are putting the public interest first and selling off publicly owned assets or outsourcing services doesn't achieve that.

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?

Yes. The creation of good jobs is central to my platform and that means living wages, job security and where possible full-time hours and I absolutely support the right of employees to collectively bargain.

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?

Yes. As an elected Councillor I see it as my job to advocate for the residents of my ward and those across the city for issues that are important to them with other levels of government, specifically the provincial government. This extends to the municipality's employees and the oversight of their pension plan and right to strike.

4. How do you propose your municipality deal with funding shortfalls, cuts, and downloading of responsibilities from federal and provincial governments? Do you favor spending cuts over tax increases?

We need to hold the provincial and federal governments accountable for their cuts and revenue shortfalls to municipalities. The UCP government has decided to balance its budget on the backs of municipalities with significant decreases to the MSI grants and the downloading of services to municipalities. As a Trustee on the Edmonton Public School Board for the last 11 years I have worked with my fellow trustees to fight against school closures and other attacks on our schools by the province to ensure that we have a high quality of education for our children in this city. I will take that same vigor and fight to the City Council. I think we need to strive to find efficiencies within our budget wherever possible before we entertain spending cuts or increases to taxes. We also need to ensure that the right services are being delivered by the right people at the right time (e.g. mental health services by experts, rather than the Edmonton Police)

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. The UCP government has absolutely failed the residents of the City of Edmonton, and people across the province, through their response to the pandemic. They have failed to rise to the occasion and as a result municipalities have been left to fill in the gaps. We are facing one of the most important public health emergencies we have ever faced and if we continue to see-saw on health measures the way we have we will continue to see people get sick and an increase in COVID related deaths. Having consistent public health measures such as mask mandates, vaccine passports, etc. ensures that we can open up our economy again, support our local businesses and give confidence to our residents that when they go out and shop or do business that they are doing so as safely as possible.

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

Yes, again this goes to my point above about finding efficiencies within our existing budget without looking at increasing fees, fares or taxes. If we are going to create communities and by extension a city that is affordable and inclusive for all residents we need to ensure that municipal services remain accessible and affordable. We should pursue a policy of decreasing transit fares whenever possible so that we can increase the opportunity for people to use these important public services, especially as the climate emergency worsens.