

AUPE Committee On Political Action Survey

(September 30, 2021)

Questions and responses from Monika Iverson, Ward 5 Candidate for 2021

Questions:

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 oppose the privatization of public services, although I believe that before a decision can be made on any specific topic all the information needs to be reviewed and the full picture understood. Currently privatized services that make sense to bring into public control will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis.

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?

Absolutely I support that all municipal employees should have a living wage and be treated fairly when it comes to schedule, job security and rights.

3. Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against municipal staff including cuts to Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

The right to strike is important to our democracy and I believe it needs to be protected. As a municipality we will need to protect the pensions of the staff and fight for their rights.

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?

Our current total taxation is higher than it should be and this needs to be under review. Unfortunately the municipality can only control our own mill rate and not the federal taxation. Corporations that use our resources and services should be taxed accordingly and the burden shifted from the residential tax payers. When we encounter a budget shortfall I believe in reviewing the entire financial situation for efficiency to ensure we are spending our money wisely and still maintain the correct level of public services.

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?

I believe that vaccines are and have been an essential part of keeping our people safe and healthy. I do not believe that anyone should be forced to take any medication against their will.

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

Some groups should be exempt from service fees on expected public services. The reduction or elimination of fees for specific users would need to be reviewed to ensure that it would not create a budget deficit and thus a need for increased taxation or reduction in spending in other areas.