

Ryan Bailey responses

Candidate for Cold Lake City Council

On P3 and Privatization:

While, P3s can give the illusion of saving for taxpayers, in reality these facilities can end up costing taxpayers more in the long run. The private part of a P3 will often seek to make money only. This can result in infrastructure not being looked after properly as the private part wants to save money as long as possible. This results in crumbling infrastructure and an increased cost to taxpayers come repair time.

I feel that under no circumstances should private business have a hand in public infrastructure. Health and education being 2 of them. As we have seen during COVID 19 - private run health care and lodging facilities have made dire mistakes that have lead to unnecessary death and long term health issues for survivors.

On municipalities as employers:

I believe that a living wage is important. When people are able to spend without having to worry if they can keep the lights on in their house or buy proper food, society benefits.

I would oppose provincial government legislation that would include cutting a worker's earned pension. I am also opposed to the government taking pensions to invest in projects. (AIMCO) I support a union's right to strike.

On Funding:

I have always said no one loves to pay taxes. However, if a municipality has infrastructure and services it is currently providing, it should continue to provide those services. If people keep moving into a municipality and thus increasing the tax base, there is a possibility of zero cuts and near-zero tax increases. If there are not new families moving into the city, we still require the services and as such small tax increases may be needed to continue to fund those services. This also applies to aging infrastructure. We cannot simply cut water service lines as a cost saving measure and so tax increases are likely. I would love to say there would never be a tax increase, but that's not reality.

On COVID 19 Safety:

I feel that workers must be protected. I believe it is the employers duty to protect their workers. This includes PPE, sanitization and also implementing "vaccine passports" where able. I was saddened to see my city earlier in the year oppose mask mandates. If I was on council, I would have supported it. I was also vocal in suggesting to my current city council that the REP program be used in city-run facilities. We were able to get the city to change our city wellness centre (gym/weight room) to the REP program. This allows people to feel safe as well as maximize the amount of taxpayers able to use the facility.

On Affordability:

Currently, the city of Cold Lake has a zero - fare program for our public transit. I am in favour of this. One thing the city does charge is the use of the handibus or special transit. To me this is not ok. We should not be charging a fee on our special transit. If elected, I will take steps to remove this fee.

Also, in Cold Lake, taxi cabs are unregulated. I have heard stories of people being charged 20 dollars to go 4 Km. I feel that this is unfair and hurts low income workers. If elected, I will work to have our cab fares regulated to ensure fairness for the customers.