

Susan Field 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 oppose privatization of city services. Privatizing services isn't smart business sense. It's allowing a third party corporation to make revenue off our basic City services which are covered under the Municipalities Act as the City's responsibility. I only support P3's in very, very specific cases, but on the whole prefer to keep services in-house.

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, I am fully supportive of all these aspects. I have heard that the City is looking to increase the weekly hours of work for some of its unionized employees. I Oppose this. Micromanaging employees with the intent to squeeze a tiny bit more work out of them is unproductive and creates an adverse work environment. Working to motivate employees and to make their work environment a great place to be has always been my goal as an employer. Empowering employees through efficient procedures will help their productivity and help them be more satisfied at work. Also, collective bargaining rights are rights, and should be protected.

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!

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?

The City auditor's report identifies Capital Projects as the major areas of spending that has increased above and beyond inflation, not our City employees. Capital Project spending needs to be reined in, instead of cutting the salaries of frontline staff.

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. Keeping people who are at work as safe as possible, instead of laying them off, is paramount.

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

I believe our transit fares are too high and it is a barrier for both short and long term users. When you can drive downtown and park for less than it costs for a family to take transit, many people choose the former. Increasing transit coverage and accessibility of transit near their homes and workplace should be a right for Edmontonians. I think a long term goal of reducing or eliminating transit fares could be a goal that we work towards once coverage and usage across the City is fully established.