

Terry Wong Calgary 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?

Calgary taxpayers want and deserve value for their tax dollars. It is the responsibility of City Councillors to ensure the best in governance and leadership is provided. Privatization will be effective only if private managers have incentives to act in the citizen-centric public interest including:

- **Value Consciousness:** is the taxpayer getting good value for the tax dollar,
- **Effectiveness and Quality of Service:** is the service provided meeting the needs and satisfaction level of the public user - taxpayers, visitors, businesses
- **Efficiency and Timeliness of Delivery:** is the service timely, regular, frequent enough, providing needed hours of service availability
- **Well Managed Public Infrastructure Assets and Property:** are the assets (eg. buses, vehicles, equipment), infrastructure (eg. building, bridges, roadway, etc.), and the property (ie. land) safeguarded from environmental damage and hazardous materials
- **most importantly, Safe, Secure, Healthy, Respectful and Competitive Workplace:** are the management structures, policies, workforce and health/safety agreements, and comparable workplace conditions in place that engages employees and attracts talent as a 'best employer' organization

Public, Private, or P3, City Council owes taxpayers this criteria when exploring service delivery models.

I will not advocate for new P3 service delivery models in the immediate term and I will seek a 'value for money' response to all existing privatization and P3 agreements.

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?

The management of the municipal workforce is the responsibility of the City Manager and Administration. I encourage a Respectful Workforce and Workplace Policy, Collective Bargaining, Competitive Compensation in a Comparable Environment, internal hiring priority, seniority hiring, and Layoff/Recall protocols.

As Councillors, we must adjudicate and approve/reject with management's business plans and budgets with the input of the public and workers. However, we cannot intercede or interfere with operations, service delivery, and workforce deployment plans. There must be a separation of authority and accountability.

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?

A removal of provincial pension programs such as Local Authorities Pension Plan and any changes to the Alberta Labour Standards Act affecting local government and its workforce requires coordinate consultation with the municipality, if not a more collaborative consultation approach. The City Manager is responsible for consultation with the Provincial Ministeries.

As Council and Councillor, our influence is political through Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and, indirectly, the Rural Municipalities Association plus the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Labour respectfully.

As Councillor, working coincidentally with the City Manager, I will seek to protect the interest of the City of Calgary workforce and all employees accordingly from negative consequences of provincial legislation.

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?

City Hall budgets for 2022 and the next 4-year business plan cycle will be realigned to match Calgary's priorities as expressed through the winning candidates and the carryforward of aligned and viable 2018-2021 business plan priorities. We cannot afford to operate City Hall beyond its means. Downloading city costs to taxpayers in the form of fees and tax increases is not the answer especially for seniors and those on fixed incomes, on those suffering job/income loss, and those dealing with staggering rise in gasoline and electricity costs.

However, I am not in favour of cutting spending nor tax cuts to manage our way of any negative financial situations. I prefer to reprioritize the municipal services and align budgets accordingly (including workforce transfers), to see additional revenue from adjacent municipalities and residents/businesses of Foothills, Rockyview, Airdrie, Cochrane, Okotoks, Strathmore who use City services subsidized by Calgary taxpayers, and by seeking greater operating grants from federal and provincial governments who continually download to local government.

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?

Simply, YES. We need to protect our workforce, our public, and ourselves from COVID-19. To those who wish not to wear a mask or be vaccinated, its their right to choose.

However, with these rights comes responsibilities including to the protection of the public from their wanton beliefs and behaviours. If you are banned from entering/interacting with public, private and social activities of these organizations and individual choices, you must respect and behave accordingly.

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

No. In government services, there is and must be a balance of taxes to support the greater need and good of society and community. However, there must be fees to respond to choice and to regulate demand on city facilities and services. Uncontrolled, unregulated provision of services often leads to greater inefficiencies, higher costs, and a greater financial burden on individuals and businesses.

I believe we are a responsible society that is responsible for one-self, to one another, and to society and communities as a whole. There is no entitlement, rather there is earned benefits.