



Candidate Name:	Druh Farrell_____
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My answers will be brief, as I have a number of questionnaires to fill out.

1. What are the top three issues facing your Ward?

- Many issues stemming from the explosive growth.
- The underlying social issues causing homelessness, street crime, public safety issues and drug addiction.
- Increasing densities around major transportation and transit nodes while minding the local context.

2. What are the top three issues facing the city as a whole, if different from above?

- The environment and sustainability.
- Maintaining quality of life in the face of growth
- Social issues, crime resulting from addictions and homelessness.

3. Urban Sprawl and Housing

- a. Do you support the concept of extending Transit-Oriented Development throughout the city, including in established neighbourhoods generally and in your ward? What is your stance on the proposed development at Dalhousie Station (in Varsity)?

Yes. I have been a strong supporter of TOD, and have asked for TOD studies for each LRT station in Ward 7. I supported the Varsity plan, however, I thought that it could have been a bit more dense adjacent to Crowchild Trail.

- b. Are we facing a housing crisis in Calgary? If so, what should be done about it? If you are an incumbent, what have you specifically done about this?

Certainly there is a housing crisis. There are a number of solutions that the City could implement, but it will also require the cooperation of the Province and the Federal Government to be successful. The City could do its part by allowing secondary suites, provide density bonusing, and provide access to City owned land for affordable housing.

- c. Do you support legalization of secondary suites in all existing neighbourhoods, subject only to reasonable safety concerns? Why or why not?

Yes. It would be preferable if secondary suites were limited to owner occupied properties to help prevent the deterioration of housing stock and the reasons behind NIMBY.

- d. Do you believe that urban sprawl is a problem for the city? If you believe it is a problem, what will you do to address it? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see it as a problem, please explain why.

Yes, it is a problem. Progress is being made, however. New rules adopted last year by Council have removed the density cap and replaced it with density minimums. Council has adopted 11 new sustainability principles to guide the design of these denser communities to ensure that they are more self-reliant. Further progress is on its way with Plan-it Calgary, charged with implementing the ImagineCalgary Plan. The City is also updating the Sustainable Suburbs Study.

4. Transportation

- a. Has the City been doing a good job of addressing transportation needs? What, if anything, would you do differently?

The City has been focussed excessively on transportation, neglecting other critical issues. Regarding transportation, I would shift the focus from roads to public transport and alternate modes.

- b. How often do you use public transit? Bus, C-train, or both?

I use the C-train almost daily.

- c. Does our current transit system meet the needs of the city? If not, how specifically would you improve it?

The transit system has been adequate for what it was designed for, which is getting people to the downtown. As we move toward building a sustainable city, new BRT, streetcar and LRT routes should be established.

- d. Are you in favour of the current strategic plan for transit? Why or why not? If not, what changes would you make?

Connect to the airport with LRT, with TOD land use changes along the route.

- e. The City's current plan does not envision direct C-Train service to either the airport or Mount Royal College. Would you favour amending the plan to reach these two destinations (both within close distance of planned lines)? Why or why not?

Mount Royal College and area would need to densify in order to warrant the LRT. Until then BRT.

- f. Are there other areas of the city that are underserved by transit? How would you address this?

Very likely, but would need to study further.

5. Vibrant and sustainable communities

- a. What will you do to address homelessness and urban poverty in the city? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

That's a big question that I am going to try to answer briefly. I am one of the three members of Council who is sitting on the Committee to End Homelessness. We are looking at new ways to end homelessness, which will require a complete shift in how we address this problem. Techniques used in the US and the UK have proven to be very successful, and we can adapt those techniques to a Canadian context. We also need to look at a living wage in Alberta. Any solution will need partnerships with all orders of government.

- b. What is your stance on arts funding? Do you support the recent recommendations of the Calgary Arts Development Authority?

Yes. Yes.

- c. What is your stance on the city's curbside recycling plan? Would you extend the plan to include recycling of organics and plastics? Why or why not?

I first introduced the motion to move to curbside recycling, so yes and yes.

- d. What other environmental initiatives, if any, would you favour?

Reducing our ecological footprint of the City of Calgary, and its citizens. Eco-density. Green buildings. Regional water strategy. Conservation subdivision. Anti-idling campaigns. Many others.

- e. What will you do to address crime and safety issues in Calgary? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

As an incumbent, I supported funding for Clean to the Core for additional police and bylaw, also championed seed funding for a Drug Court and supported a public behaviour bylaw. Interestingly, the Drug Court, while very effective in other cities, is struggling for survival as they have not yet received funding from the federal government. I will be bringing another motion to Council to add more funding to keep it going for another two years.

6. Taxes and Revenues

- a. Does the current system of funding municipal government largely through property taxes work well? If not, what changes would you recommend?

While property taxes are the most common source of revenue, Calgary would be better served if cities had a variety of taxation options. American cities have access to about 20 different types of revenue sources, but Canadian cities are limited to three. There is an over-reliance on property taxes - property tax should pay for services to property.

- b. Is there enough money in the system currently to fund your priorities? If now, how will you fund them?

While the new agreement with the Province has provided new resources for capital projects, that funding cannot go to operating expenses. See above.

7. Political reform.

- a. Does the current system of campaign financing work well? If not, what changes would you favour?

Not enough accountability. Currently donations are not considered donations for income tax purposes, therefore are technically considered a "gift". Hence the debate on whether retiring aldermen should be able to keep their war chests. Would like to see rules around limits from corporate donors and unions, for it to be considered a political donation, and for any excesses to be donated to charity.

- b. In the absence of rules around disbursement of campaign surpluses, what will you do with any leftover funds?

It is my plan to donate to charity.

- c. Are there any other structural reforms you would favour?

Yes, but would require an epistle.

8. **FOR INCUMBENTS ONLY:** What are your three major accomplishments this term? Of what are you most proud?

I have a lot to choose from. The new attitude toward density and sustainable development. The new attitude toward the environment including curbside recycling. East Village plan. The new focus on quality architecture and design. The 16th Ave urban corridor...