



Candidate Name:	_____ Ric McIver _____
Ward:	_____ 12 _____
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Contact name/number:	_____ 399-2495 _____

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

The top six issues are :

- Transportation
- Tax increases above the rate of inflation
- Public Safety
- The need for accountability
- The environment
- Quality of life – lack of recreation facilities

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

They are the same. My constituents travel the whole city and others come into Ward 12 every day.

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)?

I have already supported transit oriented development in my ward despite the 20 year schedule before the LRT is currently planned to be there. We need to speed up plans for the SE LRT line.

Your Varsity question is ambiguous.

- 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?

We are in a housing crisis caused largely by council's decision to raise fees up to \$10,000 per door during the last term of office. Since then, builders have been driven out of town to surrounding communities leaving Calgary short on homes. Out of Calgary people will use but not pay for a full share for Calgary services. This will make Calgary less affordable forever. I opposed those fees which are causing short term gain and long term pain.

I have supported smart growth communities and developments. I proposed higher density in the East Village to provide more homes right where they are needed. Council chose a less sustainable model with lower density.

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

I support secondary suites in all new communities. People in established communities have a reasonable expectation not to have their communities change without notice. I successfully proposed the "S" modifier to all residential land use classifications in the new bylaw. The "S" modifier will allow future councils to add secondary suites to established communities over time as opportunities arise.

- 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.

Urban Sprawl is a problem for Calgary. I first coined the phrase "rural sprawl" to draw attention to that problem as well. Many homes are built on 5 acre parcels on the edge of Calgary rather than on one tenth of an acre in the city. While we are fifty times more efficient than rural development using the example I give, we still have much improvement to do. I have worked to get some of the best smart growth communities in Calgary approved such as Mahogany and Quarry Park. I pushed hard to have East Village grow up more than council would approve to make highest and best use of the historical birthplace of Calgary.

4. Transportation

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

We have done a fair job of catching up on road links that are needed. We have done less well on transit. Before extending LRT lines to the edge of the city we should start new lines. This will create more of a spider web pattern allowing for a larger central zone suitable for high density development. This will make car travel unnecessary in a greater area spurring growth upwardly more than outwardly. We should consider allowing private transit to the downtown core to alleviate the problem while reducing the number of cars.

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

I use LRT at least once per week. I rarely use bus service, as I can walk from home to the LRT.

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

We have a very good modal split of transit vs. car users into the downtown so we are doing some things well. We should extend the free fare zone to the Stampede Grounds to encourage fewer cars downtown.

We should start the southeast and west legs of LRT now followed by the start of the north LRT line.

In the big picture we need more people living and working closer together to slow the need for expansion of transportation systems. If people can work, live and play in each area of Calgary, the need and cost to move them all across town twice per day will be reduced.

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

The plan has changed due to political interference in the last year. We were better when council let the professionals that we pay make the judgements on what is most important to do first.

I would like to encourage private bus service from both the suburbs and surrounding communities to keep more cars at home in those communities.

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?

I want to see a spur line to the airport from the northeast line. Air customers would pay a premium for this service. The viability of the Mount Royal College line would need to be evaluated based on what revenue could be generated and

how many users it would serve. This would be more of a high volume affordable line.

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

Transit needs to grow as the population increases in the suburbs. Expanding the express bus service is a good idea. Laura Ingles did not get on the bus the day after the little house on the prairie was built but she was able to walk to school. We need to work with the school boards to make walking to school more available. As newer smart growth higher density communities develop, we can get transit service there sooner than we do today.

I would like to add transit nodes in high employment areas on the east side of Calgary.

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.

I have been the chair of The Calgary Housing Company for the last three years. CHC is the largest landlord in Calgary with about 8000 homes and about 25,000 people under our care. In 2008 we shall grow to over 9000 homes.

I have and will continue to lobby the Government of Alberta to better sort those who are homeless. Right now, the addicted and mentally ill are self selecting their care at the homeless shelters. We need stronger laws to require those groups of people to take treatment, rather than continue the cycle of crime and victimization now in place. Beds will need to be available. Once this sorting is underway, it will be easier to find jobs and homes for the balance of those who are homeless.

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

Arts funding should be made tax deductible similar to the treatment of federal political donations. This plan will increase money for arts from those who can best afford to give.

- 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?

Organics are one of the biggest pieces of recycling to be done. We need to move on this. I have been fighting to have the administration work with RAYDAR

recycling who have been handling plastics for years. I shall continue to press this issue.

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

We need to speed up the water metering program. We need to put limits on the number of bags of garbage allowed per person to promote recycling. We need to mandate time of day electrical metering to promote greater use of renewable electricity. We should not put private recycling businesses out of business, but rather collaborate to do a better job. We should provide incentives and not penalties to encourage recycling

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.

I spent the last several months working on the public safety and crime prevention task force for the Justice Minister of Alberta. Our report is in the Minister's hands now. It is designed to make communities and persons more safe. I successfully had council make all of 7th Avenue downtown a transit zone so our security officers would have greater authority to keep citizens safe. I also successfully pressed tougher rules for graffiti vandals and panhandlers. I also proposed a plan for security cameras which will come forward soon after the election.

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?

The current system of property tax is regressive, particularly because it is based on unrealized gains and is insensitive to income levels.

I would like to see the property tax abandoned and replaced with another form of tax. Possibilities include but are not limited to Income Tax, user fees or a share of resource revenues. We need to engage the federal and provincial governments in a realistic conversation on a transition from one form of tax to another without causing a large wealth transfer between citizens in the process.

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

My priorities are determined by the taxpayers' priorities. Between current taxes, provincial support dollars, and efforts to find better ways to deliver service, there is enough money in the system to deliver the taxpayers' priorities. This is only true if politicians resist the urge to pursue personal agendas at the expense of the taxpayers. We must also explore alternative ways of delivering services.

7. Political reform.

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

I have asked council to approve rules for full transparency of campaign financing. So far they have resisted. Funds should be strictly limited to campaign use. It would be better if tax receipts were given for donations and strict spending rules were in place similar to federal and provincial governments.

I also presented to the provincial task force on election rules when it was in Calgary and pressed for reform.

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

I will retain them for future campaigns.

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

As explained in a. I would consider the reforms proposed by IPSA www.theipsa.org

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

I worked with the administration, developers and council to have approved Mahogany and Quarry Park. These are probably the two best examples of smart growth approvals in the history of Calgary.

I made public the plan to double tax on the recycling program by charging everyone \$21 per month and not giving back the \$8 per month already paid on the tax bill for waste management. This resulted in the fees being increased by less.

I worked with communities, council and the AEUB to successfully oppose what would be irresponsible sour gas development on the southeast edge of Calgary.

I am proud of successfully getting upgraded H₂S training for our firefighters. I want all Calgary employees to go home to their families safe every day.