



Municipal Election 2021

Coffee with Candidates: The City We Value

The councillors who get elected in October will be in office for four years or longer and will face many different issues. This means it is important to establish our values and identify how candidates respond. Coffee parties are an opportunity for:

- Candidates to hear about Calgarians' concerns and lived experiences
- Citizens to learn about how each candidate approaches these concerns.

Over the past two years, the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good has used meetings like coffee gatherings to listen to our members about where we should take action.

Together, we have prioritized **five core areas** to help create the city we value.

VALUE 1: THE LEAST HARM TO THE MOST VULNERABLE

We value creating an equitable city that allows equal participation for people facing challenges of poverty and disability. We have prioritized issues such as:

- The low-income transit pass;
- Basic income; and,
- Affordable housing.
- We have also worked with The City of Calgary, the United Way, and other community organizations to create Calgary's Poverty Reduction Initiative.

As a candidate, what is your thinking around this issue? What would you do to take action to increase equity in Calgary?

VALUE 2: THE ENVIRONMENT

We value a healthy environment that will sustain us, our children and grandchildren. We have prioritized taking action on climate change through issues such as:

- Building the Green Line;
- Improving the Sustainable Building Policy;
- Saying no to new developments on the outskirts of Calgary;
- Green stimulus; and,
- Asking ENMAX to commit to a net-zero greenhouse gas emission target by 2050.

As a candidate, what is your thinking around the environment? What would you do to mitigate climate change, create resiliency, and adapt to the changes we are already experiencing in Calgary?

VALUE 3: TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

We value healing our relationships with Indigenous peoples by fully implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). We have prioritized issues such as:

- Increasing the number of Aboriginal Liaison Officers in police districts;
- Changing the name of Langevin School; and,
- Establishing an Indigenous gathering place.

As a candidate, what is your thinking around Truth and Reconciliation? How would you take action on Indigenous issues and which TRC Call to Action items will you be implementing in the city?

VALUE 4: MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION

We value a city that supports mental health and well being. Lack of support in the area of mental illness and addiction have been a growing concern for many years. With the arrival of COVID-19 many experts are concerned about an 'echo pandemic' of mental health challenges. From our research over the last year we have identified three areas we believe will make a significant positive change in the mental health and wellness of all Albertans, including:

- Trauma-informed practice;
- 24/7 mobile response teams to support Calgarians in crisis;, and,
- Having each school developed a mental health strategy that is supported by a full time mental health professional for every 1000 students.

As a candidate, what is your thinking around mental health and addictions? What would you do to support better access to mental health resources?

VALUE 5: REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION THROUGH STRONGER COMMUNITIES

We value connectedness and communities that include everyone. As 2020 has unfolded, the consequences of social isolation have been felt by a far greater portion of our population than we could have imagined. We have prioritized issues such as:

- Maintaining funding for vital social infrastructure, including libraries, recreation centres, community social workers, and public transit.
- We also developed a Block Captain program and training for issues around matching volunteers with needs, mental health, grief support, domestic violence concerns and crisis intervention.

As a candidate, what is your thinking around social isolation? What steps would you take to build stronger communities and support people who are experiencing isolation in Calgary?