



Tahir Merali, Council Candidate for Ward 5

What are your priorities for public services in our communities?

Calgary City Council is responsible for managing City services to ensure the needs of citizens are being met. To do so, frequent and accessible consultation by Council with members of the public is essential. I believe in making City services more accessible through language, mobility, sports, arts and settlement, particularly in Ward 5.

What is your position on private-public partnerships?

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)'s should be leveraged more often, especially for large infrastructure projects. They allow the risk to be shared amongst partners and incentivize industry to support growth projects that are simply too costly for governments to do alone. This is a common approach used in the Aerospace and Energy sectors where I have worked previously, in both the private and public sectors.

What are your priorities for transportation?

To support Connected Communities, reliable and accessible public transit is a no-brainer. Unfortunately, many communities in Ward 5 don't have access to either. Ward 5 is chronically underserved by critical infrastructure. The City's RouteAhead Transit strategic plan identifies Ward 5 projects as lower priorities. My platform is to ensure Council re-prioritizes the extension of the C-Train Blue Line to Skyview and Redstone, advance development of a reliable Airport transit link, and evaluate bus-routing needs in newer communities.

Do you support the change in campaign financing laws?

The new LAEA changes by the Alberta Government effective for the 2021 municipal elections are welcomed.



Public Interest Alberta

What is your plan to address housing and homelessness in our communities?

Chronic and episodic homelessness are the most concerning based on the fact that those are the people that suffer the most, whether it is due to addiction, violence, trauma or criminal victimization. My plan is to identify and work with agencies including Calgary Housing, and nonprofits such as Calgary Emergency Women's Shelter, Immigrant serving agencies such as CCIS and various LGBTQ+ organizations (especially since LGBTQ+ youth are a large portion of the transitional homeless) to address these areas of need so that the homeless population can get the basic supports they need to change their fortunes.

What are your priorities to address the fiscal relationship between the provincial government and municipalities?

The fiscal relationship is an important one for the effective administration of city services. Effective collaboration will be necessary across partisan ideologies. However, I believe there needs to be more transparency for our citizens to understand items such as the flow-down of tax collection activities between jurisdictions, and how effective local vs provincial services can be. A future review of the Municipal Government Act would also be welcomed.