

Inner City Coalition of Calgary Society Candidate Survey

Responses by Evonne Whelan – Aldermanic Candidate for Ward 11

1. “We believe the City must increase its options for solutions to the housing squeeze”

Yes, I agree with this

“What policy changes or practical action such as leveraging existing funding can you initiate for Council to address this issue in the long and the short term?”

These are things I would like to accomplish:

- Encourage secondary suites with sufficient by-laws to ensure they are managed properly and efficiently.
- Encourage more facilities for mentally ill and drug addicted.
- Encourage a cap on market value assessments for seniors and others who are at risk to losing their home because they are unable to pay taxes.
- Encourage developers to include affordable housing in all new developments
- Encourage the Provincial government and developers to consider some forms of rent protection

2. “We believe the City must balance its plan for growth in all quadrants of the City. Additional employment centers and localized community services will help mobility systems become more efficient and effective”

Yes, I agree with this.

“Are you willing to take a leadership role and implement the

Calgary Transportation Plan (GoPlan) and its principles of balance growth strategy?"

The Go Plan is an excellent plan that needs to be revisited to meet with today's needs.

Communities need to have walk-able access to things that they need. After that, they need access to transit so that they may become less reliant on using cars as their primary source of mobility.

It is important that we plan Transit-oriented development and create larger parking spaces for C-Train stations. Like the European model, people who drive to the station are able to shop, attend their kids' activities and run errands on the way home from the station at the end of the day, thereby, putting their spending dollars in their local communities and making their day a whole lot more convenient.

Thinking about the travel patterns of commuters is important part of making the Go Plan become viable.

The new West bound C-Train should consider going to Mount Royal College. There will be a lot of commercial and residential areas for the C-train to service there as well as the College whose population alone would benefit greatly from C-Train service.

3. "We believe the current system is unfair to a wide range of Calgarians and has negative planning implications for the city as a whole."

Yes I agree

"What policy initiatives would you implement to mitigate the imbalances of Market Value Assessment and ensure taxation fairness?"

I think we have to look at which groups are being hardest hit by the Market Value Assessment and look at ways to mitigate these. Obviously for seniors and low income Calgarians, the tax burden is very burdensome. We must ensure that people are not forced from their homes with these tax increases.

4. “We believe that better planning tools such as land use building regulations, and new engineering standards are required for an ecologically sustainable future”

Yes.

“As a municipal leader, what types of policy have you or would you initiate to reduce our environmental impact and maintain our quality of life?”

It goes without saying that we must reduce our environmental footprint. We must educate all Calgarians on steps that they can take to help in this process.

Some of the things that I will work on as Alderman:

- Encourage Transportation Oriented Development.
- Encourage citizens and businesses to be environmentally responsible and to “Go Green”
- Adopt an affordable curbside recycling program
- Eliminate the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes
- Ensure that our parks and recreation facilities are well maintained and available for the enjoyment of everyone. A strong environmental policy with respect to these areas is needed.
- Continue to support Imagine Calgary, Sustainable Calgary and Clean Calgary

5. “We believe that the financing of election campaigns at the municipal level should be subject to the same financial scrutiny of federal and provincial elections”

Yes

“What election financing policies would you champion to provide limits checks and balances against actual or perceived preferential treatment?”

I would like to see greater transparency in all levels of government and the municipal level is as important. The financing of election campaigns should be similar to those at provincial and federal elections. Donations for individuals and corporations should have limits and full disclosure of donations should be required.