



Candidate Name:	Joe Ceci _____
Ward:	Ward 9 _____
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1. What are the top three issues facing your Ward?

I think there are four major issues in Ward 9:

COMMUNITY SAFETY

City council has already overseen a 30% increase in the number of police officers on the street. I will continue to work with communities and police to develop solutions for crime prevention that are proven to work and can be enforced.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

I will continue to work with communities to end homelessness and increase affordable housing units throughout Calgary, and advocate for policies that address root causes.

A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

I will continue to keep Ward 9 communities clean and healthy places to live by acting on issues to reduce negative impacts on people and environments.

MANAGING GROWTH & MEETING NEEDS

I will continue to work to improve the quality of life in Ward 9 communities by supporting community development and ensuring that constituents are heard. Calgary must remain a vibrant, inclusive and safe community.

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

Affordable Housing and Homelessness – See above

Managing Growth & Meeting the needs of a growing city – See above

Community Safety – See above

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 supported the proposed development at Dalhousie Station and I also support extending Transit-Oriented Development throughout the city. I have also supported the Chinook LRT area property re-zoning and am also working within my Ward to ensure the c-train is extended to Inglewood. I believe Calgary's public transportation is currently not as established as it should be for a city experiencing this kind of growth and needs improvement.

- 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 most definitely are experiencing a housing crisis in Calgary. There is a distinct lack of affordable housing in all areas of the city. A collaborative approach between all three levels of government, private business and concerned citizens is needed to develop effective solutions to both reduce homelessness and help establish more affordable housing units that are not exclusive to one area of the city. City council also needs to pass more policies at the municipal level that address the root causes of homelessness and that will reduce the affordable housing crunch, wherever possible. In Ward 9, I have helped established affordable housing projects in the communities of Manchester, Millican-Ogden, Inglewood and Dover.

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

Yes, I support a solution to the secondary suites issue that will make them livable for Calgarians. I think essential safety concerns must be addressed that ensures tenants can be safe in the event of an emergency, but if those safety concerns can be met then I would like to see more secondary suites in Calgary neighbourhoods.

- 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, I think urban sprawl is definitely a problem that contributes to increased traffic, less effective communities where resources are not in reach and it also contributes to negative impacts on our environment. Calgary's city planning strategies need to be focused more on increasing the density of communities and by using stronger planning policies to ensure that necessary community resources are available within communities. In my work as Alderman, I participate in inclusive community development with constituents to address their concerns, so we can work together on building vibrant, inclusive and safe communities. I also regularly vote against re-zoning proposals that are less than 7 units per acre.

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 tried to address these issues with many road construction projects on major roads and by working toward more c-train service for more communities. But, the city faces challenges because of worker shortages in both the trades and in the transportation industry.

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

I use public transit to get to and from work once a week and consistently use the c-train within the downtown area. I also occasionally use public transit to attend meetings within my ward.

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

I don't believe that the current transit system meets Calgary's needs, but I think the city's explosive growth has been a major contributor in accelerating the urgency of this problem. I think the city is working within the circumstances it faces in relation to infrastructure concerns and worker shortages to address these concerns, but it will take time. Throughout, this process special attention needs to be paid to ensure that fast routes are available in all communities and that they are accessible to all Calgarians. Transit service also needs to be run in a timely way to meet the needs of communities.

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

I'm in favour of the plan, but I think that it should constantly be re-assessed in light of the changing needs of communities that it intends to serve. The city won't remain exactly the same as it is now, by the time these changes are all implemented and therefore flexibility will be required to amend where necessary.

- 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?

Certainly, both of these areas are high traffic destinations for Calgarians and if there is any way to include them, especially the airport, into the current plan without disrupting city services while also being fiscally responsible, then I think amendments should be made. However, if this is not feasible direct feeder buses should be installed at the end of the c-train line to reach these destinations.

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

The SE Industrial park is an underserved area that needs more routes at a range of times for workers in the trade sector. However, I think a larger issue for most Calgarians isn't so much that areas are not accessible via transit (even though there are some) but more that buses do not run regularly enough and do not have 24 hour service.

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.

As mentioned, I think addressing homelessness and urban poverty is a combined effort between all three levels of government, Calgary's business community and the helping agencies that support the homeless. I'm encouraged by the collaborative approaches that are being taken and how it is helping to reduce the duplication of services and to streamline an approach to addressing these problems. The primary issue is that people cannot effectively manage issues like mental health concerns, addictions and escaping domestic abuse situations if they are not properly housed. A housing first approach would help people get the support they need to resolve other life changing circumstances that need community supports.

As Alderman, I have worked to accomplish some of these goals by implementing effective actions to eliminate street prostitution, lobbying for more affordable housing projects in my ward, serving on the boards of Habitat for Humanity and HomeCo and by being an effective voice for social issues on city council.

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

The Arts are an important part of making vibrant communities. I supported a one percent arts funding standard for all new capital projects and I also support the recommendations from the Calgary Arts Development Authority.

- 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 support curbside recycling and was proud to vote in favour of its implementation by city council. I support the plan as it is, but would look at extending the plan to include the recycling of organics and plastics if there is a manageable and easily regulated process in place to ensure that these materials could be safely collected and recycled.

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

I support the following environmental initiatives on council:

LEEDS (gold and platinum standard) – This is the accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings

Sustainable Environmental & Ethical Procurement Policy (SEEP) – This is intended to ensure that items purchased by The City are manufactured or produced in accordance with established international environmental standards and guidelines,

Greenhouse Gas reduction plan for Calgary – Reducing emissions in Calgary.

I support the Mayor's clean to the core initiative and I also operate a weekly clean-up team to help collect garbage in the Ward 9 communities that border Calgary's Drop-In Centre. I find this clean team to be a rewarding way to help protect our environment, while also giving guests at the Drop-In Centre the opportunity to help participate in their community by taking an active role in the clean-up.

- 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.

Crime and safety is an important issue in Calgary. I have worked with council to approve a 30 percent increase in the amount of police officers on the street. Additionally, I have helped develop two community-based safety councils in Ward 9 where residents work with the police to address crime issues. I will continue to work with communities and police to develop solutions for crime prevention that are proven to work and can be enforced.

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?

I think the current system would work better if 100% of property taxes collected stayed within municipalities. If we could keep those funds, we could likely reduce taxes for Calgarians.

- b. Is there enough money in the system currently to fund your priorities? If not, how will you fund them?

Not currently, but if property taxes remained entirely within municipalities, there would be enough money to support priorities.

7. Political reform.

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

Since first being elected, I have maintained a donation limit of \$2000 per person and I have only one fundraiser per three year term. I'm in favour of spending and donation limits both for the costs of a campaign and for those who support them.

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

I would donate and campaign surpluses to non-profit organizations within ward 9.

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

I'm in favour of spending and donation limits both for the costs of a campaign and for those who support them.

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

I feel that I am effective social voice on city council. I strive to protect the rights of those who are marginalized in our city. I have worked in this area by lobbying for public toilet facilities for all people and helping to maintain personal rights when considering public behaviour bylaws. I also am a member of the Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMRD) and work to better connect with the needs of culturally diverse communities.

I have a strong focus on community development and the environment. I have advocated for regular bylaw sweeps in Ward 9, participated in annual cleanups in most communities, supported the Mayor's clean to the core initiative, started my own weekly clean team in the communities around the Drop-In Centre and supported the Sustainable Environmental & Ethical Procurement Policy (SEEPP)

I have also focused on crime prevention. I supported \$600,000 in spending toward agencies that intervene with youth to help reduce crime. I also have helped support safety in our communities by helping to build two safety councils in Ward 9.