



Candidate Name:	__ Steve Chapman __
Ward:	__ 8 __
Website, if any:	__ ward8.com __
Contact name/number:	__ HQ – 264-6272 __

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

Crime and personal safety,

Lack of focus on inner city infrastructure,

Traffic.

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

Affordable housing

Homelessness

Managing existing infrastructure

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 do support the idea that development must be tied to a plan on getting people around. Transit is certainly a key component to that plan although we must also address the state of our transit system so that it can accommodate the concept.

What in particular about the Dalhousie Station is the question?

- 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?

Yes we are. We need more inventory to help balance prices and give choices. Proper rules on secondary suites is the quickest, easiest, and least expensive way of bringing additional residences to market. We also need to get applications through the development process faster. 12-18 months is simply too long. Thousands of new homes that should already be in construction are languishing in city hall awaiting approval.

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

Yes I do support secondary suites although safety, though a major concern, may not be the only one. We have too many illegal suites currently providing substandard living conditions to Calgarians, putting some of our most vulnerable citizens at serious risk. But we do have to consider other community concerns such as density, traffic, parking, and other impacts. People have a right to expect certain things from their community and changes must be communicated fully to current residents. I believe, however, that most communities will support the move if presented properly.

- 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, we have a massive urban footprint which is costing a phenomenal amount of money to maintain. We need to ensure that we are making the most use of our current land and resources before we continue to expand the city limits with new residential communities.

4. Transportation

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

Transportation is more than just transit and roads. Although we encourage people to use bicycles and motor cycles we have not done a great job at meeting the parking needs of these alternative vehicles. We have also tried to use parking costs and planned congestion as a means to force commuters onto public transit. Yet we are already exceeding capacity during peak times and transit use is not a comfortable or convenient process. LRT is a great service to Calgary but we must create more parking at LRT stops. People will drive to an LRT location if it saves them time and money. They will not use connecting buses if it adds an hour to their commute time.

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

As an inner city resident most of the destinations I need to go to are within walking distance. My main C-train experience is within the 7th Ave corridor.

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

No. although we have excellent transit coverage during peak times we fail to accommodate users needs in the shoulder time frames around it. A person for example leaving downtown after six may end up waiting 30-60 minutes for a connecting bus whereas before six the wait may only be 15-20 minutes. Despite a growing tendency to 24 hour employment we provide little if any transit options to people in the wee hours of the morning. At the very least we should have 24 hour LRT access. Finally we fail inner city residents by having full busses pass them by while they wait at stops. We need shorter bus routes that simply circulate within the inner city such as 11th Ave and back 12th or up 14th street to 34th Ave and then back downtown.

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

I am not convinced we actually have a strategic plan for transit. I have seen a system that has been very reactive rather than proactive. A transit system that is maxed during peak hours and inconvenient outside that window of time.

- 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?

Mount Royal College could be accommodated with a relatively small deviation of the SW leg and should be considered. It is a major travel destination for both the school and related housing. It needs to be included although we might also consider an East-West leg of the LRT connecting Mount Royal with Chinook and the Foothills Industrial park.

The airport is a separate matter as it will require a stop specifically for that purpose at approximately \$100 million or more. I spoke to the airport administrators and while they have land set aside for the purpose they don't feel that an airport LRT will be practical as most people going to the airport with luggage are not likely going to use public transit to get there. So the benefit Calgarians get from this expenditure may not be as great as other LRT legs.

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

As mentioned above we have poor East West access at present and something along Glenmore might be worth considering. We currently do not have anything going north up Center although it has been at least considered. Moving to a street level access train system (as being looked at for the SE leg) may also give us some flexibility. Currently the biggest challenge to LRT expansion is the need for overpasses and large LRT stations which add hundreds of millions of dollars to expansion plans. We need to look at ways to get the service in at a more reasonable cost.

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 already made several visits to locations like the drop in center and the Mustard seed speaking to administrators, staff, and clients as to their thoughts and ideas. The people involved directly with a problem are usually the most informed about it and often have the most cost effective solutions. Most members of city council have yet to do even this logical first step. We must have transitional housing to get the working poor out of the shelters. It must be part of the urban renewal process that low income housing units are replaced as they are eliminated. Ward 8 has lost hundreds of low income units over the past 5 years. Hundreds more have been taxed out of reach as property taxes on these buildings have increased 200-250% in the same time period.

We need a stronger push for secondary suites. The only way to deal with our housing crisis is to increase inventory. We have thousands of residential units sitting at city hall awaiting development permits. We have to speed up the process. increased inventory across the board will allow for options, reduce costs, and provide solutions.

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

I am a strong supporter of the arts and especially in favour of funding that helps programs find their audience. I was with the young Canadians out of high school and part of the Philharmonic Chorus in University. Keith Johnstone, the founder to Loose Moose Theatre was my drama teacher at the U of C. The biggest challenge we are faced is deciding which arts should get money as the choices are almost limitless. The acquisition of city land for rehearsal space has merit as is the creation of multi-use space. The recent funding to the Pumphouse theatre is one program that has breathed additional life into arts community.

- 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?

In ward 8 the major challenge with the recycling plan is that it does not include apartments or condos. This is the bulk of downtown and beltline residences. We need to address this concern sooner vs. later as it impacts at least 10-20% of

Calgary's population. I would also like to see our recycling initiative work more closely with companies already in the recycling business. Taking this whole project in house using city staff and equipment is a recipe for failure.

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

We need to support the process of making Calgary pesticide free in dealing with our parks and green space. We have become chemical dependent. We must refocus our efforts to ensure Calgary's waterways remain clean and uncontaminated.

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.

We have to start using our resources more effectively. Calgary police are simply doing too many tasks that do not require an armed officer with the powers of arrest. Since we have a significant police hiring shortage we must expand by-law as much as possible. This is a much lower cost alternative and there is a waiting list to draw upon. We can free up 50-100 police officers by shifting non urgent duties such as traffic enforcement, property damage accident investigation, traffic control, and other similar duties to bylaw.

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?

Actually property taxes only fund about 50% of the current municipal government spending. We need a different tax system that is based more on the cost of service delivery than on the value of homes. The current move to getting sustainable funding from other levels of government, user pay systems, and fees is working but will need to be streamlined to make it fairer and less costly to the people who can afford it least. We can be doing more to get more business-government partnerships happening.

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

Yes.

7. Political reform.

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

No. For one all campaign funding must end with the campaign. Anything left over should go to a city managed fund to either offset election costs or be used for some charitable purpose. Candidates should not be able to carry a balance forward as it borders on fraud. The money is collected for a specific purpose and a specific campaign. It should not be used for any other purpose. Candidates need to be clearer on who is actually providing the money. Right now a company can buy 50 fundraising tickets for its employees or clients and not have its name registered to that donation. Rather than have each campaign have to provide financial reports the task should be undertaken by the city finance department to ensure the same standard is used across the board. It should also be made public a lot earlier than 5 months after the election.

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

I will not have leftover funds. All money collected will be spent or donated to a ward charity immediately after the election.

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

Already mentioned.

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