

Candidate Name: Nargis Dossa

Ward: 10

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

- Poverty
- Negative image
- Homelessness

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

- Housing
- Transportation
- Property tax

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)?

**Yes**

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?

· **As a Social Worker I have been dealing with this dilemma with my clients on an on-going basis. The short term solution would be to permit the renting of basement suites**

· **A longer term solution is to encourage the developers and builders of condo conversions to include a certain percentage for low income families. This might be done by offering financial incentives (tax breaks)**

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

**Yes –but perhaps only on a temporary basis to solve the short term housing crisis**

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 it s a problem**

**Solution: to increase the density in some areas in older redeveloping neighbourhoods**

#### **4. Transportation**

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

**No**

· **Improve quality of public transit**

· **Implement and encourage car pooling as is in other cities like Toronto. Provide special lanes and parking facilities. Will minimize parking dilemmas and overcrowding rush hour traffic. Mount Royal College has already implemented this program**

· **When 're' constructing the roads, the city must anticipate changes over the long term. Calgary's population is not likely to stay at a million for another 10 years, so any plan for road development must incorporate the potential demands of an even larger population. For example Deerfoot Trail. It would have been cheaper to add few extra lanes (and parking areas for carpool participants) when extensions and other infrastructure work were being done on it.**

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

**Very rarely – the nature my current employment is not conducive to public transit as the destination vary each and every day**

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

**No**

**Calgary transit does not currently have the capacity to serve a city with the population of million people**

- d. Are you in favour of the current strategic plan for transit? Why or why not? If not, what changes would you make?
  
- 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?
  
- f. Are there other areas of the city that are underserved by transit? How would you address this?

**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.

poverty has no boundaries, colour, religion or race. it happens in the main stream as well as the diverse groups.

there are many hidden layers beneath the face of poverty. the immediate ones that come to my mind are 'illiteracy' and a 'lack of knowledge' of how to access the resources that are already in place.

***1. first address illiteracy***

**resources such as written materials are of no use to those who cannot read.** one way we combat this would be is *by providing free or subsidized esl programs at community centers)*

***2. address the lack of knowledge***

as to existing resources, telling someone where to find that help is available is just the first step. people who have been marginalized and disempowered by poverty and illiteracy need to be nurtured to develop a sense of agency and self-sufficiency.

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

- **Re-examine how recycling is done. Many marginalized and low income families would like to recycle but are not able to go to the 'bins' as they do not own vehicles. This should be helped by the new city recycling program.**

- **Educate new Calgarians as to the benefits of recycling. This can be done by providing literature in their language.**

- **Make it easier to recycle by placing recycling bins on the streets, parks, city owned facilities, C-train stations and bus stops and the Stampede grounds. We have to make it easier so there are fewer water bottles and soda cans in the city-supplied garbage bins at those locations.**

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

- **Educate new Calgarians as to the benefits of recycling. This can be done by providing literature in their language.**

- **Encouraging car pooling (as mentioned earlier) will also reduce gas emissions and further save the environment**

- **Encourage 'paperless' practices. Many private companies presently offer e-billing as an alternative to paper bills. Perhaps city utilities can lead by example and offer e-billing to their customers who own computers.**

- 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.

The police are doing their job but trying and sentencing the criminals comes under the Federal jurisdiction the most.

The city needs to strongly advocate for implementation of a program.

**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?

For the most part the current systems works well, however it needs to be updated to reflect current conditions. Example: commercial property taxes and city business taxes need to be re-amalgamated.

- 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?

**The system should be fully transparent and accountable.**

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

**Any surplus should go into city general revenue**

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