



Candidate Name:	Jim Stevenson
Ward:	3
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1. What are the top three issues facing your Ward?

Transportation. Recreation. Protective and Emergency services. The provincial issues affordable housing and school funding also affect the ward.

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

Same

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 am in favour of the TOD. I am not familiar enough with the Dalhousie station proposed development to comment

- 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?

One issue is the length of time and the bureaucracy that the city has which ends up increasing the cost, delaying the project, and pushing the cost to the buyer. The costs are magnified with a multi-housing, low-cost residential unit. Aldermen must work to create efficiencies in the administration to get projects done quickly. Communities must be involved in the consultation and development process earlier. We must also have stronger partnerships with Provincial Ministries that are responsible for housing. We must also make it attractive for the builder and building operators to invest in affordable rental housing. Any direct subsidies must go to the renter rather than the owner.

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

No. I don't support a blanket allowance. There are too many variables involved. I support a responsible and regulated allowance for secondary suites. Many neighbourhoods are not designed for multiple families when it comes to infrastructure and design. One example of this would be with parking. For example, an R1A neighbourhood has barely enough on-street parking for the amount of residents as originally intended. Many of these neighbourhoods in my ward have secondary suites already and in many cases it makes the parking situation impossible. The new land use bylaw being implemented next July will allow RIS development for new communities. It also allows current communities to apply for that designation. I support this bylaw.

- 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 need to increase the density in new areas and it should be increased around transit hubs.

4. Transportation

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

I would have longer range planning and very early acquisition of necessary lands.

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

I seldom use public transit as most of my activities are within the ward. I believe in the principle that one should be able to live, work, and play where possible in their quadrant of the city and I live by that principle.

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

No. The buses and trains are too crowded and not frequent, clean, and safe enough to attract the necessary riders to reduce our dependence on private transportation for regular activities. I would promote commuter hubs to be built well in advance of proposed CTrain lines at the proposed locations for the CTrain stations. These would be serviced by express buses that would not only go downtown but where the ridership required such as post-secondary educational facilities and industrial centres. I would also promote the re-engineering of some of the current CTrain and express bus

locations to support public washrooms as this is a significant issue especially for our seniors.

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

In general I am but the 2005 plan is already out of date. It needs to evolve and change annually with the city's needs.

- 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?

Yes.

There are 18,000 employees at the airport that are serviced by two milk-run busses on a half-hour basis. These are very crowded and not convenient for either travelers or employees. There is no direct service to downtown from the airport which is also inconvenient for travelers. We need both an interim solution that better services the employees and passengers and a long-term light rail service installed which can service several lines, including the North-East line and the long-promised North-Centre line.

Mount Royal College absolutely needs either direct access to the CTrain or a BRT service to the nearest CTrain station.

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

Other areas which are underserved by transit include Ward 3. There is no direct bus service between the east and west portions of the ward. There are many neighborhoods throughout the city which are on the long-term dream plan for LRT service but which will not have it for many years to come. These neighborhoods need more direct express service to both the downtown and to the places in which their residents work or study.

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.

If one is mentally or physically unable to work, or they are suffering from addictions, then the city should be working with the province and the feds to provide quality services and residential facilities for these people. We also need to work closely with the outreach organizations that are already providing services to these people as they are the ones most in tune with

the needs of their clients.

For the working poor, we need work closely with the province for funding for more affordable housing. This funding should be in two forms. One would be with targeted and directs subsidies to those who require assistance rather than the expansion of the Calgary Housing Authority. The other form should be incentives for builders and developers to create multi-family rental units in reasonable proximity to public transit hubs. That funding should be available on the condition that the units remain rental properties for 10 to 15 years. There must also be a minimum 2 year notice to convert these units to condos and the conversion must be approved by council after community consultation.

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

Yes. I support funding of the Arts within Calgary but it must be responsible to the taxpayers and the citizens. The city should not be the prime source of revenue for Arts organizations but should be a partner in Arts organizations that have developed a sustainable funding and development program.

- 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 would extend the recycling program to include the recycling of plastics and organics. I am not convinced that the current plan put forward by council is the best alternative. There should be more investigation into what the private sector can provide in part or in whole for this program.

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

The number one environmental issue in this city is transportation. The amount of pollution from our overdependence on underutilized private vehicles is visible to the naked eye and has a large and unmeasured impact on our healthcare system. The long range transportation planning we need to undertake now will have a significant impact on how green this city is 50 to 100 years from now.

- 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 bottom line is that we need more feet on the street as all the emergency services are short of personnel. First we need to improve morale. Their morale is low because they are overworked and overstressed. The best advertising and recruiting for the services is word of mouth from people in uniform who take pride in their role and are

happy in their jobs.

We need to optimize the budgets to support more frontline workers as a first priority. We also need to look at other options such as wage increases, recruitment and retention bonuses, moving and relocation spending for out-of-town recruits, and better benefits.

Communities are already involved with helping the police catch criminals and preventing crime. They are the beating heart of the city and are aware of changes and symptoms which can be a sign of illegal activity. The city has traditionally supported the Block Watch program in principle. However, the Block Watch associations do not always receive the practical support they need and as a result sometime cannot be as effective as they should be. I will work with council and the city administration to find additional funding for the program and create a development and training plan for communities so that the programs can be sustainable.

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?

Yes.

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

I believe that there is enough money in the system to fund the costs of my priorities and it can be found through increasing efficiencies in city processes.

7. Political reform.

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

I don't have any specific issues with the system in place. The playing field is level right now as a candidate or incumbent can raise what they need and spend it however they feel they need to. I am in favour of a review of the process to bring more clarity to municipal campaign financing but it must be province wide as opposed to a piecemeal implementation.

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

I don't anticipate having any significant leftover funds. Should I decide not to run in the next election I will announce it early and donate to charities.

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

I favour standardizing the financing rules for all communities through the Municipal Governments Act.

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

Although I am not an incumbent, I have had the honour of working with the communities and volunteers in Ward 3 to bring about these major accomplishments:

- Funding for the NECCS recreation facility
- Brought together the developers and Community Associations to address the issues common to both parties surrounding the Stony Industrial Development
- Brought the Community Associations together with the current Alderman, the Provincial Minister of Finance, and the area MP to ensure that the North East leg of the ring road is developed with the needs of the communities in mind.

In my opinion, these accomplishments are as significant as those of any incumbent as they demonstrate the value of utilizing community leaders to accomplish practical results.