

Candidates speak out

For better or for worse, Calgary goes to the polls on Oct. 16 to choose the mayor and city council who will lead our city for the next four years. Metro spoke with seven of the 10 mayoral candidates vying for your vote and we've put the full conversations on our Youtube channel — so you can meet them without having to leave your couch. **HELEN PIKE & ELIZABETH CAMERON METRO**



Naheed Nenshi



Andre Chabot



Bill Smith



Jason Gogo



David Lapp



Larry Heather



Curtis Olson

What's the City of Calgary's role in economic development?

We have to really advocate for entrepreneurs and innovators and help them do business with the city.

We need to create an environment for businesses to set up shop here and start doing business.

It's critical the city creates the conditions for businesses to be successful.

We gotta really, really look at the taxation ... you gotta help them, not hurt them.

It's the city's job to create a good business environment for small, medium and large size businesses.

The city's role is to lay a level field of equality of opportunity, staying away always from enforcing equality of results.

The city must do some things to create processes that are going to welcome business.

How will you balance taxes and city services?

People seem very satisfied with the level of service and we're able to do it with the lowest taxes in the country.

I think we need to slow down our spending on capital projects and focus more on city services.

We're spending a lot of money on nice-to-haves. We need to focus on the must-haves.

It's gotta be balanced out a bit more equitably ... we also have to look at how we're taxing our downtown citizens.

I believe it's all about efficiencies, because then you're balancing the money that's going in with the money that's going out.

We have to get the city out of this bizarre identity politics tribalism ... and back what is good for the whole of the city.

I made a call for a five per cent cut across the board to the City of Calgary's operating budget.

Where do you stand on the arena question?

Everyone knows where I stand on this ... public money must come with public benefit.

I believe an agreement can be reached that is mutually beneficial ... provided we have the right leadership at the table.

If I'm mayor, I'm going to sit down at the table with CSEC and work towards a solution with them. I know I can get a deal.

What this requires is some negotiation. If you can't negotiate with your council, how do you expect to with a world-class hockey team?

Calgarians shake their head that this is an election issue ... it should have been dealt with months ago before the election.

I support the arena ... there should be a 50/50 split in costs with a five year lease and no property taxes should be added.

I'm hopeful that as mayor I'd be able to bring the Flames back to the table ... but it's gotta make sense to the Flames and Calgarians.

What's the biggest issue to fix and what do you propose?

I want to focus on three things ... a better economy, stronger and smarter communities and a smarter city hall.

The level of taxation that Calgarians have been experiencing ... I can lead council to make better decisions.

We need strong, collaborative leadership. We need ... fiscal responsibility and we need safe and vibrant communities.

Nothing's getting done ... We have to start working at city hall before we can start working as a city.

We need to make sure job creators, innovators, entrepreneurs, small business owners have a positive business environment.

The City of Calgary has morphed into an out-of-control planning monstrosity.

The lack of leadership at city hall ... there's a divided council and really that happens when the mayor has no vision.