

Ryan Pollard responses

Candidate for Leduc City Council

1. Will you oppose privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including Public-Private-Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

Answer:

I am anti-privatization. P3s are a con. They represent public risk for private profit. I will not support any.

2. Will you support your employees and your community by ensuring the municipality employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights?

Answer:

Yes. The city workforce are currently non-unionized. I will be an ally for them on council.

3. Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against municipal staff including cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

Answer:

Yes. As a provincial employee I personally despair seeing my pension handed over to AimCo, so I can empathize. I will vocally oppose any attempt to curtail the right to strike.

4. How do you propose your municipality deal with funding shortfalls, cuts, and downloading of responsibilities from federal and provincial governments? Do you favour spending cuts over tax increases?

Answer:

The downloading of responsibilities has been ongoing for at least 40 years, and reached a bit of a frenzy in the mid-90s or thereabouts. Municipalities, at the bottom end of the food chain, find themselves having to fill the gaps, deal with reduced revenue, and in turn end up downloading as well, onto civil society or charities. It's untenable. I don't want to increase taxes but more than that, I don't want to implement cuts to the services that make our community great, or put employees out of work.

5. Do you support measures such as mask mandates, vaccine “passports”, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your municipality?

Answer:

I am supportive of any restriction that science tells us will curtail the spread of a deadly disease. Restrictions in and of themselves are not good, and we must be mindful that a crisis can be used as a cover to increase social control. That being said, mask mandates, vaccine passports, and mandatory vaccinations are rationally connected to the objective of ending death and suffering in our community, and are minimally impairing upon the rights of the subject.

6. Do you support measures to reduce municipal reliance on services fees and fares, such as eliminating transit fares?

Answer:

Politicians who say that they will run their jurisdiction like a business fail to understand that we live in a society, not an economy. These services exist so that all citizens and residents can expect equality of treatment and opportunity to participate as fully actualized individuals. They aren't meant to be money-makers. Taxation is a fair way to ensure that these services exist, services fees have an unjust impact upon the people who need these services the most. Examples include the reduction and elimination of overdue library fines, transit fares, and the cost to participate in community recreational activities.