

Sandy Bowman responses

Candidate for Mayor of Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

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?

Yes to both questions. Privatization of services has failed to show the supposed benefits that are often suggested; the solution is not privatizing services but ensuring municipal employees have the resources needed to create success in these areas.

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?

Absolutely! In the RMWB we have many municipal employees who could easily choose to take their skills and talents to other communities; we must do everything we can to ensure staff retention, including paying wages that are competitive and protecting and respecting the collective bargaining process.

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?

Yes. I do not support initiatives such as this from the provincial government. Our municipal employees deserve the full benefits of the LAPP, as well as the protection of their rights.

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?

I support mindful spending and controlling our expenditures when it comes to “wants” versus continued excellence in the provision of the essential services provided by the municipality.

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?

While I am fully supportive of preventative measures to control the spread of COVID-19, I also believe in freedom of choice. Mask mandates that help businesses and organizations continue to operate may be necessary on occasion; vaccination passports and mandates are more concerning and need careful evaluation prior to enactment.

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

We are fortunate in our region to have very low fees for transit service; given the very low revenue generated by this service I would support consideration of elimination of transit fees

coupled with a new approach to the provision of transit services that takes into account the expertise and experience of our transit employees, as well as our transit riders.