

2025
MUNICIPAL
ELECTION

FORUMS 

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5.Who are you and why should I vote for you?

I'm a second generation "Hatter" who has lived here most of my life with the exception of two years while attending the University of Montana. About a month after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism I returned home and started working as an environmental consultant in the oil and gas sector. Eventually I grew that in to a mid sized consulting company that worked for many different oil companies from small companies to energy giants like ConocoPhillips. I've been running businesses based out of Medicine Hat since 1996. My last venture was Mauro's Italian Cafe' & Bar which was supposed to be a semi-retirement business ran by my late wife. Unfortunately she fell ill and I ended up taking the role until recently selling it. I would commit myself to being a full-time councillor if elected now that I am semi retired. I would be bringing 29 years of business experience which included working with local governments throughout southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

6.What Governance, Board, Council, Community or Committee experience do you have in your past that would make you a good Councillor?

I spent a few years working with Salta Gymnastics club and fund raising for them giving me insight on how local non-profit boards are run. It would be my vast and diversified business experience that would make me a good councillor. I was very efficient in bringing large groups of people together and working with them. Being a good listener is what makes any manager or leader effective. By and large that has how I've run my door knocking campaign since I filed my nomination back in early September.

7.What is your professional/work background & how do you think that will help with being a councillor?

I believe my 29 years of business experience is what would make me a good councillor. Working with and listening to people is what will aid me in being a good councillor. Even if I disagree with what an individual is saying it's imperative to hear them out and may be look in to the pros and cons of what he or she is saying.

8.What is your leadership style?

I've always tried to lead by example and like I said earlier being able to work alongside people no matter how difficult or "dirty" the task was. And once again by demonstrating the willingness to hear every one out. Some times it gives you the perspective you normally would not have.

9.If you could only do one thing for this city in your term, what do you want that thing to be?

I've been campaigning hard in my belief that council needs to establish an economic development committee to try and help promote and sell Medicine Hat. I was glad to see the current council recently agreed to be part of the Southeast Alberta Economic Opportunity Strategy where one councillor would represent Medicine Hat along with Foremost, Bow Island, Redcliff, Forty Mile and Cypress Counties. I believe the city still needs its own economic development committee. Just about every other city in western Canada has one.

10.In the event you're elected to council, and we were to review your performance 12 months down the road, what metric should we judge you on?

I would want the citizens of Medicine Hat to hold me accountable for what I've campaigned on. My first goal is to get council and city management as whole working better together. Second is to keep taxes as low as possible. I've also promised that I would put forth a motion to roll back the pay increase that the current council just approved. I've run a very fiscally responsible campaign and I've promised to take this approach to city hall if elected as well.

11.In terms of preparing for complex budgets, bylaw restructuring, as well as general communicative skills among the public and amongst council, how would you rate your readiness level for governance, and why?

I feel that I'm 100 percent ready to take on this role especially since I can devote all my working time to it. I would have ran for council many years ago if I felt I had the proper amount of time to dedicate to the job.

12.Given the diverse field of candidates and polarity of opinions around the horseshoe it will be critical that council comes together as one. With the backdrop of the last 4 years and the inaction it has brought to the city collaboration and swift change will be a high expectation of the citizens.

What does collaboration mean to you? Can you describe how you plan to collaborate with your new colleagues?

Collaboration to me means working together even when we all have different perspective or views on an issue. Hopefully a common ground can be reached that represents all the citizens of Medicine Hat. It's a balancing act between different interests from budgeting to social issues. I've already introduced myself to most of the other councillor and mayoral candidates and even discussed some of the issues with them. I plan on taking this approach with me if elected.

13.How many city council meetings have you attended/viewed in the last year & what have you done to learn how municipal government works?

I started attending city council meetings earlier this summer and was at about five of them in person. Prior to that I relied on the news and the computer to watch. If I did not fully understand an item I would later gather as much information on the topic as I could to get a better comprehension of what was being discussed or voted on at the table.

14.Some councilors have sat on council for multiple terms - some might feel this hinders the City moving forward (same old, same old...)

What is your view, thoughts, or opinion on instituting 'term limits' for the number of times an individual can sit on council? What maximum number of terms do you consider acceptable?

I would hate to put term limits on councillors if they are doing what the public considers a great job, but realistically is more than three or four terms necessary?

15. What is your vision for Medicine Hat in the next 5-10 years?

I would love to see a new council that works together and works diligently to keep tax increases down and curb what the public feels is unnecessary spending. I would also love to see the city experience some steady growth in both industry and population. We can also continue to promote it as a great place to retire for people from all over the country. I also want to see Medicine Hat retain sole ownership of its utilities. Electricity is the wave of the future but it will still require natural gas to generate it efficiently and for a profit which benefits us all but keeping the utility rates down and taxes down. Unfortunately it is forecasted that the profitability from it will not be as great in the five years to come which has the potential to put greater pressure on budgets to come. As a whole we are going to have to work together to try and keep spending and costs down to offset what some see as an upcoming financial crisis / crunch. The city is one of the largest employers in the county. Some google sites say it's the largest while AHS is the second and other sites have it the other way around.

I've campaigned on the slogan of RMS which stands for Repair, Maintain and Sustain so we can continue to benefit from the great services the City of Medicine Hat provides for its residents. These services include the current parks and trail systems along with the Leisure Centre, the Events Centre and the Esplanade. What a great city to live in with all these fine amenities and a mere population of only about 63000. There are few cities in Canada as a whole that can compete with Medicine Hat. We also have many hidden little gems like Heritage Park beside St. Josephs Home which has 119 year-old elm tree and a brick mural display of the crucifixion of Jesus made by local artist Jim Marshall.

If we see some steady growth and some new industry come in and the tax base broaden may be then we can look at larger capital investment projects like a Southside Recreation Centre.



16. What would you do to restore trust within the community?

This would be pretty hard to do as an individual, but as a council in whole it could be done by demonstrating to the community we are willing to work and collaborate together to work as a council for the citizens of Medicine Hat. I myself as a councillor would keep an open door policy and try to keep in touch with the people of the city. That is why I already gave out my email address that I've had since 1996 and started a Facebook page.

17. What do you believe is the role of City Council versus the role of the City Manager?

City Council is to govern while the city manager is to be the chief administrator for the city to run the daily operations. I believe it's council's responsibility to ensure the manager is doing his or her job in an appropriate manner and for the benefit of the citizens of Medicine Hat.

18. What are your thoughts on a Ward or Council responsible for an area of the city?

I firmly believe in the ward system for council and would like to see Medicine Hat eventually adopt it. I believe it makes the elected officials more responsible and accountable for their positions and for better governance.

19. Are you able to give 100% of your time to Council or do you have another business that will split your time commitment?

I would be willing to commit 100 percent of my working time to Council if elected.



20. If you could change one thing/decision this last council did, what would that be, and why?

There are many things or decisions that I would change but probably the biggest was their American style "impeachment" of Mayor Linsie Clark. Turned out to be a total waste of taxpayer money and what many including myself see as unproductive time. Second was the purchase of the Saamis Heights Solar project.

21. What was the biggest challenge with Council in the last term and what can be done to resolve that moving forward?

I think I pretty much covered that in the previous question. Hopefully the newly elected council will adopt and follow the code of conduct that the previous council had handed down to them by the Alberta Judicial Review. I think almost 100 percent of "Hatters" agree it's time to move on and forward.

22. Can you share an example from your time on council, on a committee or in your personal life where you had to weigh conflicting information or opinions? How did you decide which input was most reliable?

I almost have too many examples to try and narrow it down to one, but trying to run a pub through the COVID crisis is probably one of the most difficult times I've experienced as a business owner where I had to weigh conflicting information and especially opinions. In the end I relied on science and ultimately had to believe that accredited scientists, doctors, and officials could not be lying to the public on the scale that some have suggested. I still have friends who will not talk to me.

23. Do you believe there is a different standard or different set of rules for you/Council vs. average citizens?

I'm going to answer this with a hundred percent yes. I believe the mayor is the ultimate ambassador for the city and should lead by example and individual councillors should act or behave in the same manner. We are here to promote and sell the city and be accountable to the citizens who voted us in.

24. Everyone makes mistakes. I'd like to know, if you make a mistake do you accept accountability and own up to it? Or do you say nothing and perhaps blame it on someone else?

Of course I own up to my mistakes. I did not get to speak at the open chamber forum for councillors and I accept responsibility for not checking in to the matter sooner to see why I did not receive the contract documents to speak at it.

25. Given the diverse field of candidates and polarity of opinions around the horseshoe it will be critical that council comes together as one. With the backdrop of the last 4 years and the inaction it has brought to the city collaboration and swift change will be a high expectation of the citizens.

What does collaboration mean to you? Can you describe how you plan to collaborate with your new colleagues?

Same answer as question 12.

26. How will you hold yourself accountable for building, nurturing, and maintaining professional relationships in your role?

I will continue to keep myself available to the public as much as possible to keep myself accountable. I do not want to drift off the track or lose my focus if I'm elected to a council position.

27. What do you feel the role of for mayor and municipal councils to advocate when the provincial government makes decisions which damage the community?

It would be our role to collaborate together and then try and lobby the provincial government together to best advocate for our city.

28. What are your plans for regional collaboration and building relationships with Cypress County, Redcliff and Brooks?

I think I mentioned earlier that I'm quite happy with the current council's decision to join this group. Brooks is not on it though, but as a council we should probably still reach out to Brooks to see if we can work with them as well.

29. Is promising a property tax freeze or a promise to not increase taxes realistic? How would you propose to implement any taxation plans?

Promising a full out property tax freeze is almost impossible even though I get the sense that most "Hatters" would like to see something similar to it after the last tax increase. I've touched bases earlier with my firm belief we need to adopt a policy of repair, maintain and sustain for a while until we see some economic growth.

30. Most candidates tend to say "I won't raise taxes". How do you plan to support essential programs as services with less money?

Once again, we need to adopt a policy of RMS we can keep supporting our essential programs and services.

31. Are you for or against lower business expenses, fees and taxes at the cost of residential taxes going up?

I would love nothing more than lower business expenses but at the current time I can not see how we can do that if we keep facing municipal budget gaps like the last one. Both business owners and owners of residential properties have indicated to me while campaigning they feel stretched to the maximum.

32. What is your plan to grow the tax base?

By selling Medicine Hat as both a city open for new business and as a beautiful city to retire in. I think we need to grow the city with a healthy balance of both. I firmly believe a newly elected economic development committee out of city hall could get the ball rolling here. Sound stable governance will help sell the city as well.

33. What services are you proposing to cut to be able to promise no tax increases (or even lower taxes). What roads won't be maintained? What recreation facilities will be closed? What parks won't be maintained? What infrastructure repairs will be deferred?

I can not give one specific answer at the moment, but I think council as a whole could start by looking at under-utilized buildings and facilities owned by the city and start selling some of them off. Not only will that add some revenue but it will also save the city on utilities and operating costs.

34. How would you handle all the asks put forward to the city while juggling amendments to the budget?

Through balance and well thought out decisions. There may be a time when we simply have to borrow from the reserve fund if essential services are being affected too deeply. I hope that's not the case but I do foresee some real challenges coming ahead especially if electricity prices fall too low.

35. If Council freezes taxes, will they also pass a freeze on rental increases?

That is pretty much impossible to do in the province of Alberta. As far as I can tell rent freezes are illegal in Alberta.

36. What steps will you take to protect local decision-making, strengthen our economy, and ensure that common-sense governance prevails over ideology?

I will do every thing in my power to protect local decision-making and If I feel that is some how in jeopardy I will confront council first in private chambers and then in public forum if necessary.

37. What do you believe is the role of consultants hired by the City and the value you believe they bring if they are from outside of our city?

Some times consultants hired by the City provide a broader or overall view of how to improve some thing we as locals can not see; however, I feel that the city has overused consultants and studies at the expense of all of us tax paying citizens when the changes just were not necessary.

38. What are your thoughts on the narrowing of Division Ave? What do you see as the concerns or hazards related to that roadway now?

Myself along with 99 percent of the citizens I've spoken with feel the narrowing of Division Ave was a huge mistake. The road is too narrow for larger trucks and even emergency vehicles and this is in good weather conditions.

39. Would you consider re-building Division Ave to correct the mistakes that were made?

I can not justify spending the money to re-build division avenue, but may be we should actually hold a public forum for it and see what the residents of that area and Medicine Hat as a whole have to say.

40. Where do you stand on creating the MCC and why?

I'm 100 percent not in favour of creating an MCC. Council and current management have managed to run the utilities for the better part of 120 to 125 years with little trouble. Why create another added expense when it's not necessary.

41. What are your views on the solar project?

I honestly do not feel the city electric division should be developing this project. My main concern is the profitability of it in the long run. I believe we should encourage private industry to develop it.

42. Will you be able to help keep our utility bills as the lowest in the Province since we currently own our own utilities? How do you plan to achieve this?

I plan on keeping our utility bills the lowest in the province by not developing the solar project and by the continued purchase of cheap natural gas to fire our electric generators.

43.What are your thoughts on selling Medicine Hat Utilities?

I do not think the city should ever sell its utilities. It is what gave us the Medicine Hat advantage and if we run it right it will continue to give us the Medicine Hat advantage.

44.What is your plan to address the issues related to crime, mental health and addictions in Medicine Hat?

I almost feel that the newly elected council has to hold an extra emergency session on these issues once in place and bring in representatives from all the services associated with the problems to see if we can find an immediate working solution to the crisis before January hits and then look at a long term solution for the placement of the mustard seed and associated services to be available in close proximity to it.

45.Is there more we can do (or should do) to reduce criminal activity in our city?

I feel if we can help get some of the homeless people off the street that may help in reducing criminal activity, but as an individual I have no idea how we can reduce or eliminate the current drug epidemic. I think I said on Bring Back the Porch today that I would be a multimillionaire if I could find a solution to this problem that is plaguing almost every North American city.

46.Where do you believe the emergency shelter should be located?

I do not have an answer for that at the moment other then giving it another possible extension until we as a council can find an alternative location.

47.What is your position or perspective on flags on public buildings or government buildings?

I'm fine with our current flags on both public and government buildings.

48.What is your view on the proposed bylaw amendment (Land Use) to enable backyard chickens?

Cities all around us have enabled backyard chickens so I do not really see a good reason why Medicine Hat should not do the same within reason of course.

49.What do you believe is the Medicine Hat Advantage? How will you promote this advantage and increase our quality of life in Medicine Hat?

25 years ago the Medicine Hat Advantage meant significantly lower then the rest of the province / country utilities, the lowest property taxes for a city in the province, and a growing economic powerhouse at the time. Now we have the 15th highest property taxes in the province and slightly lower then the average utilities, but we do have out of this world amenities and parks and endless trails for outdoor activities. And as highway 41 becomes more utilized for a trade route between northern Alberta and the United States, Medicine Hat sits right on the hub of highways 3, 1, and 41. And we are on the edge of the Lethbridge-Taber agri-belt. It's time to promote all these features more and restore Medicine Hat back to being an economic powerhouse not dependent on the oil and gas sector. This will overall increase our quality of life.

50.Would you strive to reduce the number of employees at City Hall?

I'm not sure I would use the word strive, but we may need to look at reducing some employees if it means greater efficiency and savings for the tax payers.

51.Is there a way we can break down jobs on the local bids and tenders site so more for small businesses can obtain opportunities?
Example: Mow a park, but the bid also includes cement pouring as well.

I believe this could be done. I used to do contract work for the city back around 2003 to 2009 and was rather appalled at the bid package that I used to have to put together. There was a blatant conflict of interest with how the project had to be tendered because there were two parts of the contract that should not be owned or run by the same company. Fortunately my smaller service company had the equipment so I could still put together the request for proposal documents. These two departments or enterprises should have been split in to separate bids.

52.Is there anything Council can do to prevent large corporations from monopolizing housing in Medicine Hat?

The only thing I can think of is for council to lobby the provincial government to implement or create some laws to prevent this from happening.

53. What would you do to advertise and promote Medicine Hat to the rest of the country?

I think I have already answered this. Of course I would advertise and promote Medicine Hat to the rest of the country. I have promised many of the citizens on the campaign trail that I will do this.

54. Every candidate has brought up "creating jobs and growing local economy". What is your position on remote work/jobs at City Hall?

If you mean remote work/jobs by out of town city employees I have a serious problem supporting it especially since these workers are not paying city property taxes, rents or supporting local business in general. For city employees who both work and live here in the city I think it's not a bad idea if it cuts down on operating costs and creates greater efficiencies.

55. How will you ensure Medicine Hat remains a welcoming place to all and uphold policies that protect marginalized communities?

By continuing to welcome new people into our community and by ensuring bylaws and policies remain in affect to protect our existing marginalized communities. There has to be a balance in place to protect all communities. I'm not proposing to upset the current balance that exists in Medicine Hat.

56. What is your plan to grow Medicine Hat's population?

Once again to promote Medicine Hat as a great retirement community and by trying to attract new developments and business in the city while protecting our current businesses the best we can.

57. What is your approach to the complex infrastructure problems our city faces?

Once again I would like to see the complex infrastructure problems become more of a priority rather than spending money on new projects and by increasing operating costs with the addition on new projects. We should be looking at repairing, maintaining and sustaining for a while.

58. What would you do to move forward Medicine Hat as a labour friendly community?

I feel that Medicine Hat is already a labour friendly community. We should continue to promote it that way since it keeps construction and tradesmen costs down which also helps with the construction of more affordable housing verses the rest of the province.

59. What is your opinion of un-unionized workplaces and do you support them?

I believe we need a healthy mix of both un-unionized and unionized work places. I support both since we do have a mixed economy.

60. Surveys have indicated that a significant reason for people to choose to move to Medicine Hat are the parks and recreation facilities along with natural areas. How would you as Mayor of Medicine Hat prioritize supporting parks and natural areas within Medicine Hat as a component of quality of life for Medicine Hat citizens?

Once again as a councillor I would support the Mayor running a policy of RMS for supporting the parks and natural areas in Medicine Hat.

61. Climate change will increase extreme weather events and low stream flow in the South Saskatchewan River. The City of Medicine Hat will be challenged to provide water and other support services due to climate change in the future. How can the City Council and leadership best develop resiliency in face of these challenges?

City Council as a whole will have to evaluate and adapt to these events and climate changes as they happen. It's pretty hard to predict what will actually occur. Once again, the city surplus fund may have to be used in the case of extreme emergencies.

62. What is your plan to keep young people in this city?

Economic growth and prosperity will keep young people in the city along with a new Medicine Hat advantage. There is so much work to be done on this, but it has to start somewhere. That is why I firmly believe an economic development committee is so crucial in getting the ball rolling. We need a city council willing to collaborate together to make this happen. As an individual councillor I would be committed to being a team player to make this happen.

63. Tourism is an important economic driver for Medicine Hat. When elected my hope is that the Council and Mayor will plan to safeguard the natural areas and beauty of the city so visitors will continue to make it a holiday destination, or even their new home. After all, all Canadian cities have swimming pools, rinks and arenas but no other Canadian city has the beauty and health-giving benefits of Medicine Hat's river, coulees and parks. The citizens of Medicine Hat need clean water, air and soil as well as wild spaces and wildlife. These things are of real cultural and economic value to us all. When considering the approval of expanding or new business and manufacturing developments how high a priority should the Council and Mayor give to environmental stewardship?

Environmental stewardship should remain a high priority for both the Mayor and Council when considering the location of new business and manufacturing developments. We are so fortunate that the industrial park areas of the city of quite large and under-utilized at the moment so there is still lots of room for potential growth.

64. There is a large impact that constantly changing policies have on the business sector and citizens of Medicine Hat involved in the hospitality and care industries. What are your views/stance on Temporary Foreign Workers, Student visas and RNIP for the city if the federal government reintroduces the policy?

I do not feel there is a current labour shortage in the city so I'm not sure it's necessary at the moment; however, these workers should never feel not welcomed in the community especially when they are needed.

65. As an avid cyclist, I commuted the last 7 years of working on streets, and found it was fine. Medicine Hat has a great system of recreational pathways but they need to be maintained better and expanded. Therefore there is no need restriction city vehicle traffic for bike lanes.

Do you favour using city funds to maintain and expand recreational bike paths or do you favour spending city funds on commuter bike lanes on streets?

At the moment I favour using city funds to maintain the recreational bike paths. I too am an avid cyclist and find the city paths fairly well maintained especially when compared to most other cities our size that do not have near the system we have and some cities that have still have none.

66. Will you support the construction of a new recreation center in South Ridge during your term? Why or why not?

During this first term I would not support the construction of a new south side recreation centre. I just can not see any room in the city budget for either the construction or proper maintenance of a new facility. The city needs to grow first. I encourage any one concerned to review the last city budget. Most of the citizens I've spoken with on my door to door campaign do not want to see a dramatic increase in property taxes.

67. When it comes to mental health and addiction, much of the conversation focuses on treatment. But recovery is not a short term problem, it's a long term journey and the data shows that post-care should not be treated as 'extra' but as a core part of recovery. Post-care, peer support, and recovery coaching organizations often struggle with short-term, unstable funding. What would you do to ensure these programs are properly funded and sustained long-term, rather than relying on temporary project grants?

As a council I think it's time we lobbied the provincial government a little harder for a properly funded post care organization to ensure these programs receive stable sustainable funding.

68. Do you support Medicine Hat paying Redcliff to handle our composting program?

To be honest I need to do a little more research on this. When I first read about it at the council meetings it seemed like not a bad approach, but that is not a firm answer. I've been to almost 2000 doors in different parts of the city and the topic has not come up once.

69. Activities for generations are very separated in Medicine Hat. How would you promote intergenerational living and learning?

Once again I do not have an honest answer for this question either since it's another one I have not encountered on my entire campaign trail. I will probably look at Denmark and may be some of the other surrounding countries to research some models of what they are doing.

70. We have heard for a long time that there will be a second entrance to Saamis Heights. It has not happened, the traffic is getting worse and it is becoming very difficult to enter and leave the area, what will you do to see that this actually happens and when?

I have to admit I have not yet visited Saamis Heights on my campaign and wanted too before this questionnaire was due. I still plan on visiting the area before the election. I want to reach out to the residents first and see if this is truly the case, and if it is, council will have to look at it fairly early and see if it can be built in to the next budget. All that is all I can promise for now.