

Bev Esslinger
Ward 2 Candidate

QUESTION 1: The City of Edmonton should take more action to make municipal land available for low-income affordable housing development (eg. surplus school land).

My understanding is the City has been committed to this work and I would want to see this work ongoing.

QUESTION 2: There is not enough subsidized housing in some neighbourhoods, and the City must ensure a better distribution in all neighbourhoods throughout Edmonton.

In talking to residents in Ward 2 I have heard that there is not enough subsidized housing in all neighbourhoods and there is a need for more. I would like to ensure that all areas of city have access to and home to subsidized housing.

QUESTION 3: The City should seek to use zoning flexibility (on issues such as required parking spaces) to support the development of more affordable housing initiatives.

I am open to zoning flexibility where it makes sense and it is an option to consider.

QUESTION 4: The City should commit funding to extend the Cornerstones Affordable Housing program.

I understand we are in phase 2 of this program and have begun to have success providing homes to many and I would love to see the City fund it until the need is addressed.

QUESTION 5: The City should create a comprehensive plan to address the need for thousands of units of affordable housing in a comprehensive and coordinated way that includes attention to schools, public transportation, and community services.

I think the idea of comprehensive plan makes sense and demonstrates to those in need that we have considered all their needs at once. Many newcomers to Canada and Alberta may not even be aware to think of all these things and it would support them well.

QUESTION 6: The City is doing a good job to end chronic homelessness through the current 10 Year Plan and the work of the Edmonton Homeless Commission.

Yes and I hope it continues!

QUESTION 7: The City must be more active in advocating with the provincial and federal governments for more funding and better policies on affordable housing.

Yes and I would continue to work with all levels of government to support the initiatives.

QUESTION 8: The City must develop better ways to gather views of all residents about housing issues and not depend so significantly on input from community leagues and developers.

Community engagement is important and we must provide several opportunities to gather this information.

QUESTION 9: Finally, you may provide any additional comments about any other aspects of housing and homelessness.

Affordable housing and homelessness are important issues and we want to build on the progress that has been made with a long term commitment to ensure we continue to meet the needs of new comers to our growing city.