

Ed Gibbons

Ward 4 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).

The city has a long history of supporting affordable housing and development. As the Chair of the CRB Market Housing, I was a representative for the city for secondary suites. I believe that secondary suites can provide affordable rental accommodation and can be developed relatively quickly compared to other forms of rental housing. In addition, in ward 4 we have the highest number of surplus school sites, so we need to effectively evaluate whether the land can be used in a way that helps fulfil our affordable housing and community needs.

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

Ward 4 is top of the list on affordable housing, including Habitat/Edmonton Housing. That being said, I do not necessarily believe that equal distribution in all neighbourhoods throughout the Edmonton needs to be a top priority. What should be looked at is the support services available to all Edmontonians in all areas of the city. We need a coordinated approach to matching people to their service and housing needs.

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.

Zoning by laws can drive up the cost of building but may not benefit the residents.

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

From 2006 to 2011, Cornerstones helped Council create and upgrade 553 secondary suites and over 3,300 safe and affordable homes for citizens. I'm proud to say that I voted for the continuation of the project, known now as Cornerstones II, which will continue this tradition and benefit Edmonton.

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.

One of the best ways to address this issue is through proper planning. Which is why the City of Edmonton has developed the Edmonton and Area Community Plan on Housing and Supports 2011-2015.

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.

I've seen progress in many areas and know there is still much work to be done, but we are heading in the right direction.

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.

As I indicated earlier, I am the Chair of the CRB Market Housing and representative for the province for secondary suites. Having worked as an MLA on the Municipal Affairs, Housing and Infrastructure portfolios, I know the importance of collaborating with the provincial and federal governments on this issue. I have been very active in working with all levels of government and I will continue to do so for the betterment of Edmonton and Ward 4.

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.

I am always seeking input from residents on all issues. If you have any questions or would like to contact me directly, edgibbonsward4@gmail.com or 789-454-VOTE (8683),

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

I have long been a champion for affordable housing, and am proud of the progress we've experienced in Ward 4. One example is the fort Road build out, which had to have a large share of affordable housing. I encourage you to take a look at the housing demographics of Ward 4 for yourself.