

Alla Ternikova
Ward 5 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).

I absolutely agree with this statement. I do have a big concern with creating large housing areas, based on income: this area is for people with this income, that area is for people with that income. International studies, covering the last 80 or so years of mid to large sizes of North American cities, proved that on the long run the mixed housing works best for everybody in a city.

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

Again, creating any kind of ghetto housing, including for low-income population, should be discouraged. One of the very important issue to remember when planning for more equally spread low-income housing is that many people that belong to such group has limited or no access to private transportation; therefore, proper access to the public transportation would be essential for proper planning.

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.

Absolutely! Even though the total amount of vehicles, registered to people living in Edmonton increased greatly, the growing trend is that more individuals choose or were declined to have a driver license and subsequently a private vehicle. I believe that having a mix of spaces with and with out private parking across the city housing clusters, should be given to people to choose from and subsequently be reflected in pricing.

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

Unfortunately, the default resolution for any concern, regarding the shortness of funding, is to get more money from the government. We have to remember that every dollar that government dedicates to anything comes from the taxpayer pocket. If I am elected, i am going to propose a list of alternative measures to raise funding for important projects, such as Cornerstone Affordable Housing.

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.

As a major in statistics, I am in awe how little available data the city is using for the short and long term city planning. If I am elected, I will enlist the stakeholders in the city planning and housing development

to work together to create a detailed short and long term plan for the sufficient affordable housing, using the latest data on trends in growth and changes in the city population.

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 chose three because a real good job will see no homeless people in such a rich city as Edmonton. However, comparing today where we were 10 years ago with addressing the homelessness issue, we are way ahead and also ahead of many major Canadian cities.

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.

If I say one more time that preventing a problem is more efficient in all imaginable ways than dealing with a full blown problem, people would, probably, gag because it was said so many times by so many people. If I am elected, I would propose the particular percentage of the provincial and federal funding to be dedicated to preventing measures, including affordable housing.

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.

This question is set incorrectly: a community league is a collective voice of the people, living in the community. Asking if we should rely more on views of all residents or their community league is like asking to choose between water and water. Also, from 15 years of experience working with community leagues and indirectly with developers, I can tell you that the interests of the developers and local community leagues that actually represent majority of the people, living in the area, differs greatly more often than not. To expect involvement of ALL residents in any community is as realistic as having no bad weather. That said, I think that the real question was: should we involve local individuals as much as possible in the process of changing, related to housing in their community. In this case the answer is absolutely yes,

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

Being the only one of many candidates for the ward 5 councilor with more than 15 years of experience in working and volunteering with west end communities, the city, its many agencies and boards, I truly believe that my past experience is a very strong foundation for becoming progressive, resourceful, cooperative city councilor.