

1. If elected, what is your government's specific plan to improve small business affordability?

The Alberta Liberal Party is committed to helping small businesses by focusing on making it more affordable to train and hire workers. We would bring back, expand and improve the "Alberta Jobs Now" program and would create \$160 million in new funding annually for workers to pursue new training and post-secondary education.

Additionally, we are committed to reducing bureaucracy and simplifying and streamlining compliance procedures and processes for small businesses

2. If elected, what is your government's tax plan for small businesses, including the small business tax rate, fuel taxes, property taxes and a potential provincial sales tax?

The Alberta Liberal Party supports maintaining the current small business tax rate and would not introduce any new taxes on small businesses. We do support, at some point in the future, introducing a sales tax. However, this would be a revenue-neutral tax shift, not a tax increase. Albertans at that time would see an equivalent reduction in their income taxes.

3. If elected, what is your government's specific plan to reduce the debt burden, and does your government have a timeline in place to reach a balanced budget?

We do not have a timeline for a balanced budget. At this time we believe it is best for Alberta to focus on solving systemic problems to drive down long-term costs. We would leverage Alberta's strong fiscal position to address issues like poverty, addictions, crime, and the healthcare crisis while investing in education.

While this will require more spending in the short term, it will drive down spending and spur economic growth in the long run.

4. If elected, what is your government's specific plan to encourage more people to not only get out and spend in their communities, but also to assure them that it's important to shop local?

We believe the best way to encourage Albertans to go out and spend is to make life more affordable and ensure Albertans have good-paying jobs.

We will put more money in Albertan's pockets to spend by investing in affordable housing, expanding existing affordability programs, eliminating school fees, and accelerating access to \$10-a-day child care.

We are committed to helping more Albertans find employment through investments in post-secondary education and training specifically targeted at creating employment. We are also committed to bringing back and improving the "Alberta Jobs Now" program.

5. If elected, what is your plan for red tape reduction?

We are committed to reducing bureaucracy and simplifying and streamlining compliance procedures and processes for small businesses. To do so requires we listen to and work with small businesses to accurately assess what red tape is unnecessary and most costly to the business. Based on their recommendations we will make compliance simpler and less expensive.

6. If elected, what is your plan, if any, to introduce a provincial carbon tax? If not, will you commit to pressuring the federal government to return \$2.5 billion in federal carbon tax revenues it has collected from small businesses since 2019?

Alberta Liberals support carbon pricing as a market-oriented means to fight climate change. However, we should have a made-in-Alberta carbon price designed for Albertans by Albertans. In creating an Alberta-made carbon pricing plan we would prioritize fairness to small businesses.

7. If elected, what is your plan to address environmental concerns, specifically expanding renewable energy sources and recycling programs?

As mentioned above the Alberta Liberals support carbon pricing as a crucial tool in the fight against climate change. However, environmental policy must focus beyond reducing our carbon footprint. We must also do more to address orphaned wells, protect our water supply, preserve biodiversity, and adapt to the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing.

Renewable energy is an economic opportunity for Alberta. Alberta Liberals support creating a business and regulatory environment that allows renewable energy to grow and thrive. We will invest in research that helps make these projects more economical.

We support expanding the number of electronics and appliances eligible for recycling programs in Alberta. In addition, we support the recent Extended Producer Responsibility legislation passed by the previous government.

8. If elected, what is your government's specific plan to address the province's labour shortage?

As part of our aforementioned efforts to create employment through post-secondary education and training, we will target funding towards programs that specifically address labour shortages. Additionally, we support expanded immigration and making it easier to upgrade foreign credentials.

9. If elected, what is your government's specific plan, if any, to change labour policies in the areas of workers compensation, occupational health and safety, and employment standards?

We believe both past governments engaged in one-sided consultations on labour issues. Our commitment is to listen to both sides and find a balanced approach that works for workers and businesses.

10. If elected, what is your government's specific plan for increasing the minimum wage moving forward?

As the cost of living rises we see a need for Alberta to potentially raise the minimum wage. However, we do not have a specific increase or timeline in mind. Rather we believe there is a need to consult with stakeholders and experts to determine the best course of action moving forward.

11. If elected, what is your government's specific plan, if any, to introduce either employer paid, or government funded paid sick days?

The Alberta Liberal Party does not have any specific plans to introduce employer or government-funded sick days at this time.

12. If elected, what is your plan to address concerns surrounding public safety for small Businesses?

Alberta Liberals believe in tackling problems at the source. Many crimes are the result of poverty, addictions, and untreated mental health disorders. Our party is committed to addressing the root causes of these issues.

We would increase funding for mental health and addictions, expand the use of mental health and drug courts, and invest in solutions to poverty such as affordable housing. This coupled with a commitment to a well-funded police force will reduce crime and keep all Albertans safe.

13. Your Message

The Alberta Liberals are not looking to form but government this election. But we are looking for your support. Our aim is to dial down the rhetoric and polarization and hold the big two parties to account.

Our party is focused on having honest conversations, working hard for Albertans, and giving you the choice you deserve in this election.