

2018 Winnipeg Municipal Election: Candidates' views on small business issues



Dear Candidate: Local government policies are important to business owners and they would like to know where you stand on their priority issues.

CFIB has developed a *Small Business Platform for City of Winnipeg Municipal Candidates*, which highlights key small business priorities for municipal candidates to adopt (see attached).

We also invite you to respond to our survey. Please feel free to provide additional written comments on a separate page. Responses will be posted, unedited, on [CFIB's website](#) in an effort to better inform our members of each candidate's views. We will also share responses with our members prior to the elections on October 24th.

Please complete the following brief survey and **send it back to us by email at msman@cfib.ca or by fax at 204-982-0811 by Monday, October 15th, 2018**. Note: If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us at 1-888-234-2232 or msman@cfib.ca.

Thank you for your participation.

Jonathan Alward,
Director, Provincial Affairs, Manitoba

1. How important is the small business sector to Winnipeg's economy? (Select one)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

2. Which of the following options do you support for financing the City of Winnipeg? (Select all that apply)

- Increase existing property taxes, business taxes, levies and/or user fees
- Expand taxing authority (e.g. new user fees, development levies etc.)
- Increase savings through operational efficiencies (e.g. contracting out services to the private sector)
- Spend more than current levels on infrastructure by finding efficiencies in other areas
- No further need for increased revenues
- Other

3. Do you support or oppose the following actions? (Check one for each row)

	Support	Oppose
Narrow the wages/benefits gap between municipal and private sector employees (the gap is 17% in Winnipeg)		X
Reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (e.g. through workforce attrition)		X
Limit annual municipal operating spending growth to a maximum of inflation and population growth	X	
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap	X	
Develop and implement a plan to eliminate the Winnipeg Business Tax	X	
Take concrete steps to reduce red tape	X	

4. Which of the following options do you support for reducing red tape in Winnipeg? (Select all that apply)

- Create a web-portal for residents and business owners to easily share feedback and suggestions to improve services
- Improve staff training around serving small businesses
- Expand the hours of service
- Creating a separate 311 line to serve business inquiries
- Reduce wait times for building and occupancy permits
- Improve clarity around permits
- No further improvements are needed to reduce the regulatory burden
- Other — ~~Make all by-laws constitutional.~~

See questions 5 & 6 on page 2.

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5. What plans do you have to reduce the **negative impacts** of roadwork on businesses?

Road construction is important and summer is construction season, but when business is destroyed by road construction, there should be, compensation. A road, sewer, or sidewalk construction that forces relocation, is tantamount to expropriation. Admitting that this is a possibility I suggest an optional "City Compensation Loan" for businesses that would be forgiven for repayment if they continued business at the affected location for a number of years, say five.

6. What plans do you have to make the City of Winnipeg more business-friendly?

- 1) Make by-laws constitutional.
ie. make by-laws legal so they do not have to be tested in court over the years.
- 2) Reduce fines of all types.
ie. make all taxation a known cost of business and do not complicate things with a punitive quasi-criminal fining process. Make tax obvious.
- 3) Allow business to volunteer in their local community development in lieu of paying a portion or all of business tax.

Candidate's Name: Ed Ackerman

Ward/Position: Mayor

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**Please email responses to
msman@cfib.ca or fax to
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