

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 _____

See questions 5 & 6 on page 2.

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



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

SEE ATTACHED

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

SEE ATTACHED.

Candidate's Name: Kevin Nichols
Ward/Position: Councillor CHARLESWOOD TOXEDO.

Canadian Federation of Independent Business
640-175 Hargrave St, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R8
Tel: 1-888-234-2232 Website: www.cfib.ca
Follow us on Twitter: @cfibMB

**Please email responses to
msman@cfib.ca or fax to
1-204-982-0811.**

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

In order to facilitate and expedite road repairs that are required to provide safe travel to, from, and while attending a business, road repair crews should have extended hours, perhaps two shifts in order to accomplish road repairs quicker. This can only be done where no residential areas are adversely affected by noise. There would be a stipulation no overtime is to occur. This would allow businesses to get back to normal as quickly as possible.

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

As a small business owner I know how red tape can be an extreme time waster and when you depend on every minute, waiting for items like permits can be detrimental to a business.

I do like the ideas proposed in Question 4 of this survey and would love to sit with small business owners and discuss ways the City can improve its services to accommodate small business.

The move to decrease the wage gap brings an issue of minimum wage and living wages.

What I would propose, and I'm not entirely sure it is possible without the Province, is employers pay a minimum wage of \$15/hour, with that comes the stipulation that payroll taxes get decreased proportionally. This will help stimulate the economy. Where the Province comes in would be to either give the City its blessing on imposing a \$15/hour wage inside the City or the Province take that task on themselves and imposes it throughout the Province. The City would need to be promised an increase in the PST transfer payments to compensate for the loss of the business tax revenue.