

2018 Manitoba Municipal Elections: 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 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 your local economy? (Select one)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

2. Which of the following options do you support for financing your municipality? (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 14% in Manitoba)	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, if possible in your community	X	
Work with other municipalities to find efficiencies and savings (e.g. group purchasing, etc.)	X	

4. Which of the following options do you support for reducing red tape in your municipality? (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
- Introduce a mobile business license with other local communities
- Reduce wait times for building and occupancy permits
- Improve clarity around permits
- No further improvements are needed to reduce the regulatory burden
- Other _____

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

Part of my platform is to improve our communication of roadwork and infrastructure improvements to allow businesses adequate time to plan and prepare for any potential impact to their operations and customers. I'm willing to investigate ways to offset some of their losses through tax rebates or abatement.

6. What plans do you have to make your municipality more business-friendly?

I think the best thing we can do as city councillors is to keep property tax increases manageable to ensure residents have money in their pockets. I'd like to increase the Hotel Accommodation tax which our city has used effectively to support a number of events that have drawn many visitors to Brandon in support of the local economy.

Candidate's Name: Kris Desjarlais

Municipality: Brandon

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