

# 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 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

Canada Post has placed community boxes on city property without providing compensation for use of municipal lands. I would initiate fees to said corporation for land use.

## 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 Inspections can be performed by any Red Seal tradesman And the report submitted by the project owner.

**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?**

The city planning department must release all scheduled work before the end of February to provide all contractors ample time to inform any affected businesses. This could be done a year in advance as projects should be identified. Logan & McPhillips is such a project.

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

The business owners of this city want the freedom to operate without being micro managed by a multitude of government departments. They endure multi level jurisdiction overlap, hours of operation restriction, holiday employee restrictions, just to name a few. Less government intervention in our daily operations allows business owners the freedom to provide the services that are their speciality.

We must make the city of Winnipeg competitive with other cities and surrounding municipalities. In many areas our city is not competitive, and it is falling further behind in attracting business to locate.

Loblows distribution for the prairie region located in Regina, SK. instead of Winnipeg because they found it to be a better for their bottom line.

We are pricing ourselves out of competitiveness by our level of taxes and government interference.

Business already has levels of requirements to provide fair and equitable treatment for customers and staff. We must start eliminating excessive government departmental interference.

**Candidate's Name:** Micheal Wiens

**Ward/Position:** Mynarski

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**Please email responses to  
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