

Respondent

< 28 Anonymous >

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Bill Bergeson. Medicine Hat.

2. What active role have you played to improve our community prior to running for council/mayor?

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With my carrier as a construction worker I have worked with contractors here in Medicine Hat on our power generation, gas distribution and water treatment. As far as volunteering in the community I was never able to commit to getting more involved in the community because my worked involved me being away from town for weeks in end. At this point in my life I can give back and that's why I decided to run for council now. I look forward to having the chance to do what I can for the betterment of Hatters.

3. What initiatives would you propose to improve tourism, investment attraction and development to our municipality and region and support business recovery during/after the pandemic? *

We have to work at bringing people to the Hat with more innovative ways of attracting tourism. I think we need to work with businesses to find a way to promote Medicine Hat as well as what is needed to move forward with the set backs that businesses have

experienced the past year and a half.

4. In Medicine Hat, businesses pay a higher proportion of property taxes compared to the residential sector. Medicine Hat's tax gap of 2.35% is one of the highest in Alberta. What is your position on the current approach to taxation and your thoughts on potential strategies to narrow this gap?

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As an average citizen of Medicine Hat this is something I was not aware of. I do feel that if we want to have new businesses move here we have to make them want to come and high operating costs may deter them from setting up shop here. I'd like to get the input from all the business community here to see what we could work towards for the benefit of all of us here in Medicine Hat.

5. If elected, what specific steps would you take to encourage & promote entrepreneurship within the region?

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With things that are happening now and home based business becoming more prevalent, working to streamline that process may be something to look into.

6. What is your stance on COVID-19 related laws that mandate requirements, including masks and vaccine passports?

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I really feel for the businesses that have been put in a bad spot with passports and other mandates. The government passing the buck onto business owners is something I don't agree with and these people have been dealing with enough issues over the last 18 months to have more strains put on them.

7. What is your plan for publicly-funded services (examples would include Medicine Hat Public Library, power plant, facilities) if elected?

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I believe our public funded facilities are something that we should maintain and keep city owned for the betterment of everyone here in the Hat. Rec facilities are vital for the well being of local communities and something I believe need to be maintained and kept open.

8. How important is it for our region to have a local Community College? What specific steps could the municipality do to work better with Medicine Hat College to provide ongoing opportunities for future learners?

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The municipality needs to work with the provincial government for funding and try to do what we can to keep courses available here and increase what course we can offer here. I would like to here people's suggestions from the college of how we could work together to improve the college because to be honest I have little knowledge of what needs or can be done.

9. How will you attract newcomers to the district and address the needs for a skilled workforce? *

Well the thing that kept many of us here when we grew up and attracted others here were our Medicine Hat Advantages. I believe we have to get back to the advantages of affordable living, cheap utilities, lots for families to do and a welcoming community. I want to work towards getting back to what kept myself and others here and attracted people to the Hat from elsewhere.

10. What is your stance on the importance of mental health & wellness support in our region? What ideas, implementations, and initiatives would you put forward to improve the overall mental health & wellbeing of our community?

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This is a big issue many are facing now and something I've experienced with my family and friends. We are all living in stressful times that many have never experienced before and it is tough. We have crisis lines and such that people can call but having someone to talk to face to face is what many may need. I know that kids have a hard time talking to family and need someone independent that they can talk with in person about the troubles they are having. I'm not sure what the exact solution is but I want to work with others to try and find one.

11. How will you further diversity and inclusion initiatives in our region, as it relates to each of the pillars in the Chamber's Vote Prosperity Platform: <https://www.medicinehatchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/> (<https://www.medicinehatchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/>)

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Inclusiveness is something I believe we need to work towards and is a benefit to any community.

12. On a municipal level, how do you intend to address climate change and pollution?

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Working with industry on new innovation and technology is a big part of making a better place for us all. I'm not an expert in this field by no means and I would love to work with those that are to come up with solutions.

13. What strategies will you use to communicate and engage with the community and remain accountable to the citizens?

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I will be open and honest about any decisions I have made and the reasons why. I would have an open door policy for all that want to express their concerns, opinions and possible solutions to issues that arise. Hatters need to get engaged with things that can affect them and I would want to hear from them about those concerns.

14. Are there any other issues you wish to address or highlight that were not mentioned in the questions above?

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I'm running for council to represent everyone in Medicine Hat no matter what your beliefs or opinions are and I will take into consideration everything that is brought to me before I make any decisions affecting Hatters.