

Respondent

< 15 Anonymous >

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Charles Turner Medicine Hat

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

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I was a part of the Medicine Hat Canada Day Committee for 15 years, and I was an active member of the amateur radio club for 10+ years, and assisted with patrols during Halloween, New Years, Y2K

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 a struggling yet vibrant musicians and artists within our City. I would like to find a way to showcase the local talent that is fighting to be seen/heard.

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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Ray Kroc (founder of McDonald's) said it perfectly. Take a dime from many, not a dollar from a few. It is a business idea that is hard to deny worked.

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

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As someone who has been struggling to get their business off the door step within our city, I would like to see our City offer help to those who are willing to invest in the hard work of business start-up. Small business are the life blood of any economic recovery.

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

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I follow the required mandates set out by our Province and our Health Minister. I am in no place with my education to state if they are correct or incorrect with the requirements handed down.

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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Our Library is a service that cannot be removed. It provides a vast wealth of knowledge, and information to everyone. Our power plant, is a business of it's own. The public funds it through paying utility rates, not taxes. Our facilities, are just that, facilities that a city provides the public. The city is a business as well, and must provide services for the people. To increase revenue, you increase services and the tax base. Not by increasing taxes, but by enticing people to join your city.

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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I don't feel a Community College is something our city requires or would be better off having. MHC does the absolute best it can with the population base that resides within our city, yet finds class sizes are typically too small in some courses and is forced to close those classes.

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

While I applaud our current Council for trying to bring in new business to Medicine Hat, we need to seek larger industry. While increasing the number of small shops, hotels, and restaurants in our area does bring employment to our city, it does not bring good paying careers with benefits, pensions, etc that keep people grounded to a location.

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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Mental health and wellness is vital in any area. People who feel good, feel alive, feel wanted; bring growth, warmth, and are more included in what happens within a community. Over the last 18+ months, people have been secluded, feel lost, feel overwhelmed, feel alone. This is setting up people for failure. We need to ensure that we quite flooding our media with negative reports and start pushing the help that is available, the support groups, the positive.

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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I feel the Chamber and all levels of government need to focus on those who put in hard work and dedication to proper our society. I don't care what background you come from. Everyone who works hard should deserve equal opportunity.

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

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If we want to see increased profits with reduced emissions within our own power generation, we need to start looking into nuclear and microgeneration. Lift the limits on microgeneration for the public. Allow those who have solar panels on their roof generate more than 5KW, and don't reset the meter every month. If someone wants to invest in a large solar array on their roof, allow them to generate profit during the sunniest months to aid in paying off the investment. That is an easy cost free way to increase generation at little to no cost to the city, because the city generation plant can then sell the additional power to the "grid" to increase profits, while keeping the

pollution low.

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

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My stance on openness and accountability have never changed. I am an open book. I say what I mean, and sometimes it may offend someone. My phone number, email, Facebook is always open to everyone, as well, I have never hidden my address from anyone. I have nothing to fear for my actions, as I always act with the best intentions at heart.

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 want to seek from AHS the Urgent Care Center that our 2013-2017 Council turned away, and fight to obtain an Urgent Care Center for our City.