

Respondent

< 21 Anonymous >

171:51
Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

*

Chris czember town of redcliff

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

*

I have been a local business owner for 23 years. I have been part of multiple fundraisers (including our own startup "children's fundraiser" every year with Santa) and volunteered to run several recreation leagues over the years.

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? *

Any initiative to do any of the above mentioned things would have to be looked at on a case by case basis. Perhaps as a municipality we can offer one thing to attract one business but that wouldn't work for another application per se.

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?

*

Commercial properties are currently taxed at a higher rate as well, in redcliff and the gap needs to be fair and can be reevaluated from time to time, depending on the current economic climate. I'm not sure this question totally applies to a redcliff candidate.

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

*

I have an "open for business" attitude. If there is something our level of government can do or offer to promote business I am all for it, within reason ofcourse. I currently am on the entre Corp board and we have been exploring a few policy changes to help further encourage entrepreneurship as well.

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

*

Masks seem to be a necessary evil to help fight covid during this pandemic and to help keep business operations. Although I am far from an expert on them. The vaccine passport (or whatever you'd like to call what we have now) is a whole other beast. If vaccines are the answer out of this that is one thing, but the passport is so difficult on us small business owners to enforce. Not fair to us actually. We are already hurting and to throw us into the forefront enforcing them is just not fair. I believe the alberta government should come up with a better solution to this problem.

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

*

I would like to maintain the level of service that we have and only increase the level of service if there was not any substantial tax increase to the us citizens. Financial burdens cannot be compounded at this time with the issues covid has caused.

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?

*

It's great to have it ofcourse. Obviously not as much of an impact for Redcliff as it is for Medicine Hat. But promoting the college to our local high schools to our students as a cost effective local option of post secondary education will be beneficial for all involved.

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

Easier said then done. But absolutely have that "open for business " attitude. Anything that can be done to attract anyone to our area within reason is possible. Although promoting out great weather, low cost of living and access to a great labor force is necessary.

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?

*

I am currently on a board that tries to cut red tape In getting people the help that they need much faster than other avenues. I am a very proud board member of "our collective journey". It is a new organization but I feel will be able to make great strides in introducing the people in need to the professionals that can actually help them. It is aimed to help out not only anyone with addiction issues but also with depression issues just to name a few. It is aimed to help not only anyone with addiction issues but also with depression issues just to name a few.

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/voteprosperty2021/> (<https://www.medicinehatchamber.com/voteprosperty2021/>)

*

Will come back to this.

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

*

The town redcliff is currently building a new Community recycling drop off center. Any future projects aimed towards reducing waste I would probably be in support of depending on cost of course.

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

*

During my first term I very much advocated for more modern ways to engage with the community. Usually through Internet avenues rather than just the traditional newspaper avenue. I feel this will reach many more people and new generations that do not read the

newspaper as much.

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

*

I think it is very important for this next term to maintain a reasonable level of service by the municipal level of government and also maintaining our ageing infrastructure while not passing a cost increase on two the taxpayers any more than the rate of inflation but hopefully less. So it'll be very imperative that we keep taxation as Low as possible during these difficult times.