

Respondent

< 20 Anonymous >

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Ernie Reimer Redcliff Alberta

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

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As the former mayor of Redcliff I served on several boards and committees. I was involved in the recruitment of our towns present GP Dr. Hilgard VanDermere I am a strong supporter of our towns Youth Centre and served on the youth Centre board as well as on the FCSS board. I am a champion for our volunteers and have been involved in coaching minor hockey and baseball. Church choir member for over 40 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? *

Tourism: make improvements to our present campground and advocate for a camping site along the south Saskatchewan river area. Promote the development of a recreational complex for our children and adults of which I am a board member for this initiative.

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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We need to revisit the business taxation bylaw here in Redcliff. Let's examine the mill rates and compare them to other communities such as ours.

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

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We could offer incentives for new startup businesses such as deferred taxation payments or a decreased land sale to entice entrepreneurs to set up a business in Redcliff. Promote the installation of a wireless network to improve communication within the business community.

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

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I for one am not in favour of any kind of mandated passport. There's many people in our society who have valid medical reasons to not take the vaccine and we need to respect their rights to decide that .

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'm okay with the funded services as they exist here in Redcliff.

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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Very important! With the technical changes in areas such as solar and wind energy constantly evolving we need to have a college here in our back yard to accommodate our local entrepreneurs who would be able to stay at home to get educated on the technology. This would be very cost effective and less stressful for them

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

Advertising all our specific needs as they occur and provide incentives

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 high in my priority list. As a former EAP Rep. Employee Assistance Program at CFB Suffield I was fortunate to provide assistance to several employees who had specific needs for their immediate needs. Now more than ever we need to establish mental health support for many who do not have the knowledge or know where to reach out for help. I personally had a sister that took her own life. I would like to see a volunteer group set up to provide assistance and make referrals for the individuals affected by mental health illnesses

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/>)

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The town could designate one day a year to commemorate people of all races, ethnicity and culture

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

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I would like to have a bus service in Redcliff Thereby reducing the amount of pollution incurred by having multiple vehicles on the roads. Promote the need to recycle by providing the services

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

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Number one: Talk to them and keep them informed. How? Encourage them to attend council meetings, hold one or two open door public engagements per year event at a venue suitable for a large number to attend. Communication is vital, we need to be held accountable to each and every citizen that lives with in our boundaries, talk to people on the street or public events. Call them up by phone.

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 would like to see the town provide more information in the Cypress Courier to keep our citizens more informed. Not everyone is knowledgeable to access the use of the internet. Good way to keep our folks entertained to. My opinion....