

Respondent

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Mandi Lee Campbell-- Medicine Hat

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

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I am an active citizen in our community. I have served on the Urban Parks and Recreation Board, I was a member of the nomination committee to recognize people in the community for extraordinary civic duties and volunteering. I am currently serving my second term on the Medicine Hat Police Commission. I also volunteered at the YMCA teaching learn to run programs and I was involved in the Get Active program involving elementary kids during their lunch breaks and after school. I enjoy going to events that support vulnerable people in our community such as charity golf tournaments and the annual Women's Shelter Gala.

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 is a vital fraction in any city's success, it creates jobs as well as attracts people into the community. This is about creating the

environment for businesses and people to flourish. As a city, we also can be persistently looking for grants and incentives so we can start to recover, Covid-19 has been devastating to many businesses and people, as a society we need to recognize this as it is not going to be an easy recovery. We need to stick together and shop local and promote your local businesses! Hats off to all entrepreneurs who, through innovation and risk were able to start new businesses in this environment especially pertaining to tourism.

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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Taxation is one of the revenue streams to the municipality. Tax dollars come from the residents, both as home owners and businesses. It is our responsibility to always be conscious that we are being responsible how we are spending their money. It is imperative that we are in regular consultation with all residents and business owners as the most responsible way to narrow this gap. Perhaps there is an incentive to develop here instead of in another jurisdiction and can be recovered quickly through non-residential property tax mill rate differential and the new developments will be tax positive for our community for years to come. However, I do think it is important to evaluate the type of development when considering ALL grants or incentives.

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

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I believe working together with city council and city staff to ensure we are creating the right environment to attract and maintain entrepreneurs to and within our city. Entrepreneurs are the essential backbone of this city, and if we want them to thrive, we need to make sure they have the environment to do so,

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

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Public Health is truly the responsibility of the province. City Council should follow the mandates set out at the provincial level. If residents are feeling uneasy it is up to the municipal government to be their voice to the province.

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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This is reached by consultation with the community in various ways through town halls, surveys and meetings so we are always adhering to what is important to the residents. It is vital we are always finding ways to maximize efficiencies within all facilities. Good governance by City Council and city managers is absolutely crucial in this role, we need to work together to get maximum satisfaction for our community so we can achieve common goals.

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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Super important! The college is a colossal benefit to our community. It is an extensive employer for all manners and skillsets. Having the opportunity to complete post secondary within your own city provides the possibility for reduction of expenses for students. The college also provides an opportunity to attract students from different cities and towns with the hope that they will eventually live, work and raise families here in Medicine Hat.

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

Refer to question 8, the college plays an effective role in this equation. Skills are learned and then transferred into our workforce. It is a beneficial and crucial part of the equation.

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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More than ever in our history we are faced with challenges. Being cognoscente of mental health for us all is crucial and we must always be searching for ways to support our citizens. Having a present and effective police service also plays apart in this role, however we can not expect our police service to pick up every broken piece of our broken system. We must all do our part. We have successful not for profit groups in our city tirelessly assisting those in need, City Council needs to let these groups and services do their jobs, stay out of the way and just provide the environment so they can succeed. For example, we have well over 110KM of trails in our city, different groups of all sorts get out and do healthy actives on the trails. Staying active and healthy is an imperative part for mental health.

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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Education is key. We need to be in good contact with all people in our city and provide the domain where everyone feels welcomed and included. Perhaps we can look at a new committee as it directly pertains to the needs of diversity and inclusion.

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

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Climate change is a global issue. As a municipality we can create the environment that allows innovative and skilled entrepreneurs to find solutions so we can succeed together as a society. Everyday I hear people talk about doing their part and looking to find solutions in their sphere of influence. Again this can be apart of the many trails we have in our city, encourage bike riding or walking to work, perhaps more bike lanes could be apart of the equation.

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

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We live in a technological world, we have the ability to communicate with people in ways we never use to. There are a multitude of ways we can achieve this through Facebook, Instagram, surveys, virtual townhalls, in person townhalls, encouraging residents to attend City Council meetings either in person or online. Engagement with residents is the best way for their voices to be heard, I would encourage citizens to keep up with the meeting agendas and bring their concerns to council when they feel they are not being heard.

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 have a deep passion for this city and I would love to be your voice on council. I have a good understanding of effective governance from my experience with Police Commission and I understand it is important to have good communication so we can all reach our common goals. Thank you for your time.

