

Respondent

< 5 Anonymous >

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Nicholas Martin, Medicine Hat

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

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I've been very politically active my whole life, and just before Covid I had started volunteering with the anthropology department at the Esplanade.

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? \*

A mixed Heritage Festival and Pop-Culture Exhibition called Victorian Days and Saamis City Steam Con. The Heritage days will lean into the city's Victorian and Frontier heritage and the exhibition will follow suit by focusing on the "Steam Punk" genre of Science Fiction & Fantasy (Avatar the last Airbender, Castle in the Sky, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, to name a few examples from the genre.)

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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I believe building a university, fighting sprawl & encouraging vertical development, and a "six-sigma" approach to city management will all help combat this cities bloated tax burden both on businesses and residents.

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

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Building a university would make a much larger skilled workforce available for entrepreneurs to capitalize on and is the main reason for getting it built. Our most skilled youth leave the city to attend university elsewhere and, for the most part, they do not come back.

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

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Honestly, each situation/wave is different. The vaccine changed the game, and while at first I supported contact tracing and enforced quarantine over mask mandates and shutdowns, currently for the 4th wave I am in support of mask mandates and a shutdown-exemption program to keep the unvaccinated safe. As the pandemic evolves so will the best policies to fight it, and as your councillor I will be on top of that with constant vigilance examining the "big data" and "best practices" from around the world.

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 a huge supporter of the library both personally and ideologically, the value it brings to our community is, quite literally, immeasurable. I think a second, southside campus is long overdue and would work to secure provincial and federal grants to make that happen. In regards to the power plant, privatization of city assets, like the power plant, is under almost any circumstances terrible management that is putting short term "pat ourselves on the back" goals ahead of the long term prosperity of the city. As a Power Engineer who consulted on the commissioning of the NWR refinery, I believe I am the best candidate when it comes to all infrastructure, but most especially energy infrastructure.

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 Medicine Hat College is an incredibly critical institution in our community. Without it, the city probably wouldn't survive the coming century. Without a University it still might not. Cities generate wealth because they bring together, in close proximity, skilled

workers from many different fields for entrepreneurs to capitalize on. To face the coming century we're going to need data scientists, statisticians, agricultural and medical researchers, and engineers to encourage economic growth and political scientists, philosophers, lawyers and MBAs to lead the city into the future.

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

By building a University, by taking my democratic mandate from the voters of this city to the Provincial and Federal governments. Alberta has outpaced Ontario in growth since the millenium and while they've broken ground on three new University facilities in that time Alberta hasn't since the 70s. The money is there, I'm going to ensure the government spends it here.

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 is one of the greatest threats facing our society today. Personally, my own research in the field of philosophy has led me to a couple conclusions. First, that we simply spend too much time alone/isolated. We are a social species, and sprawl (Medicine Hat is larger than Manhattan) is incredibly detrimental to our health. Furthermore, if we keep encouraging sprawl taxes are going nowhere but up; it is a simple matter of economics of scale. Secondly, people, in many cases, just need someone to talk to, and not to knock professionals in the field at all, but, for most people, that doesn't need to be a professional who charges a three-figure hourly fee. Whether it's Pastors at your local church, or "social workers" at your Alberta "health home", local government needs to adopt a paternal attitude and put more effort into putting people in touch with the existing services they need.

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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I feel a University would do a lot, more even than any other proposal perhaps, for diversity and inclusion in this city, and addresses each of your pillars. With students coming from out of the city and out of the country, diversity is increased in every field. I hope the oral section of the interview has time to talk about the Vote Prosperity platform in depth.

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

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Both by fighting sprawl and by utilizing smart, six sigma style management practices based in efficiency.

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

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I'm a millennial, so you can @ me any time. I intend to be very engaged with the voters via social media.

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

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Just like you'd want an expert in business if you were hiring a manager, you want an expert in policy when choosing a policy-maker. Capitalism involves a world of specialists, and while I feel I have decent business chops as a Power Engineer, my value in municipal governance comes from my endless studies. I'll work harder than anyone else for you, because I enjoy it.