

Respondent

17

Anonymous

56:44

Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Praveen Joshi, Medicine Hat

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

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My involvement was mostly with MHHA was organising events, fund raising & arranging social gathering. I have gained so much experience doing volunteer work with MHHA & I really enjoyed bringing the community together.

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? \*

I always give example of swift current because it is smaller then Medicine Hat but it has more vibes. I would make sure that the organizations like Medicine Hat accomodation association will bring more sports & other events too Medicine Hat, this will help boost local economy such as filling empty hotel rooms & Restaurants in Medicine Hat. I will also look into working with Medicine Hat tourism department to create more community events.

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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In order to close the gap we would have to generate revenue from some other avenues so this might cause residential tax to go up, we don't want that to happen so we need to bring more businesses in here so we can collect required taxes without increasing taxes for our residents. I will work closely with IMH & Planning to make sure there is no red tape & we welcome investors & businesses to come to Medicine Hat & maintain the relationship.

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

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I will work closely with IMH & planning to make sure we welcome entrepreneurs & investors to Medicine Hat & help them setup the business.

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

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I support the mask & vaccine passport, I understand that vaccine passport is more of a provincial issue but I feel confident about the Medical science & our doctors & their recommendations. we are living in a first world country we should trust our Doctors & medical science.

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 support the public support services as I understand that certain services such as library, transit, parks & recreational facilities etc are very important to maintain the quality of life in a City of our size.

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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It is very important to have either a local college or a Higher educational institute, we are lucky to have Medicine Hat college in our backyard providing different courses, one potential avenue is to get more international students which will bring more revenues for the college & will support local economy in general.

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

Medicine Hat is the sunniest city located on a prime location on highway one, We need to have diverse industries here so we can create more jobs for different skill sets. once we have that we can attract more new comers to come work & live in Medicine Hat.

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 of citizens is very important for any community. this is part of my platform as well. We need more certified phycalogist in our region & we need more female child phycastrists.

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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We need to respect everyone dispite of the fact based on race, colour, gender & orientation. I will focus more on Educating people about people from other race, colour, gender & orientation. I will make sure to foster a culture where every voice is welcome, heard, respected.

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

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Education is the only way to create a sustanble environment on the planet earth, I truly believe that this is the most effective if the education starts at the early stage that is primary school.Municipal government can organize programs events & competition to foster environmental sustainable habits which may include saving water, planting trees, saving energy & using renewable energy.

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

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I will hold a monthly town hall meeting to engage & communicate with our citizens.I will be always available via phone call & email if someone needs me anytime.

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

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transportation safety & active transportation will also be my key area of focus.i would also like & improve the transportation network in the city.