

Respondent

< 26 Anonymous >

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Roger Steven McClary

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

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I support the arts in Medicine Hat. I have volunteered to help the organizers and to provide complementary 20L jugs of my home made Sun tea to active music venues to prevent dehydration. At these events, I always make new acquaintances, and through these meetings I have learned a great deal of information regarding a diverse number of topics important to Medicine Hat from a diverse group of interesting citizens. I actively support our local businesses. Of the 25 signatures required for our Candidate nomination documents, eight nominations were earned from local small business owners and managers, while four nominations were kindly provided by local small business employees. I think that this says a great deal about how I have made a positive impression and earned the trust of local business to make decisions that will benefit them over the next four years. I own two small businesses in Medicine Hat, so I have a very good idea of what our businesses need from a Councillor. From 2008 to 2014 I volunteered to help DRDC solve some problems during the Afghanistan conflict. This benefitted not just Medicine Hat, but Canada and our Armed Forces.

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 am currently focused on creating a skilled and highly educated work force, developing green energy jobs, a geothermal green hydrogen plant, and I am drafting a report, for your review, that will provide a budgeted plan for the revitalization of our City. This will help to provide investor confidence in Medicine Hat. With planning, we can ensure economic, educational, and collaborative interjurisdictional government strategies for Medicine Hat's future fiscal security. 1. In coupling new strategies for green energy with our proven Utilities and NGPR companies with post secondary educational institutions, we may have the opportunity to share research costs, increase student population and tourism, attract new scientists, and create many short and long term jobs. 2. In short, this influx of interest and monies will benefit current businesses, and provide opportunities for investment, employment and new business creation. 3. As my plan comes into operation, businesses and households will see lower electricity bills. Being able to offer this advantage to electricity intensive industries will make Medicine Hat the perfect choice to many of these businesses. I am here to address the restoration of the the Medicine Hat Advantage.

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 the past, Medicine Hat could provide inexpensive utilities to businesses. This is changing. For example, a convenience store needs a dozen coolers and freezers, which consume a great quantity of electricity. With low electricity prices, the tax gap was offset by lower costs of operation, Slightly higher property taxation was fair, as the municipality cannot collect business income tax. As the world changes, we should find solutions to restore this past benefit to our businesses. Changing taxes or cutting services always has unintended victims. With my plan, within a few years, this problem will no longer be an issue.

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

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I would like to encourage entrepreneurship with microloans and education to citizens with viable business plans. Statistically these loans are recovered nearly 100% of the time. The education, in the present economic climate, is focused on, but not limited to e-commerce and business planning, Encouraging first time entrepreneurs with low interest loans and education helps to increase their income, These people now have more spending power which benefits our city. For example, these citizens will create demand for residential and commercial real estate, and local goods and services; this will create a larger tax base and employment which benefits all residents.

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

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I believe in science. Albertans who are unwilling to get a vaccine may have to sacrifice some privileges until they can find time to do their due diligence. I dislike wearing a mask, and I dislike limited freedoms. I do not have problems with Playground Zone speed limits. When people behave in ways that may harm others, governments must intervene address the issue.

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 will work to increase the tax base, not the rate, so that we can provide excellent services to as residents.

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 important to have educational institutions and their experts available in the community. There have been a number of times that I, as a local business owner, have contacted the college to try to consult with their experts. It seemed like they did not have a way for business learners to access analysis from academic experts to help grow business. For fair compensation to the academics and to the college, this could be beneficial to many residents. I think that we should have a college business liaison at the college.

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

I would take my own advice, as shared in earlier questions.

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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Essentials, a self help centre in Calgary, has had great results in teaching and helping their clients to achieve success. I have reached out to their advisors to learn more about implementing a similar mental health service in our city.

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.medicinehatchchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/> (<https://www.medicinehatchchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/>)

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This topic is close to my heart. I know that all residents of Medicine Hat can learn and prosper together. I believe that a regular Diversity event would offer the opportunity to get to know our neighbours. This kind of free exchange of ideas will break down walls and shatter ceilings. I live my life as a diversity event, and I have personally benefitted from this choice. It has helped me make better

personal and business decisions. With our generous local volunteers, an appropriate venue, and resident participation, we will all benefit from an inclusive society.

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

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As stated earlier, Green Energy is the answer.

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

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I would like to engage with the electorate and stakeholders through Town Hall Meetings with a number of my other councillors at regularly scheduled events. This would enlighten our residents on city governance, and allow concerned citizens and stakeholders to offer questions, opinions, and suggestions. This will make Council more transparent, and encourage trust in our ability to govern.

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 address city planning. Unlike large corporations, our Great City of Medicine Hat can implement short and intermediate term planning for each Council. Long term planning must be addressed by every council. Now, with pandemic recovery, we need a new and aggressive plan to ensure the success of our community. We must move quickly to agree upon the problems, and use the resources at hand to make some important and fiscally responsible decisions. I pledge to do this with my utmost vigor and vigilance for Medicine Hat.