

Responses from the 2020 Regina Municipal Election Candidates

How do you Intend to “Keep Regina Growing”?

Mayoral Candidates

DARREN BRADLEY

The best characteristic of a vibrant city is one that can expand, yet won't forget about the inner core of where it started. If a city can do both, that's what I consider a vibrant city. In order to be successful in growing and expanding, we can't forget about the core. Develop the core, while keeping a vision for the future of expansion is key to growth.

JERRY FLEGEL

Provide services and amenities unmatched by most Western Canadian Cities. Job creation and permanent jobs and boost the local economy to thrive and grow as we have to start at home to build a stronger Regina. Make Regina both a destination and a place to be proud of and call home.

JIM ELLIOT

Growth is a combination of green neighbourhood renewal and greenfield development that moves us towards long term sustainability and resiliency.

MICHAEL FOUGERE – (*Incumbent*)

My election platform is all about keeping Regina growing and prospering. Strong support for the housing industry is an important foundation of that growth. Continuing to implement my 10-year economic vision, Advantage Regina, is a blueprint for our economic recovery post COVID-19. We will build on our strengths as an agri-food hub, an events magnet, a tech centre of excellence, in a place where entrepreneurs thrive. A key element of our growth and our success is a strong housing industry. The City must do everything it can to ensure our policies are clear, easily understood, and our response is fast.

SANDRA MASTERS

As outlined in my platform, Moving Regina Forward, we need to focus on economic growth to create jobs and support a high quality of life for our citizens. This can be done organically with small businesses expanding, new businesses being created locally by entrepreneurs, and by recruiting larger employers in major sectors. We need to make Regina a place where doing business is valued and supported. We need to work with all levels of government to champion Regina, and recruit businesses and provide support for local entrepreneurs. We need to continue to support entities like Economic Development Regina to work to attract investment into our city. We need to leverage our considerable assets: transportation (road, rail, air), diverse skilled labour, agriculture, technology, mining, entrepreneurship, oil & gas, research, post-secondary education, and hosting. We need to be seen as experts to the world in what we have expertise in. We need good data - for both economic and social performance. We need to provide businesses with good information about relevant factors - like education, employment and income levels, sector breakdowns of labour market, real estate stock and more - to tell our story to investors. We should be proud of our story, our hard work, our innovation, and our resilience. We need to ensure that Regina remains competitive in terms of taxation, cost of development/construction, a diverse skilled labour market, strong local businesses, and providing targeted incentives.

In doing the above, we cannot ignore a focus on simply making Regina a better and more vibrant community for residents and visitors and more attractive to people whom would consider moving here/staying here. The best marketing tool is a good product. We cannot accept Status Quo: we must adapt or contract. We need to fully understand what people appreciate and I do not believe it is simply filling more potholes (although a beautiful, properly functioning City is important!). We have the best urban park in Canada, world class art galleries, museums, and theatre, nationally recognized sporting facilities (pro & amateur), and local talent in all cultural and sporting fields. Let's build on this and create the best activated spaces we can to drive people to our local businesses, amenities, and cultural scene. We have that opportunity in the Central City and the downtown area with several large sites available for development and/or amenities. We can also ensure our new neighbourhoods offer things people appreciate in their day-to-day life.

TONY FIACCO

There needs to be in-depth research between City of Regina, Regina & Region Home Builders' Association, Regina Downtown, Economic Development Regina and the Regina Hotels Association about how to revitalize downtown and the inner city with infill development.

Councillor Candidates - Ward 1

BARBRA YOUNG - (Incumbent)

Through economic growth, innovation, and job creation. Fostering a welcoming city, through tourism, good housing, choices, transportation choices, arts, culture, and recreation, and by being a safe city.

CHERYL STADNICHUK

By supporting smart growth strategies: development that is sustainable and healthy, a more vibrant city centre, and expanding our green space, our bike paths and creating walkable neighborhoods.

Councillor Candidates - Ward 2

BOB HAWKINS (Incumbent)

We keep Regina growing by making it a destination place for our young people to build their futures and for new immigrants to build new lives. This means providing the municipal infrastructure and services to make Regina the place to live. It means promoting recreation and cultural activities. It means not overtaxing and overregulating in a way that hampers initiative. It means encouraging strong neighbourhoods. It means providing necessary funding for our police and protective services so that our city is safe. It means promoting reconciliation and diversity values. It means taking care of our environment so that the next generation can have the opportunities that we have had. It also means having strong educational opportunities. Sask Polytechnic and the University of Regina, of which I am a past president, have an important role to play in this.

STEW FETTES

Promote the development of affordable housing.

Councillor Candidate - Ward 3

ANDREW STEVENS *(Incumbent)*

By investing in recreation amenities that residents are asking for, encouraging infill development and intensification, ensuring that robust planning policies are actually adhered to, and by using Economic Development Regina as an advisory body to help Council establish sound social and economic policies. We need policies and development that stand out and invite people to move here from other parts of Saskatchewan. But, in addition to encouraging people to work and live in our city, we also need to focus on those who are here but face challenges. That means investing in affordable housing and by ensuring that Indigenous peoples and cultures are represented on our street names, parks, public art, in the programs we deliver, and in the business community. I also want to continue pushing the Renewable Regina initiative as a major part of our economic growth strategy.

Councillor Candidate - Ward 5

RODNEY FRANCIS

I believe in keeping as much business as possible in the local community to support jobs, business growth and local wealth creation. By improving the local economy, we address numerous issues and the trickle-down effect provides more money for infrastructure maintenance, community services, less crime, better mental health, social programs and so much more.

Councillor Candidate - Ward 6

SHONTELL HILLCOFF

I would like to build our existing communities up! Engage existing residents in Neighborhoods in City Planning decisions for their community. Community Associations are vital to each resident in them. This makes a community inviting and friendly and gives a strong sense of belonging with that offers growth. Who doesn't want to live where they feel they belong? We need to collaborate with Community Associations to hear the needs of the community. Regina is made up of a diverse culture. Equality and inclusion are necessary for growth in our vibrant City. We need to promote economic growth by shopping locally and showing our support to our businesses which will entice people to grow and build with Regina.

Councillor Candidates - Ward 7

SHARRON BRYCE *(Incumbent)*

Keep the city affordable by keeping taxes low, ensure there are infrastructure and facilities to support the citizens of Regina including residential roads, have activities and space for youth and families such as the regent park golf course redevelopment.

TERINA SHAW

I will have a strong focus on building our economy by making Regina more attractive to businesses and business development. Finding solutions to challenges businesses face. Including investing in infrastructure, outbound economic development teams with incentives, jobs & programing for youth to ensure retention, and access to recreation.

Councillor Candidates - Ward 8

ALEX TKACH

I would like to see the City of Regina promote and attract more opportunities in the tech and agri-tech industries to help drive future growth. We have a rich history of entrepreneurship in these sectors and with the current advancements in farming and technology there is great potential here. There is a lot of great ideas in Regina, we need to tap into that innovation and find strategies to support start-up growth. This is a world I know and can help provide guidance in. We need to develop strategies and partnerships to put amenities in place that will help drive growth in our new community developments and to start working on plans for our infill housing opportunities.

REID HILL

To keep Regina growing, efficiencies need to be found in our operations to keep our property taxes low to attract more people and businesses to our city. Along with that, we need to see more family fun attractions built over time - from indoor skate parks, to pools. The more things there are for families to do, the more Regina will grow.

SHANON ZACHIDNIAK

Right now, it is fundamental that we have a plan for recovery from the pandemic. We need to make sure that we fully understand how our city and its residents and economy have been affected by COVID-19. This will also involve ensuring we have a plan to respond to the needs of Regina residents and businesses. I am committed to building a city that is sustainable, affordable, safe, inclusive and vibrant. If we can accomplish those things, then our city will flourish.

WESLEY STRYLETSKI

I'd like to see Regina grow with legacy projects that will be around for a long time. We need multi-use facilities and to attract new people to grow and thrive here.

Councillor Candidates - Ward 9

JASON MANCINELLI (*Incumbent*)

With cooperation, clear direction, and communication. Since I've gained my seat on Council many instances of hype and investment don't add up. Paying attention to a wider horizon enables activity on future planning becoming a reality. It will spur and sustain both our community and growth in long-term, meaningful ways. Not a flash in the pan where all that is achieved is a 5-year span and influx of migratory tradesman and companies.

KATHERINE GAGNE

Keeping taxes competitive, keep housing affordable and supporting small businesses to create jobs.

ROB HUMPHRIES

The COVID-19 pandemic will necessitate a renewed focus on public health which in turn will have a direct impact on the future growth of Regina.

1. Regina will require more sophisticated urban design. Instead of spacing our way out of problems, we have to design our way out, perhaps by creating more separation in public spaces like restaurants and parks. We must plan for the demise of most brick-and-mortar retailers and the rise of online, delivery-oriented retailers. As stated in your literature we must strike a balance between 'growing out' and 'growing up. Malls already are stagnating, and the typical strip shopping center will soon empty out. The trend of people working from home may have a dramatic impact on the use of office towers. City planners and developers alike will have to grasp this as a new opportunity to grow Regina.
2. Building a flexible and accessible public transit system.
3. Creating green spaces for all residents with a priority for providing unique spaces different ethnic and immigrant groups.
4. Providing public housing programs, along with a full spectrum of accommodation options.
5. Building accessible, inclusive, equitable and sustainable neighborhoods.
6. Providing employment opportunities is crucial. Besides the existing traditional industries, I see great opportunity for job creation in the City of Regina 100% renewable targets. I believe we have the opportunity to become a leader in sustainable development.

Councillor Candidates - Ward 10

ADAM ANDERSON

I think the affordability of homeownership in Regina is one of our city's advantages when comparing Regina to many other places in Canada. Having a wide variety of home options, that fit many different lifestyles, will continue to attract people to our city. Diversity in both our residents and businesses will continue to encourage creativity and entrepreneurialism; fostering a favorable environment for business and ergo our city to grow and flourish.

CARMEN HIEBERT

We need to be an attractive place for families to want to take root and for entrepreneurs to want to take a chance with their money and their dreams. Making sure that neither group feels burdened by high taxes, over-legislation and red tape for businesses, high cost of living etc. is critical.

LANDON MOHL

By putting Regina residents first. Too much of our local work is given away to out of city, out of province or even out of country workers and companies. I want to change that with a Community Benefits Agreement so taxpayer funded projects would give preference to qualified Regina residents and Regina contractors. I believe this will provide more good jobs for Regina residents which in turn will increase demand for housing and foster growth.

In addition, preventing out of control tax increases will keep Regina a desirable place to live a grow a family.

LAURA LUBY

To Keep Regina Growing will require various initiatives:

1. Hold the line on Property Taxes - Regina needs to stay competitive with other Cities to ensure we attract business development and residential growth.
2. Develop a strong Marketing Plan to 'sell' Regina - we need to develop a strong aggressive plan to encourage business growth. Business growth can come from 'new' business or encouraging existing business to move to the Regina community.
3. Policies are critical to ensuring growth, are the right policies in effect to compliment growth?

MARK SHMELINSKI

Working with the other members of city council, I believe we can remove red tape that acts as a barrier to innovation and the speed that business works at. I would also like to help foster a stronger relationship with both the Provincial and Federal levels of Government to allow for more opportunities for Regina's growth.

PATRICK DENIS

I intend to keep Regina growing by bringing in new business as well as focusing more on our current businesses to see what areas we can help in for them to expand. I am also working on a plan to help make our city more attractive to out of province travelers as well as those looking to relocate. We have endless space to expand to so why not utilize it.

SHEA PAISLEY

I feel that there are four key areas to achieving this: Progress, Action, Accountability, and Growth. These will be the four key principles that I commitment to bring with me if elected to City Council. City growth is important and has an impact on all residents in this city. We must grow in order to remain competitive, improve city services, retain and attract highly skilled/trained individuals, improve or build new venues, tourism, etc... "Keep Regina Growing" needs to be in the top 5 priorities of Regina City Council this year, next year and into the foreseeable future.