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Q1

Candidate Name

Nick Sackville

Q2

Email Address (for follow-up only)

nick@nicksackville.com

Q3

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Ward/Constituency

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Q4

What do you envision the City's role to be in economic development?

An active one. The city has a great amount of influence on the success of businesses in Saskatoon. The largest area of influence is the regulatory environment in which businesses operate. We must ensure it is easy to set up and run a business, and that businesses have access to customers. We will accomplish this by ensuring Saskatoon continues to be an attractive place to live and work, attracting new residents to our city.

Q5

How can the City help businesses survive through the COVID-19 pandemic?

One initiative that I would champion is to ensure that we are hiring local contractors and consultants as much as possible when we are doing work in our city. This will ensure we are supporting job creation in our city and the businesses that are investing here as well. I am also in support of capital projects during the pandemic that will create jobs through construction and the spinoff economic activity that comes with those projects.

Q6

Crime and safety are key election issues. What is your plan to address these concerns, including your position on defunding the police?

I want to ensure that we provide adequate resources for our police and fire, but that we don't ignore the root causes of crime in our city. Mental health, addictions, and homelessness are key areas I would support as a city councillor. Ensuring we provide support for the organizations that are already doing great work to combat mental health and addictions, while also ensuring a good supply of affordable housing are key to addressing crime in our city.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

I would like to see the library, downtown arena, and BRT system projects not be disrupted by the new council. Improving our downtown is key to creating economic opportunities there. The transit system is in need of improvement and many in Ward 3 do not have access to a personal vehicle. There are also many businesses who struggle to find staff if they are located in remote areas of the city that are not served by transit. An improved transit system will improve access to employment for residents, as well as employees for businesses in Saskatoon.

Q8

Do you share the concerns many residents and businesses have regarding increased taxes and user fees?

Yes,

Please elaborate::

Eroding affordability is a key issue, particularly as a result of the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. My goal is to create a more competitive businesses environment to attract new businesses and residents, while focusing on removing barriers to develop our underused and undeveloped land in Saskatoon. This will create additional tax revenues while not having to develop new infrastructure to serve those new residents and businesses. I do not support user fees. Water bills have become extremely unaffordable and I do not believe the current council is having an honest conversation with residents about tax increases, choosing to hide them as user fees instead. User fees disproportionately impact lower income residents.

Q9

What steps would you recommend the City take to curb or mitigate rising operational costs?

We must work to find efficiencies at city hall in combination with other efforts to increase the amount of property tax revenue that the city generates. A more long term approach to infrastructure funding and maintenance would be key to reducing our long term operational costs.

Q10

If necessary, would you support any initiatives City Administration may take to freeze or even reduce staffing levels?

Yes,

Please elaborate::

Yes but only if we can find efficiencies. I do not support reducing staff levels simply to hire out to private companies. This would only be an option I support if it results in savings to the city overall. The city's salaries should not be looked at in isolation, as reducing staffing levels may increase costs elsewhere or result in higher costs in the future.

Q11

How do you believe that the City should spend COVID-19 relief money provided by the provincial or federal government? Do you believe that relief money should be spent in the area for which it is specified (e.g. infrastructure, etc.)?

Yes. Infrastructure spending on behalf of government is a key strategy to mitigating the worst impacts of an economic downturn on the economy. We have an infrastructure deficit in Saskatoon so I definitely support the creation of construction jobs through stimulus spending on infrastructure projects. We can also improve our transit infrastructure which will be needed if we hope to create a more dense city that can make better use of our existing infrastructure.

Q12

Do you believe the decision regarding the Main Library funding/debt should be revisited?

No,

Please elaborate::

I am in support of capital expenditures to stimulate our economy, create jobs, and beautify our downtown. Now is the best time to be investing in a new library. The city can take advantage of historic low interest rates and potentially more infrastructure funding that has yet to be announced. The economic case for the library is sound as it will create a net positive impact on our local economy.

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Safe and secure neighbourhoods is my #1 priority. We need to ensure adequate funding for police and fire services in our city but we also need to begin addressing the root causes of crime in a more meaningful way in Saskatoon. Many in our city struggle with mental health, addictions, and homelessness, and I want everyone to be able to participate in our economy and reach their full potential.
