

What You Should Know About the Candidates Before Voting!

Rocky View's election is Monday, October 18th. If you want a council that values your interests and represents you effectively, you need to evaluate your choices carefully.

During the campaign, candidates say things they think you want to hear. Some of them mean what they say, others don't. To decide which candidate is worthy of your support, you need to ask questions.

For incumbents – what is their record on issues that matter to you?

Our articles over the last few weeks have covered issues important to residents. These are issues that differentiate candidates in terms of their willingness to represent the people who live in Rocky View.

As our articles noted, the five members of the council majority running for re-election (Kim McKylor, Al Schule, Jerry Gautreau, Greg Boehlke, and Dan Henn) regularly make decisions that ignore input from residents. If you want a new council that effectively represents you, none of them should be considered.

In contrast, the three councillors (Kevin Hanson, Crystal Kissel, and Samantha Wright) question decisions made by that majority. They have stood up for residents throughout their terms. If you want a resident-focused council, they should be high on your list.

For first-time candidates – what have they done to establish a record on issues that matter to you?

Have they made submissions at public hearings affecting their communities or on issues that are important to you? If the answer is no, what confidence can you have that, now when they want your vote, they actually support your concerns?

Does their campaign material have realistic content or is it largely feel-good statements that lack substance? If they can't articulate what they stand for in concrete terms, how will you know if they will represent your interests?

What kind of campaign is each candidate running?

Do some candidates seem to be running flashy campaigns? Do they have signs everywhere? Have they run ads in multiple papers for weeks on end? Do they have others doing their campaign work? If they do, you need to ask where the money is coming from?

Experience indicates that candidates with lots of money for signs and ads typically have deep-pocketed backers and hidden agendas. Grassroots, resident-focused candidates run lean campaigns where every penny counts. The way a candidate runs his/her campaign is highly indicative of how they will spend your tax dollars. Ask them where their money comes from, if they take funds from developers, and are they disclosing their campaign donors before the election.

Do they answer their phones, reply to your emails, or talk to you on Zoom? Do they speak for themselves, or do they show up with someone else who answers for them?

Are their commitments substantive or superficial?

Are they promising to “listen” or to take specific action? Listening is easy and doesn’t commit to anything concrete. They can “listen” and then make a decision completely contrary to your concerns.

Does the candidate understand the issues facing Rocky View and its residents? Can they clearly explain how they would like to see these issues addressed? Do they explain them on their websites?

Answer these questions – then be sure to vote

Rocky View’s election is October 18th. There are good candidates running in each division. Do your homework. Don’t be afraid to call your candidates and ask them questions. Just be sure to listen carefully to their answers.

Prepared by:
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