

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Road Maintenance? What change(s) would you suggest?

I would suggest that the City builds roads with a better base, so they don't need as many repairs in the future. For example, near the south end of Ashworth Holmes park, the old tram tracks can still be seen. They weren't removed before putting the road on top. I'm not an engineer, but I don't think putting a thin layer of pavement over the old tracks was the best way to construct the road. Maybe you can remove the pavement and start running trams again! It would improve our transit immensely.

We have a large gap in our infrastructure accessibility. There are too many areas without sidewalks, including our industrial areas. We can't expect people to use transit if we do not give them sidewalks to get from their bus to work! I support increasing this portion of the budget so we may continue addressing our road infrastructure needs and begin addressing our need to retrofit and infill sidewalks/pathways.

Stop sprawling out into the country and start DENSIFYING to properly use the infrastructure we have now.

Better pothole maintenance and better street cleaning are needed. Sanding the roads in the winter should not mean we have to breathe dust and grit for five out of the other six months of the year.

more money for fixing the deteriorating roads, especially for residential roads in older neighbourhoods

Once again the city talks about how growth is straining the roads. If growth is NOT paying for itself, then we have a problem on how we are funding these roads by going back to existing ratepayers.

Great progress so far. I'd keep funding similar.

Leave as is but better protection of existing roadways that need attention. More outsourcing to the private sector would solve this problem of not getting to all the work that needs to be done this past summer.

Build it right the first time! Already the intersection of Betts and 22nd St. W. had to be changed because you never took into consideration the amount of traffic that would be coming into and leaving Blairmore, and having to retroactively add left turn lanes when that could've been done from the start. You assumed 75,000 people would be living in the area, why didn't you build roads for that amount?

new roads..you cannot keep adding new residential areas without new roads. Set some funding aside for crews to work at night to repair the existing roads we have to eliminate traffic congestion throughout the city

Overpasses at busy intersections, Boychuk and McCormand, no potholes.

FIX THE HOLES!!!

I support the increase in the road maintenance budget that has already occurred.

Use more expensive structure for long term construction life. Please also make clear to people that subgrade, base and subbase are just as important as the asphalt.

Roads still not in good shape. So not sure how putting more money towards will make any difference.

Make sure the jobs are done well and efficiently. Spend more money to ensure roads built properly instead of continual patching and repairs that are bound to fail in a short period of time or produce a rough ride. I'm primarily a driver but I want to see the city make more roads bicycle-friendly.

I would suggest a serious look at efficiencies to be gained by reviewing ALL practices including staffing levels, duplication of repairs, management levels and practices, vehicle and equipment costs.

We somehow need to find a solution to the many potholes on the Saskatoon roads. I don't know if there is a solution but it wouldn't hurt to consult with other cities that have a similar climate to ours and see how they deal with the problem.

prioritize major road repair based on use, make sure preventative maintenance is a priority.

Accessibility. Too many sidewalks are difficult for those with reduced mobility. This leaves them dependent on cars.

pot holes and surface reconstruction as roads deteriorate.

Pot holes.

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Roads are still in bad shape overall in this city. However, we have to do things properly. The 40mm mill and fill on Wanuskewin Drive WILL fail within a year or two. This is entirely due to cheaping out by the city.

We need to stop building more bridges, or reduce the amount of money spent on transit. The citizens of Saskatoon want to drive their cars. We need to reduce the amount of transit. The city with its electronic fares system knows which times and areas of the city do not use very much transit. These areas should have transit removed. The City knows what hours of the day transit is heavily used. Service should be reduced during hours that service is not used. Service should be provided for low income regions of Saskatoon (likely correlate with heavily used transit stopping points). In the outer richer areas of Saskatoon, Transit service should be limited to major shopping centers. Citizens wanting to use the bus should travel to the nearest largest shopping area. Extra money should be given to the Access area of transit. This is an area of transit that is in higher demand.

Better planning as to getting roads done in one trip.

Proper patching for pot holes. The pea gravel tar mix the city(or whoever the contractor is) dumps into them is terrible.

More time and effort needs to go into building roads that do not crumble and fail 6 months after being paved. Better pot hole repairs.

Actually fix the potholes and other things that are submitted! The dip at 33rd and ave P was reported by at least 3 people 3 different times and was never repaired.

Bridges, potholes

2013 "dedicated tax amount " set for three years, 2014 extra year added to keep taxes down for 2015. Is this included in the proposed tax increase or is it on top of proposed increase for 2016?

make sure things are fixed the right way.

Fix the damn roads

better communications between departments highly travelled roadways should receive priority

Our city panders to drivers too much. If we want to generate successful alternative and mass transit we will need to scale back the amount of money used to enable our dependancy on single-occupant vehicles. As Jan Gehl said when he visited our city, we need to make it as attractive as possible to take alternative modes of transportation and detract from the appeal of single-occupant transportation. We've been feeding our children sugar and they will not be happy when we put them on a regimented diet, but as the adults in this situation, it is important to not just do what keeps them from throwing a tantrum, but which is better for their development.

Continue to aggressively fill pot holes. I would like to see all roads in Saskatoon Paved.

Reducing overtime costs! These costs should be minimized.

Hold the line. The recent increases to maintain our roads has been beneficial. Now we need to stop building so many.

Pot holes. Older areas like Nutana require more maintenance than they are currently getting.

Potholes! Any road with 2 or more lanes in one direction - work 24hrs. North industrial is an embarrassment

more efficient repair process - if crews are fixing one part of a street, they should fix all the potholes a few feet away!

Repaving

fix potholes. Use a product that dosen't need to be repaired every couple of years. I noticed some streets in WillowGrove were resurfaced this summer, a what 6 year old neighbour hood? Our are on the other hand had not seen any upgrades in 35 years.

Pothole repair, roadway settling (evening out some areas), and bridge maintenance for effective traffic flow

Prioritize bridge maintenance, but assess the need for snow removal to prevent pot holes on a yearly basis as some years it may not be as necessary as others.

Please stop replacing roads that don't need replacement and replace the roads that do need work. We need common sense! I am fine to pay but, fix all the roads -on both sides of the river. I am tired of seeing my community roads being fixed with dirt/gravel. This is ridiculous! It doesn't work and it's a waste of our money.

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NOT new bridges that cost millions and millions and are PPPs
retain improved streetsweeping and snow removal program, fix potholes especially in pre-war neighbourhoods.
Don't do patch up (in the winter) (XX) did terrible the first time, then another contractor had to come back (more \$) & redo the whole street. McKercher for ei.
potholes
paving
Roads in Saskatoon are still in very bad shapes, we have promises building better roads but those are not actually visible on major roads.
I wouldn't adjust the Road Maintenance by paying more for this one item. Look at the budget as a whole and allocate it accordingly. And ask yourself why in a booming economy for the past 8 years, our city taxes are going up faster than wages. I'd look at why the new neighborhoods (our growth) isn't keeping the city up but is costing more. Who is benefiting from this "boom" and are they paying their fair share of the taxes too? A sustainable plan that doesn't keep costing more than inflation should be part of the growth plan.
I would like to see an easing of funding (I assume the special levy is included in the Road Maint. value) or maintaining the status quo. I feel the focus should start to move away from capital road projects to preventative maintenance. The city has aggressively focused on capital road rehabilitation projects (i.e., pavement overlays, mill and fill, etc) over the last few years through the special levy. This was necessary because inadequate funding had been provided for proper preventative maintenance (i.e., chip seals, crack sealing, pot hole patching, microsurfacing). The city needs to move to a proper infrastructure asset management model. Repaving streets is politically popular, but it would also be politically popular to educate the public about the benefits of proper infrastructure asset management, and then implement the principles. The city would be able to demonstrate to the electorate that funds are being spent in the most appropriate manner.
A concerted effort should be made to patch roadways when appropriate, but strip and repave roadways that cannot be patched. Contractors should be held responsible for poor roadwork (e.g. 8th Street between Broadway Avenue & Lorne Avenue).
increase snow and ice management - improved maintenance in the colder/winter months should have an impact on the quality of the road during the summer months - work with the U of S to invest in the research and development of new solution(s)/products to maintain the integrity of the roads
I thought we were already paying a road maintenance levy. What happened to it?
We have to fix what has been neglected, but look to reduce in the future.
Routine repair and maintenance of main arterials and then repair and maintenance to those streets, regardless of location, that have been identified as being in the 'worst' condition through a road condition rating system.
Pot hole problems corrected more efficiently and effectively.
"This could result in increased road and bridge maintenance, preservation and pothole patching." Yes, this is exactly what I want. :)
Quicker repairs to roadways after the winter season. It seems there are many pot-holes in the city for a quite a while after the snow melts. Maybe its a matter of earlier start times or more strategic scheduling.
The City needs to do a better job of making sure roads are in place as new developments are built. There is going to be so much construction like interchanges being built at the same time as more houses. The developer should upfront this cost and the City should pay them back.
Reducing potholes. Allowing contractors opportunity to provide better insight into how to properly build roads. Currently live in an area with many new roads (5-6) years old. Many already have potholes developing which should not happen.
I'd like to see the worst streets be repaved or repaired (whichever is most practical).

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I would like less work done simply based on complaints and more done to ensure our overall roadway system is maintained.

Proactive and mitigate potholes.

None

Have out of towers and truckers pay to use roads

I agree with clearing the backlog of road maintenance issues, however I am STRONGLY against civic money being wasted on sound walls. When you purchase a home, you need to be fully aware of the roadways in the area. If you are near a freeway, this is likely reflected in your property value/how much you paid for your home. It is not then fair to go back and complain about traffic noise. Your neighbours a few blocks further down shelled out a bit more for a quieter home; you should have done the same (if you are in a brand new neighbourhood where major arteries are yet to be built, that is a hazard of being in a new development).

I want to see actually quality work done. Patch work is done badly and done lazy, road way repaving is slow.

Potholes

Some streets are beyond terrible, they need to be replaced. Example 111th St by central has been rough for years.

Fast snow removal. Summer patch holes in all roads.

Improve supervision, it's a common joke in the area to observe city workers at work. They wouldn't last a week in private enterprise.

Can't you find a way to fix a pothole to last the season and maybe more?

Finish the work faster. Always see a road being fixed and you only see 2-3 people working, sometimes none at all, and the road is close. How can your contractors justify that?

The increased funding, while helping somewhat, has not been effective as many had hoped.

We absolutely do NOT need a replacement traffic bridge. We have been without it for 5 years and have since opened the South Bridge which has greatly reduced traffic on the Sid Buckwald bridge and going into/through downtown. A new traffic bridge is a waste of money. If it goes ahead, my vote in the next election will not be for my current councillor or the current mayor.

Fix the holes, and scrape the sidewalk and streets in winter.

Extremely important. Cancel all bridge building and fix the roads we have. The city should be ashamed of itself. There should be fines for councilors who do not make this a priority.

More money for snow removal in the winter and sand removal in the spring.

Getting it right the first time.....more work at night less congestion

We live in Eastview and our streets are terrible. I would like our street to be re-paved as well as paving the alley. We are going to be building a garage that faces the alley and when the grader comes, all they do is push the dirt to the side. There is no gravel left in the alley and the ruts are horrible with the garbage and recycle trucks that have to come down there. Paving the alley would be more economical in the long run and there are many neighbors that also have alley facing garages.

Pot hole repair, ease of access to major arteries, mass transit or high density lanes.

continuing to do the bulk of work in the evenings and overnight to reduce impact on commute. Starting to do work to repair side streets, some of which are in terrible shape.

Living in a new area, it is very strange the the roads are all built, and then proceeded to be all cut-up for utilities, etc. Even if they are repaired, they are still not up to the standard they once were. To me it would make more sense to install everything that is required prior to finishing the road.

There should be more upkeep, to avoid costly rebuilding..

With so many vehicles parking on street, Spring Pre-sweep seems to be ineffective in many neighbourhoods. I would like to see one sweep with no parking enforced on these days so the job can be done right once.

I'm quite happy that we have started to reinvest in the quality of our roads. As a cyclists, good pavement increases my comfort and safety while on the road.

Road and side walk snow clearing and disability accesibility.

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We loved the report a pot hole website. We thought it worked well.

Better quality pavement, especially on the bus routes. They really chew up the roads. If you expect the bicyclists to ride on the side of the road, then the edges should be just as smooth as the road is. Instead of making the bikes ride on the road, make the walkway wider and let them ride on the sidewalk. Especially on streets, like 8th street and Central, where traffic is heavy and almost no one is on the sidewalk.

Decrease incentives for driving automobiles, increase incentives for public transit.

street sweeping, timely pot hole repair and well thought out road closures and monitoring of timelines with fine enforcement on delays. Encourage work to be completed in good weather which can include weekend and evening work.

Need for sound attenuation - even in Silverspring the noise from Circle drive north is loud and with the proposed north commuter bridge the traffic on Central north will get worse and more noisy thus diminishing property values and quality of life!!!

Potholes and marking lines on the streets to divide lanes. Also the half lane on idylwyld turning into the mall is very dangerous as people dodge to avoid those turning in the half lane and cause accidents with others travelling on idylwyld

Better starting material, our asphalt is breaking down every spring and results in significant dollars being spent to fix them. Concrete is more money initially, but holds up way better, which will lead to lower costs repairing the roads. Other cities use concrete, why not explore the option?

Repair lanes for improved cycling

Road maintenance was much better this year, keep it up. Priority is having drivable roads that don't wreck my truck.

Still a lot of work to do. Let's try and keep some space on the road for the increased traffic and population as opposed to giving the roads to buses and bikes. One day it'll make sense but not yet.

The city has wasted money in the past adding expensive decorative lights to a bridge that it new was on the cusp of being condemned. Also I'm infuriated that the city has decided to build an expensive North Commuter bridge that benefits a very few, mostly people who live outside the city and therefore pay no property tax. The North Commuter bridge will not solve the commuter problems that we have in downtown.

What road maintenance, still have the same holes on our street the last 2 yrs ???

Potholes, improvements to on and off ramps on Circle Drive, over pass at Clancy Drive, North Bridge, not at 33rd Street

Keep up the good work.

Pothole repairs and some resurfacing. The worst streets I've been on is Victoria between 11th street and 8th and maybe Preston between 14th and Main. I haven't seen anything else that is as bad as some citizens claim.

We continue to increase the amount we spend on roads. I would like to see more efficiency with our spending on roads. Are we designing better or just throwing more pavement on there. Until I see that, i don't want to add more.

I want to see the aggressive stance taken on rehabilitating our roads throughout the city. There continue to be large stretches of roads whether it be minor roads in the industrial or in residential that are either crumbling and rough or are on a continuous fail and patch cycle that never ends.

Stop building outwards! Concentrate on what we have and work on infill development instead of trying to bog it down in more regulations. As the old saying goes, we should be asking for forgiveness in such areas, not for permission. Let the market decide and adjust regulations or zoning as needed. Enough of death by committee for everything.

There should be enough money in this budget now after two years of high increases

Better public transit, bike lanes and no new bridges

I think the City is doing a fine job. People complain so much about the roads - the routes I travel on seem well looked after. There is too much focus on roads...the city is too car-focused. More alternate means of travel are needed. I love to bicycle (not in winter). This year I found I sometimes had difficulty finding a place to lock my bike - in the downtown, Broadway, and 20th St areas.

increasedr maintenance on 21st w bike route, and circle drive.

No pothole patching. It does not work. The airport drive pot hole has been only patched for the past 3-4 years. It is still there. Fix the roads properly. OR better yet, let's start investing in the road solar panels and in the future there would be no need for expensive amounts of spending to do a job incorrectly or barely complete because it is cheaper now.

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Ensuring roads are planned and executed correctly. Fixing, and redoing after a new road or area is built is a waste of time and money
maintenance of the existing road network is required and investment into pavement that is designed for our climate, not just whatever happens to be cheapest.
Repair of pot holes. Briarwood road had resurfacing done during summer of 2015. That road was by itself in very good condition. On the contrary , 11th street has numerous pot holes and patches that require immediate attention. However, almost no maintenance was performed on the 11th street. I would like to see that decision to fix or not fix roads are made on a more informative basis. For example, Briarwood road is located in residential area and is exposed to alight traffic. The 11th street, is heavily used and did not receive proper attention. I would suggest that more research is done prior setting priorities for maintenance in the future.
potholes
Sidewalks
Use the money the provincial government transfers to road maintenance not general revenue. How many times do we need to pay for road repairs? The city is at fault for not spending the money of maintenance they were given years ago. No excuse for mismanagement.
Why not have more backlanes that aren't paved or at least aren't paved as if they are main roadways. It seems like we're paying piles of money for little used spaces.
WE NEED A TRAFFIC SOUND WALL ON CIRCLE AND 29TH STREET SECTION. We have semi's using their Jake's all the time. The police never bother to ticket these drivers and our Berm has sunk at least 5 ft over the last 15 years. PLEASE put up a wall.
where is the money for roads & maintenance going, there always has been a budget for this , but now it becoming talking points every budget . Start looking at cuts & not always tax increases. When inflation is & has been at 1-2 % & we keep get tax increases of 4 - 8 %. this can keep going, when incomes are keeping up. stop wasting money on pretend projects, park the trucks & equipment,when there is nothing to do instead of have the employees drive from coffee shop to coffee shop along back alleys ect , pretending they are working .
Hiring skilled contractors need to continue work in off-peak hours (ie. weekends and night where possible) to reduce the amount of time commuters are affected and focus on high traffic areas first (8th St., Idylwyld Ave., Ruth Ave. Taylor Ave., Warman Rd.).
potholes and paving
This increase would allow for more sidewalk cuts for wheelchairs and sidewalk reparation in my part of town.
Proper pot hole repair, Inspections of hired contractor`s work to make sure it is up to standards and if not! they should be held accountable to repair at their cost.
More work being done at night.
Potholes to be properly maintained.
the increase in the road maintenance budget was supposed to be a one-time increase two years ago that would be carried forward for 3 years. You should maintain that increase but not increase it beyond that one-time increase.
Road repairs for roads in bad condition, esp. road that have been experience increased traffic due to to city growth that are clearly not prepared for this traffic and are now falling apart.
Create a subway, c-train sky train so less people have to drive.
Less bandage jobs and more completed road patching. Throwing gravel in a hole after construction is not appropriate.
New areas should have wider roads so that cars can be parked on either side and 2 cars can still pass each other safely. Community access should be improved (Melville Street is a disgrace as an access road into Stonebridge). Potholes and uneven surfaces should be improved to increase safety.
Roads are a core service for the City and budget needs to be spent to keep our roads in good shape - that's what are taxes should be allocated to first. People use the roads every day - some may go to the Remai once a year (if that) - why not call the increase needed for the overall budget the "Remai" increase instead of a service level increase for roads that have been previously mismanaged. Roads have not been properly maintained over the last number of years and now we are seeing the effects. Need to fix high use roads like second avenue so that cars can actually drive the speed limit. Shouldn't be fixing potholes and digging up the whole street the next week - that is a waste of money. Do lower cost preventative maintenance.

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Stop patching problem areas!!! Dig up & repair our roadways!!!
Better pot hole management to prevent permanent damage to my car.
Increase in maintaining and repair of streets and roads. Faster repair and resurfacing on streets that have been dig up for water pipes or other utility access.
filling potholes with traditional method and sell off the "spray in" trucks(they don't last). Have road building and repair companies be accountable and guarantee their work for the price they quote. City employees accountable for their work and time(no overtime or holiday hours, emergencies only)
Keep up with the pothole patching
I think more needs to be done to maintain roads and bridges and sidewalks - there are still too many potholes that are not being properly filled (too many bandaid/short term fixes). I also think that there should be fines in place for ppl who sweep or blow their leaves into the street because this causes added burden onto the city to manage.
1. Adequately fix issues the first time. I'm tired of the same pot hole, the same sidewalk,being fixed year after year. I'd imagine it's extremely hard (and expensive) to continually fix the same issues over and over and over. You'll likely drown in a backlog of maintenance (eg. Our current system).
2. Dispose of the nozzle spraying asphalt trucks, they are useless. The asphalt goes on the cars and its a half-assed fix. Instead sell these machines, hire more small "quick fix patch crews", setup smaller truck crews with efficient equipment and processes, and catchup on small street pothole maintenance.
3. Apply suggestion 1, to suggestion 2.
Snow removal. Actually fixing pot holes and rough roads properly, not just topping them.
i would slash police and fire budgets to add to road maintenance
Increased number of bike lanes in/to downtown, University, Sask Polytechnic. Less cars on the roads means less maintenance for deterioration issues. Our city is not cycle or pedestrian friendly and needs to move that way. It will reduce our road maintenance costs.
Dont start maintenance in august, start earlier
Repave roads downtown to Lawson. Not idylwyld
Some major streets are over-maintained, while residential streets are almost undriveable due to large potholes that are only fixed once a year. This should change. Improve roadway longevity by reducing use by investing in public transit.
Ask Arch to help pay for the roads since he let them deteriorate. Use the tax dollars from the previous tax increases that were suppose to be going to the roads. Stop hiring paving companies from Alberta who have done the worst jobs ever. Eg Wilson crest BTW Broadway and Ruth.
Snow removal and potholes
Proper surfacing of streets. They are constantly being re-repaired. City crews often abandon small construction zones (off Ruth for example) for weeks on end where nothing happens/
Fix potholes, and fix potholes again
Are surfacing streets and fixing crumbling sidewalks.
Replacing sidewalks, building sidewalks where there are none. Repairing poor roads in older neighbourhoods. Street sweeping throughout summer months.
Fixing the deplorable condition of roads in the city. The number of potholes, the length of time to get potholes fixed, the apparent reliance solely on citizen reporting of potholes needs to change.
Potholes
Raise the standards of our roadway assembly details to increase the longevity of our pavement structure to prevent constant maintenance
Public transit
Repave 7th Ave, have a maintenance hotline and/or app so citizens can report problems to the city.
Quicker pothole repairs in the spring time.
Cutting out patches instead of just filling them in. Less UTO, and more Mill and Fill jobs.
We need to evaluate any infrastructure investment much more carefully than done presently. And then, if we choose to build it, we must service it and maintain it properly. Investment choice must trigger automatic operating expenses.
We need to make Victoria Bridge a pedestrian bridge

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Plow the frigging streets in the winter.
Hire people rather than contract out. Own equipment rather than contract.
A minimum of one million dollars should go to cycling infrastructure annually; a similar amount should go to pedestrians. Assuming that, I am happy with this expenditure level. Developers of new neighborhoods should carry a larger share of the costs to account for these changes
Paving of worn out streets
Maintain existing core neighbourhood infrastructure (Nutana). Don't let another bridge or roads rot away because of insufficient maintenance.
Would like to see service level B achieved faster.
Bike lanes, bus only lanes, and NOT new bridges or freeways.
I tire of paying for a wheel alignment every year, fix the freaking disaster roads!
Repair and maintenance of secondary roads - some of them are in poor condition.
Rehabilitating roads for bus rapid transit, bike ways and sidewalks. There are plenty of roads, lets invest in alternate forms of transportation than a single occupant vehicle. Invest in bike lanes and take in seriously. Keep up sidewalk maintenance and make sure people are not forced to drive because of poor walking, cycling, transit infrastructure. No 33rd street bridge! Just add an extra board width to the train bridge. Finish the campus connector, summer of 2015 is long gone.
repairing potholes in both residential areas and business areas in a timely manner
fix pot holes
Increased funding for more timely and widespread repairs.
We need to better maintain current roads, and stop excessive building of roads that we will not be able to maintain in the future. Also excessive bridge building will further contest the downtown making the parking situation more unbearable than it currently is. Public transit alternatives that are accommodating enough for a large percentage of people to use should be considered.
I think it is about time the new neighbourhoods pay for the increases in funding required to build new roads, bridges etc. I have been paying increasing amounts year after year and nothing has changed in my driving requirements
Fill potholes.
Seal more cracks in pavement before they cause major breakdown. Thus SAVING money.
Having the roads fixed and repaired properly the first time. Not having a road built and then tore up 3 times over the summer to redo the meridian just to tear it apart 2 weeks later to add a turning lane. Having the roads repaired properly and not having the same road tore up to redo every year. Also charging companies the late fees for not having jobs completed on time.
Bike lanes!! One that you don't have to dismount and walk for a block!
would like to see far less potholes on roads and in alleys, better planning around schools zones so that people can actually travel 50/60 on roads like Taylor & Cumberland. Many of the roadways on the east side are capable of being two lanes if parking was eliminated during peak hours and I believe that too would allow better traffic flow. With Preston & Wiggins being the major access to the University something should be done to allow better flow with fewer backups as that is a bottleneck.
nothing is happening anyway.....my suggestion is stop expanding this city & lets concentrate on the older areas instead - I'm tired of MY money going to all the new areas & fancy theatres, etc
Additional Street Sweeping during the year. A total of 3 sweeps on all residential streets.
Raise the speed limits on all roadways, except roads with houses on them. Keep those at 50 km/h.
Better care
We need to be way more pro-active with fixing things before they are irrevocably broken, while also prioritizing fixing the things that are currently irrevocably broken. The pothole situation and the state of our roads are completely ridiculous.
Maintain core bridges and key infrastructure. Improve shared bike routes. Decrease pothole repair in sprawling high cost suburbs. Increase sweeping on active transport routes (including bridge walkways). Sweeping should be done from centre out, and on key active transport routes first. Low-density terminal suburbs should be the very last swept.
I believe this is our number one priority. Road infrastructure is critical to our economy. Progress has been made over the last year in improving the condition of our roadways, but much work needs to be done.

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What are your top priorities for Snow & Ice Management? What change(s) would you suggest?

Invest in snow plows instead of using graders. Plow residential streets. Plow main streets at night, so the roads are clear for the morning commute.
With increased active infrastructure (sidewalks, pathways, dedicated lanes, etc.), we will need specialized snow removal practices. This is definitely money well spent if it encourages people to use the bus, bike or walk year-round!
WALKABLE areas cleared faster and better.
Roads should not be ploughed in the spring after light snow. The added cost is not needed and residents can drive carefully for a few days.
For a so-called winter city, Saskatoon does not do a very good job of providing safe winter conditions. Sidewalk clearing (especially in intersections) is terrible, and snow removal is mediocre to poor.
I believe it is managed well and no particular need for change is needed
Growing population should not affect costs because there are more ratepayers. Do not accept that growth should cost each person more.
No complaints here.
start getting the private sector to do this work, much cheaper and no legacy costs such as pensions, benefits etc.
School routes should be a #1 priority as well.
Better efforts, more sanding of intersections and roads.
Improve driving safety and decrease damage to our cars by more frequently clearing the streets. Even the residential streets need to be cleared when the snow is deep. Waiting for six inch ruts to develop is too long to wait for a street to be cleared. Other cities seem to make this a higher priority.
Clear more residential roads when it snows. Get rid of dirt after spring thaw earlier.
Again the crescent we live on did not have any clearing. So spending more money doesn't help.
My street (Whalley Cres) only had the snow removed after it was almost all melted in the spring. It was not only a waste of time, but caused considerable scraping damage to the road surface. I assume there's an algorithm or something determining when to clear streets, but someone should actually make a judgement call about whether it's worthwhile.
See above. What happened to the four snow collection points?
To me, the city's policy of trying to send a grader to every street in the city isn't a good policy. Why don't they just send a few inspectors around to all of the streets and just grade the ones that really need it.
Residential snow clearing
I think Saskatoon already does a great job of snow removal. Keep at it!
Major thoroughfares for heavy traffic
More rut clearing of streets. Stop making us see you for the first time in March when the melt is already underway.
timely removal of snow so that ice ruts don't form. These ruts on residential streets make it nearly impossible to own a small, fuel efficient car in many parts of the city.
I feel we are fine with current spending.
Do not wish to have windrows piled on streets. Only remove snow and ice when ruts require it.
I would like to see more windrow removal more often and more removal on secondary and tertiary roads (I know it's probably not feasible). Parking on residential streets gets nasty.
Forget about passing bylaws to fine citizens for not clearing sidewalks. This is so ridiculous council should not be wasting time on it.
Snow removal needs to be prompt and efficient. Budget needs to be set aside for heavy snowfalls, and come spring, there is funds left over, put it DIRECTLY into road repairs.
High traffic streets are the priority. Common sense should prevail. Residential streets do not need to be cleared as frequently. We had one year of bad snowfall, people complained and now you've gone overboard trying to make up for it. I'd rather see taxes remain the same and cut services here.
Become more like Winnipeg
I shovel sidewalk and parking space in front of my house and also have opened drainage to sewer in spring and then snow plow has come down street and plugged everything up again. I also see neighbours

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What are your top priorities for Snow & Ice Management? What change(s) would you suggest?

blowing their snow on to the street and then wonder why they have ruts when thawing/freezing starts.
keep roads safe
Clear the damn snow
clearing of residential streets should be done more regularly
I believe we are competently dealing with snow and ice.
Making walkability in the winter time a priority. Pathways and parks must be maintained better. Managing ice on roadways and sidewalks.
Eliminate overtime costs!
Hold the line - the increased budget in the past couple of years to allow for the occasional plowing of residential neighbourhoods is good. This budget should be flexible as the amount of snow will change year to year.
More snow removal in older areas like Nutana, where the streets are very narrow and subject to rutting which causes major issues for parked cars.
Pick up snow from center of streets before doing residential
start snow clearing sooner, especially downtown and 8th St. Leaving these for even a few hours after 8am on Sat creates icy ruts that last all winter, causing hundreds of \$\$ damage to vehicles, eg ripped CV boots. Also, when clearing streets, please clean down to the pavement! Otherwise, the roads become a sheet of ice, just as bad as the ruts.
Residential streets only need to be plowed if ruts become to deep (6") as reported by residents, or as reported by city police, garbage collectors, city fire fighters or MD Ambulance drivers.
Increasing efforts for roadway clearing on secondary streets would be a next step.
Prioritize sidewalk and bike lane clearing over roadway clearing.
Residential snow plowing is needed. I would be willing to pay more
Use beet juice mixture instead of potash SALT.For
ensure roads are not slippery
start removing snow as it falls
This is important issue with city like Saskatoon, we need more frequent snow cleaning etc, roads are too slippery in this city.
Not doing snow removal when it's not needed. Especially on stat holidays which I saw the past winter!
Snow removal is absolutely unsatisfactory. The percentage of the road network that receives snow removal abysmal. Getting around in the winter is not pleasant. We are not a city full of four wheel drive pickup trucks. I would like to see expanded snow removal on secondary streets and in residential neighbourhoods. I would also like to see more aggressive snow removal on walkways and bike paths.
To avoid deep ruts, more frequent snow clearing is required.
interesting that main roads are cleared to get us to and from work or for businesses but not out of our driveway - residential are never touch... but we are the ones who pay.
Like the priority system for removing snow/ice. No snow/ice removal from any residential alley ways. If it appears that the neighborhood has made an effort to drive so as not to make ruts on the street then do not perform any snow/ice removal.
In my opinion snow management is very poor in Saskatoon. The time it takes to see crews on the streets and clearing is far too long. Neighbourhoods rarely get the removal they require in a timely fashion, especially neighbourhoods like Evergreen (where it's always pretty gross to live because of all the construction) and we are lucky if get any snow removal, which makes me wonder what I'm paying for. That being said - if my taxes were slightly higher and my individual street was cleared in a timely fashion that's worth it. Winter in Saskatoon is already a very taxing time on the city and to alleviate one less stress on its citizens is something that should be top priority. For the love of God - please, please, PLEASE make snow removal a top priority this winter. Either that or send us all to Mexico for the month of January.
I would pay a little more to have park paths and bike lanes cleared in the winter. I also would like to see the City charge business to dump snow.
my street has never EVER been plowed in 5 years of living in the house. 5years!
I think that ruts that form on residential streets should be carefully looked after. It doesn't seem to matter when I live, the ruts make it difficult to impossible for people with "cars" (not trucks) to paralell park!

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Increase in privatization towards snow removal. If companies knew more \$ would be directed to this, we would have more private companies invest in the equipment to do the job. A review of the efficiency and cost of our snow removal by city employees i believe needs to be done.

arterial and collector roadways first and then local roads as required based on a standard.

None

Quicker response to icy intersections. Sanding makes a huge difference. Grading streets that are deeply rutted throughout the winter instead of waiting for Spring. It's frustrating to drive in ruts all winter and then in April, when the snow is starting to melt, the grader comes along and makes a big mess.

Done badly and doesn't make sense how its done. Especially with snow removal on the free. What a waste of money having a giant line of workers driving along with most playing on their cell phones. Instead of grading and having a crew later clear, clear it right there and then depending on the area.

More residential clearing

Side streets should be cleared within 24h of snow. Small communities nearby can soi this soi why not the city?

Clean all streets faster. Side streets often get left causing unneeded ruts. They are a hazard when trying to cross the street. Clean ALL city owned sidewalks promptly after a storm. They are a hazard to pedestrians.

Ice management more roads treated with ice melt mixture used last winter

Main streets cleared at night

leave as is.

Specially like my street, a crescent. The city never ever clear a snow not even once. Pls we are also paying taxes, at least have a snow clearing after a major snow storm in crescents. We always got stuck in the snow because there is not enough traffic to level the snow quickly.

Instead of waiting to go out and having the snow packed to ice at intersections already, it might be an idea to respond earlier either scrapping once snow falls or dropping salt to melt freshly fallen snow.

I want to see the sidewalks clan by little scrapers as soon as the snow has finish falling because we cannot walk safely anywhere since the majority of Saskatoon residents don't clean the side walks properly AND are not fine the every time they don't clean up. Just charge more on my taxes and get it done by the city workers...every time though. Same goes to the streets. It is too difficult to drive into ruts, just scrape the streets like other big cities like Montreal or Toronto.

Extremely important. I have sent email to the councllor for years - no one has listened.

More frequent sanding.

Making sure cars are not being damaged by the ice. Reduce slip and falls.

Obviously main thoroughfares are important to have cleaned as a first priority. Residential should also be done too when time permits. However, the MOST IMPORTANT factor is the removal of the snow when it is cleared. Not just pushing it to the side, which narrows the roads and creates more hazard. REMOVE the snow, don't just clear it. And hire a crew to work through the night. I work in the downtown core (2nd Avenue) and it is often several days before the snow is cleared away after a storm. They should be working day and night to remove the snow - other major centers are able to successfully to do this, why can't the City of Saskatoon? The City of Martensville is also able the REMOVE their snow more quickly that Saskatoon does.

Ensure ruts on streets are kept down and spring run off drains properly.

Stop using windrows, especially on busy streets.

Safety of drivers and pedestrians through promptest possible REMOVAL following snow events, precluding ice rut build-up and windrows that obscure visibility, result unsafe street crossings for pedestrians and create narrowing of lanes.

Snow is often cleared down to the bare ice, but not followed up with sanding. Most of us would rather drive in snow ruts than on glare ice.

More salt, less sand, sand does nothing but just sit there,,,more salt is needed to melt the ice, or a mixture of both, but more salt than sand!!!!!!!

Snow and ice management is fine - residential streets most years doesn't need to be done - use common sense and don't listen to all the complainers

no need to clear snow on residential streets in neighbourhoods that have wide streets - unless the snow conditions are extreme.

Top priorities- salting/ sanding and snow clearing on main arteries and at intersections.

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Can the operators push the snow completely onto the boulevard, so that the street doesn't narrow every time they do their work?

We need to have higher service levels for snow clearing. I don't think that we need to be hauling it away except in business districts. Use parking lanes or traffic lanes to store the snow -- but clear the travelled way.

I would like to see you handle the snow less. For example on Attridge Drive we have noticed crews blade the snow onto the medians and later come back and move it to the ditches. Why not jut move it to the ditches on the first blading of the snow?

I like the changes that have been made. Just don't plow in my driveway after I have just shoveled it.

snow removal on major and secondary roads, more active snow control in residential areas

Keep snow removal at least to the same level if not more than last year. Learn from larger centres such as winnipeg on how to conduct timely snow removal to ensure good traffic flow.

I'm not impressed with threats about decreasing service levels here - decrease them at city hall or elsewhere!

Focus on removing snow from major roads, not just ruts to drive through. 3rd avenue downtown has actually damaged my vehicle twice from snow ruts and this is a fairly major street

snow clearing and removal in residential areas

Ensuring crews are out at FIRST snowfall, clearing the roads of snow and ice, not after it quits snowing. The objective is to make our streets SAFER, not accommodate a policy that ensures we aren't spending too much. Safety an accessibility is the reason roads need to be cleared efficiently, and I haven't seen our city do this in 20 years. Plowing residential streets....snow REMOVAL instead of pushing it up on the boulevard.

Prioritize transit lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks to encourage alternate transportation

Quit piling wind rows on residential streets. This makes it very difficult to park on the street and can be dangerous.

Our street wasn't cleared last year. It would be nice to blade the ruts once a year

There is no snow removal currently on my street. Why should i pay for something i currently don't enjoy!!!

Each year we are told the budget includes money for plowing on side streets. We have lived in our house 3 yrs and last year was the first time they plowed our road. They waited so long to do it that most of the snow was gone and it was a waste of money.

You just haven't realized that we get 6 months of winter in Saskatoon yet,have U !!!

Remove ice and snow in a timely fashion from as many streets as possible

I'm satisfied with the level of service for snow.

I think the City is doing a phenomenal job as it is. Perhaps I don't drive around as much in the winter since I'm retired, but I've never had difficulty getting around. I'm not sure what people expect when I see complaints.

Top priorities are keeping people safe. I think they do as good a job as they can these days. As per my road conversation though, design of neighborhoods and roads isn't helping us if side streets are so narrow.

I think Council overreacted to the Snowfall 2 years ago. Yes, there was a great outcry by the residents and I believe that Council decided to have two residential gradings per winter. Why not just one? My understanding is that even one was not completed last winter due to the icy conditions and appropriately so. My street gets ploughed frequently and hauled once per winter. We don't need that much service.

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I would like to actually have had snow removal once in the last winter season. I heard the mayor on the radio, and on the news being advised that each neighbourhood would have at least one cleaning. Our crescent in Willowgrove, Patrick Crescent, which is a huge crescent did not receive the "once a winter" clean down at all!! I called our councillor and emailed and was not favoured with a reply. We have one only attendance by a front end loader, not a grader, which was an absolute waste of tax payer dollars. Why is the City sending this type of equipment. My husband who works in heavy duty construction said this piece of equipment is useless for that type of work and if contracted out, the city just wasted money. All it did was have the bucket down and road the top of the snow, it contradicted its own good because the snow wasn't moved over as a road grader would do and the tracks from its huge tires and weight made worse ruts than we had. As my several neighbours said when we were all outside after he went by what was the point of that. We are worse off!! And the disappointing thing is paying tax dollars for cleaning and we were never done. Other crescents in our neighbourhood were, but ours was definitely not. If it was, then they missed Patrick Way. We spent so much time pushing people out at the intersection of Patrick Way and Patrick Lane. I just find it very hard to justify the taxes we pay for NOT GETTING AT LEAST ONE FULL CRESCENT CLEANUP. The only portion we saw cleaned and pushed to the side was the problem side that runs down to Muzyka where people keep sliding into the property owner's back fence across the street - (the one in the news where barricades were finally put up). For the price we paid for this property and lack of street cleaning services, is ridiculous. We also did not get the fall street cleaning that the Mayor said on the radio with Brent Loukes that the neighbourhoods were getting. Of course

This seems to be something that Saskatoon just can't get right. You look at Warman and this is not an issue - though I understand that the situation is different since they don't have freeways and are setup differently. But still, there's no reason why someone who lives in the largest city of Saskatoon, requires a 4x4 to get around on residential streets in the winter. (Ruts at 6" in depth mean I am scraping.) Secondly the lack of snow clearing/sanding in residential is horrible. Yes we have clear sidewalks, but if you have to cross the street you are trapped. I can only imagine how well that doesn't work for someone who is in a wheelchair or scooter.

Why did the city create those stupid black traffic flow/lane markers all over the place? Didn't anyone think how these will create problems once you have to remove snow?

This budget is about right

I'm satisfied with the current amount

think the City has been doing a good job with this. Am guessing there won't be much snow this year...

fix low drainage areas next to street drains in pedestrian crossings where it joins up with the shovelled off sidewalk., to prevent pooling of inescapable water and then dangerous ice. Clear the sidewalks for pedestrian centred west side of city. Sand parking lots of Leisure centre parking lots, not just stopping sanding plans where the sidewalk meets the crossing to the lot (pedestrians don't grow wings when stepping off the sidewalk into the icy parking lot).

Last year, taxes were raised to pay for road maintenance, and we never had our street plowed once. The years that we did have it plowed, the operators did a very poor job. These people need training.

Be proactive. Look at other western cities and their snow removal. Saskatoon's is horrible, the worst in 3 western cities we have lived in. Actually blow the streets would help with the thaw/freeze effects that cause huge damage. Also, why wait until ruts are 6inches? Sending people out to actually measure is ridiculous waste of my tax dollars. Find a better way to clear the streets. Calgary is a great example... I'm sure Winnipeg would be a good place to start as well. It can be done.

Better yet, let's start investing in those awesome solar panels that keep the roads above freezing and then it will save huge dollars for repairs and snow and ice management.

focus on effective snow clearing and removal of priority streets. focus on residential snow clearing in areas that need it.

Based on the increase a few years ago, I can't see the value that it has brought to snow removal. (status quo in removal)

Why can I only increase it \$12.99? I'd love to increase it more. I don't understand snow and ice management in this city. I grew up in rural Nova Scotia on a dirt road and within a couple of hours of a snowfall that road cleared using proper equipment because all the other roads were already done. I don't understand this city's approach to winter at all...

More snow removal on residential streets

Clear the sidewalks quicker

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What are your top priorities for Snow & Ice Management? What change(s) would you suggest?

<p>You got a tax increase last year and we didn't get the service promised. Just got excuses that ruts weren't deep enough, but thanks for the money. Just to let you know the use of magnesium chloride for ice removal is the most damaging type of chloride on concrete. Who makes these decisions? I personally have seen recent increased damage to driveways and sidewalks in the past three years never mind the damage to structural (bridge) concrete.</p>
<p>sidewalk clearing in residential areas</p>
<p>The city is doing a great job with snow removal. I can't believe how much people freak out about it. The expectations for snow removal are ridiculous. My family is well aware that if it snows, we leave for work/school a bit early. That's fine!</p>
<p>use the equipment & time efficiently, when moving they should be clearing streets</p>
<p>Major thoroughfares need to be cleared within 24-48 hours of a major snow event, NOT 72 hours. Residential streets need to be cleared as well, at least twice, throughout the winter season. Snow should not be allowed to accumulate until large ruts form.</p>
<p>Less salt, better use of sand/gravel where required, not just spread everywhere because operator's have a job to perform on their work shift. Remove windrows more often</p>
<p>Better snow removal on bridges.</p>
<p>The ruts on the residential streets are terrible consistently every year. Would like to see this addressed.</p>
<p>Prompt clearing of main roads and bus routes (within 24 hrs). Don't wait for the snow to stop before getting snow plows on the road.</p>
<p>More snow removal (not just clearing for traffic - completely removed) so that people can bike and walk easily in the winter.</p>
<p>Clear major roadways first, like Ave P .</p>
<p>I live on a main road so I don't mind the snow and ice management right now. I'd like the snow piles to be cleared more often</p>
<p>There was significant waste in 2014/2015 winter. If roads do not need clearing plows should not be out just to show the public they are there. Gravel (less salt) should be used. Side roads should be cleared when requested or if a safety issue arises....not once a year whether they need it or not.</p>
<p>Friends in the Cities of Warman and Martensville are proud of the fact that they get proper street cleaning after a snow fall and they pay less taxes. Saskatoon is bigger and should have economies of scale, but we can't seem to do as well as our neighbouring cities to the north - growth does not always pay for growth when it comes to some basic services. That is a admin and council decision about where we are spending our money. Please don't leave snow piled on the side and take away street parking - would be better to just keep it on the street sometimes than to take away the parking. City needs to set an example by clearing its sidewalks in the same time it is asking residents to clear theirs.</p>
<p>Repeatedly, year after year I see graders & snow plows going over the same roadways that are clear of snow &/or ice while people are getting stuck on side streets. Stop wasting my money running trucks & paying employees to drive around needlessly burning fuel & impeding traffic on main streets. If you are just going to waste my tax dollars park the trucks & send home the drivers.</p>
<p>Removing snow and ice rather than simply relocating it the curb</p>
<p>Obviously our climate present this as a priority</p>
<p>Better rut management to prevent permanent damage to my car. Oil pans an heaters are not designed as skid plates.</p>
<p>Bus routes should have higher priority for snow removal</p>
<p>More needs to be done to clear crosswalks in neighbourhoods of snow and ice so that less able bodied citizens can leave their home without worrying about tripping/slipping hazards.</p>
<p>1. During posted snow clearings, attach a more substantial fine to movement of cars. Make it financially viable for tow companies to afford more trucks to "police" this issue. You've given the public multiple days posted notice to move the vehicles for the scheduled time, don't just plow around it (eg. Last winter, the previous winter, etc.), enforce it. Tow them, fine them, generate revenue for tow companies, and for future snow and ice management in the city.</p>
<p>Clear all roadways including side roads more than twice in a winter. As well as reduce the depth of the ruts.</p>
<p>No change</p>
<p>City needs to freeze property tax (civic salaries are out of control) freeze salaries and slash Over time</p>
<p>Increased snow/ice removal especially around busy pedestrian areas to improve safety for pedestrians who must cross our busy roadways.</p>

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What are your top priorities for Snow & Ice Management? What change(s) would you suggest?

they don't ever come down our street anyway

Clear all roads

Again, side streets can be almost undriveable in winter because snow is not cleared from them. Also, clearing snow in the middle of the night is extremely annoying for downtown residents -- I lose at least one night of sleep a week because of the alarms when trucks are backing up.

Hire operators from other unions within the city with a crew going 24hrs. Stop with the crazy overtime!! 90% of parks staff are seasonal... who know how to operate and need jobs!!! No need to pay overtime!!

Put snow in parks to create hills rather than so much time moving to outer city limits

Get city sidewalks cleaned. You decry citizens that don't clean their sidewalks, but you don't clean sidewalks that flank parks (Kistikan) or bus stops. Don't put snow in parking areas on streets. Remove it.

We live in a climate where snow and ice happen, yet the city seems to be surprised by snow when it happens. More funds should be allocated here to build a reserve for those years where snowfall is particularly heavy and requires more work to clear.

If I have to shovel city sidewalks within 48 hours, then I expect my street to be cleared within 48 hours

clear local roads more often

Too much sand and salt used last year. Roads still are not cleared of what was used last year

Remove snow not plow to edge.

Grade streets

removal

Complete snow removal, not just shoving to the side of the street - that's where I cycle.

Clear and remove snow from all streets in the City including residential as some other Cities do. This would definitely cost more, but would save money in other areas such as sanding, accident liability, pothole repairs, Spring street cleaning, etc. - not to mention the benefits of having safe driveable streets in all areas of the City.

Clearing and sanding primary and secondary roads. Removing windrows.

Sidewalks, bike routes, transit routes and emergency vehicle routes should have top priority for snow clearing and sanding before all other traffic routes. It is imperative that transit works -- on schedule -- in all weather to ensure that people can get to work and appointments on time. If people then chose not to take transit or use active transportation they have only themselves to blame if they are late. Next comes major freight routes and important commercial traffic Last comes private motor vehicle traffic.

Rut shaving? Seriously? You people are bereft of creative thought. PLOW THE ROADS. ALL OF THEM.

Helping seniors stay in their homes. The contract set ho help seniors stay in home without paying taxes is horrible. If seniors have lived in their homes for 30 yrs and they are modest older areas then do not increase their taxes. Do not put a lean in their property.

Removal of snow completely instead of moving to the side of the road

Ice management and snow removal on higher speed roadways. Allow for contract removal of snow for side streets as required

More City operated equipment and forces.

Include clearing bike lanes in key areas as part of snow clearing plan.

Icy roads, timely plowing and better rut management

It will snow every year and the city seems to consistently blow the budget after one big dump, be realistic. Please DO NOT skimp out on winter maintenance of the 23rd street protected bike lane.

right now i have never seen snow removal on my street and a grader down it once in the 13 years i have lived here and yet you want to fine me for not cleaning my part of your city owned sidewalk. I have always cleaned it out of pride . ironically if i didnt own a 4 by 4 i can barely drive down my street because of the snow. where are the city graders ? Looking after the businesses

Bylaw enforcement for those who put snow from their property onto roads in residential neighbourhoods. Snow clearing wouldn't be as substantial if extra snow isn't placed on roadways.

get into the communities

Better snow removal. Parabolic mirrors for winter use to melt high traffic intersections prone to ice and accidents.

Increase frequency and reach of snow clearing (i.e. include clearing of smaller but busy feeder roads). Increase funding overall for a more effective service.

**SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS
(Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)**

**What are your top priorities for Snow & Ice Management?
What change(s) would you suggest?**

Multi user paths and sidewalks adjacent to city property need to be cleared more promptly. Clearing snow from bus stops (may need more vigorous attention to snow clearing bylaw for residences & businesses adjacent to sidewalks where there are bus stops),

Consider prioritizing snow grading/clearing on bus routes, bus routes, especially high volume ones should be higher on the priority system. This would increase transit reliability and potentially attract more riders.

Again this has been increasing at a much greater percentage rate than inflation, and is getting to be unreasonable

Snow REMOVAL! Don't just pile it up in "Windows"!

I think the city is doing just fine! I appreciate how quickly the meewasin trail is cleared.

I would like to see some snow removal on busier streets & the exits off the freeways. Better deicing as in the end saves accidents, possibly an increase through SGI, a 1% as AB has just done, for roads and snow would eliminate the need for it to come through property taxes.

easy - keep on top of it - don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure that one out afterall this is Saskatchewan

Compared to other cities, snow removal could be faster. Diversifying who actually plows the snow would make for quicker removal. Allow people with plows to clear roads near them and charge the city.

More

Not suggesting any adjustments - based on performance in the past, it doesn't matter whether we have more money or less money in this fund. The roads still don't get plowed, and there is no difference from year to year regardless of how much snow we have or how much money is available.

We are a winter city, we should learn to live with snow, as other winter cities around the world do. Decrease salting, which is destructive, and sanding, which requires costly cleanup, on non-arterial streets. Drivers should drive more slowly, and also learn not to drive in ruts. Investigate policies in northern/Scandinavian countries and educate ratepayers about best practices in other jurisdictions.

If we are going to have snow clearing, investigate city clearing sidewalks; apparently in Winnipeg it only costs around \$7 or \$14/month. This ensures all walks are done to the walk level, and helps encourage active transport.

This another very important area given our climate. Over the past year the level of service has improved, but I believe we can improve it more. Timely clearing of streets and more frequent cleaning of residential streets are a priority.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Traffic Management? What change(s) would you suggest?

Reduce growth of sub divisions on the outskirts of the city, try to increase density within circle drive. Invest in transit, so we don't need as many new roads.
We have done a fairly decent job of traffic management. I think it's time to take a bit of a break from this and shift focus into managing other types of traffic (transit, cycling, walking). So I support reallocation of funds from this item to others.
Less focus on car movement and more focus on people movement.
Traffic management is mediocre to poor in this city, and it endangers pedestrians and motorists alike.
a few areas of big backups at rush hour and need some sort of change including 33rd st and Idylwyld, 22nd st and confederation drive
Growing population should not affect costs because there are more ratepayers. Do not accept that growth should cost each person more.
Overhauls on intersections such as 51st/Warman, Marquis/Idylwyld, and Central/Attridge. More timely line painting as well.
fix roads properly the first time, and have inspectors draw up a list of items that upon inspection and sign off will trigger payment to the contractor, until it is 100% correct and done to inspectors satisfaction no payments will be issued to contractors on work performed.
Build it right the first time! Already the intersection of Betts and 22nd St. W. had to be changed because you never took into consideration the amount of traffic that would be coming into and leaving Blairmore, and having to retroactively add left turn lanes when that could've been done from the start. You assumed 75,000 people would be living in the area, why didn't you build roads for that amount?
Work on it as we grow, we need to catch up now.
It's getting better but need the North Bridge 5 years ago, we need a major circle around the city without traffic lights or restrictions.
more money for assessing and monitoring doesn't move traffic faster. better tendering for best pricing for street line and parking painting would help.
The north end is pretty much undriveable during peak hours. The south bridge has made it possible to somewhat avoid the north for some of us, but it remains a major issue. Businesses fronting on circle drive north makes this an almost insurmountable challenge, unfortunately. Good luck.
220 1st St. E.
The traffic lights in some parts of the city are set so that you have to drive a lot faster than the speed limit to hit all of the green lights. Why? It seems to me that it would be a very simple fix just to set the lights at the speed limit to improve traffic flow.
how can management cost as much as our snow removal budget, looks top heavy?
Put more of a focus on alternative modes of transportation. Cars are too easy in Saskatoon, there need to be more incentives to biking and public transportation.
Better commuter acces from the east side to the north end . Drop the transit express lane proposal in established commuter avenues. Drop the 33rd street bridge idea and move it further north.
Priority is the Stonebridge/Highway 11 flyover. The project is started, but its not fully directional. We would support an increase to this portion of property taxes if it would be dedicated to fund the expansion of the Highway 11 Flyover project to a fully directional interchange for the end of 2016/beginning of 2017.
Improve the traffic lights so traffic flow is facilitated rather than hindered. In winter, increase the time each light stays red, green and yellow. So much time is wasted with stops and starts. It is so environmentally damaging, as well as frustrated. Stop senseless efforts at traffic amelioration, the reason people take Avenue C is because Idylwyld is so terrible. Move the bike corridor from 23st west to 21st west, where you are already hindering traffic flow with all your stop signs.
Appropriate use of construction zone signage and lane closures. I have seen many instances where a construction zone is still marked yet there are no people or equipment present.
The north end traffic is still an issue. Traffic signal timing at warman/51 and millar/51 is horrible and causes terrible back ups during rush hours. Please look into 6-laning warman road from circle to 51 and adjusting the signals on 51 to improve traffic flow.
Not in favor of sound walls, have one directly behind my yard against freeway which does not accomplish goal of noise reduction. Also in winter snow swirls around areas with walls and packs and makes roads more slippery.
I would like to see better programming of traffic lights. I know its very difficult but in a lot of areas around the city you will hit every red light down one stretch of road. Not only is it annoying but bad for cars/environment and all that stuff.

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remove radar traffic cameras, if you want traffic to flow better. The average speed on circle drive has dropped well below the limit thanks to the fear you have inspired people with.
Account for traffic patterns and bottlenecks. evaluate train crossings (work with CN/CP to reduce long delays).
I am disappointed in the disregard for cyclists. I live near the new intersection of Idylwyld and 25th St and have been so thoroughly disappointed with how that intersection was designed. If the city is going to do so poorly at traffic management as it is and half-ass it with cyclists, why not just drop the budget anyway.
get the city planners to plan right the first time.
Move the damn cars
have Police write more tickets for infractions, and use a percentage of the ticket revenue to help fund this
Studies (Durantun & Turner, UofT) have shown that you do not decrease traffic by increasing the amount of roads. In fact, you are only enabling our dependance on single-occupant transportation by making it as easy and guilt free to traverse the city by car.
My tax dollars can be used to manage traffic through greater funding of active transportation and transit.
I think we need to reduce our infrastructure planning initiatives, which are based on an unrealistic projected population of 500,00.
Do not put in any more sound walls.
training for drivers on how to merge properly and safely, use signals on their cars, etc - people need to learn how to drive in "traffic". I feel safer driving in Edmonton or Winnipeg! Also we need a bus system that can compete with driving times - if I could get from home to work in about the same time as driving, it makes the bus a realistic option. Could do this in Winnipeg 38 years ago - was faster to bus from University of Man to the North End than to drive, including a stop to pick up my son from Childcare - this took 4 buses, with no longer than a 2 - 5 minute wait between buses. Otherwise we will soon be in massive traffic jams!
Put in left turn signals on all busy intersections. Today's vehicle size does not allow you to see over through or around them. Safety of citizens should be the first consideration
Nothing - going well so far, great work when Uni bridge was closed.
Reduce parking stall painting, but not street line painting.
No new bridges for next 10 years
Buy enough paint to do bike lanes and cross walks. Buy paint that lasts more than one year.
Forget about noise walls when the city as already planted trees in the same area. We have to expect noise as our population grows. We are living a city not out in the country.
invest in infrastructure for alternative forms of transportation besides vehicles
more frequent line painting or longer lasting paint
Working during nights
I support status quo funding. I would like to see a shift in focus toward active transportation and away from the dominant car culture mindset. The traffic management budget should be used to develop solutions that do not always require additional roads, bridges, etc. Saskatoon has not done a good job of increasing the cost (psychological, financial, or otherwise) of driving a vehicle. Less parking, less lanes, less future bridges, better transit service, and better access for pedestrians and cyclists will benefit everyone.
The closure of University Bridge was not detrimental to traffic flow. While the City should still plan for future growth, the minimal disruption caused by the temporary bridge closure is indicative of low demand for additional roadways or redesigns.
the city is addicted to stop lights - it is not uncommon to see a small stretch of road with 3,4,5,6 sometimes 7,8 sets of lights within a very short distance. if time is \$, the amount of time going from light to light is costing a fortune. I would recommend a comprehensive review of all intersection lighting - both location and timing - I personally avoid areas of the city for this exact reason.
Privatization of some services, and improve Transit system including more buses and more efficient routes. People have to discouraged from driving not encouraged. Set an example, all employees of City Hall should be taking the bus!!!!!!
Overpasses at Highway 16 & Boychuk and Highway 11 & McOrmand.
Luckily we are growing at slow-burn pace and I would leave this budget as is for immediate future. One thing that is worrisome is the left-hand turn from College to McOrmond. A day doesn't go by that I don't think someone is going to smoke me while I'm waiting at that red light. I think a major accident is just waiting to happen right there.

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Planning for bicycles and public transit. The model of planning neighbourhoods for cars is outdated and wrong. Our city will only be able to thrive in the future if we start planning for bicycles and rapid transit immediately. This includes measures to reduce car usage in the city (such as a ban like the one in Oslo, Norway)

The City is behind in this. The transportation departments understanding of how people move around in this city does not exist. Transportation Planning is a big problem but the city has so many people doing this work I will not pay more for this, I want those working on this to work harder. The City is going to be facing some major problems as it grows and as a highway is built around the city. Who is paying for the sound wall along this highway and who is paying for interchanges to cross this highway? Major problem that no one in transportation is thinking about.

Planning in the city is done on a very short sighted way. I believe some of the old hundred year plans are better done then the current planning

Honestly, compared to other cities Saskatoon doesn't really even have much traffic! This is a low priority for me.

Prioritize building major roadways with safety in mind. Stop adding so many signs to communities (i.e. yield signs on every other corner). Is this really making our City safer. What are the costs to keep these signs cleared for visibility (branches from private and public trees). Too many signs that need maintenance and stops people from thinking about the basic rule of yielding to the right.

No changes

See above comment on sound walls

No point in me paying more when its already low quality. Low quality paint, traffic signalling that isn't logical. Really need to get signalling in place that makes sense for the time of day.

DO NOT spend even five cents on the proposed 33rd street bridge. Awful idea. Why was 33rd street narrowed from the river to Warman Road if there was a chance of a bridge going in there? Also get rid of those downtown bike lanes, they are a mess and nobody uses them. Here are two more things: 1 - bike lanes, if we do need them, learn from things that already work, like the cities in Germany and elsewhere have - identify the priority routes and widen the sidewalks in those areas (NOT out onto the street, the other way) and paint a white line down the middle - pedestrians on one side, bikes on the other. 2 - zipper merge - since people are so territorial about the lane they are in, why not pylon both lanes so the merge occurs on the middle, straddling both lanes? Problem solved...

The city is sprawling way more than necessary without proper roads and bridges being built to halt it all plus construction. No need to paint lines since they are not visible in winter anyway.

Stop blocking more than 1 or 2 major roads at a time. When you start a job finish it. Open the airport access to Hampton village. Closing for the whole summer is unsatisfactory

Lights are poorly timed on circle for traffic flow especially on north end

Sop the thought of a 33rd street bridge. Expedite the north city bypass

We absolutely do NOT need a replacement traffic bridge. We have been without it for 5 years and have since opened the South Bridge which has greatly reduced traffic on the Sid Buckwald bridge and going into/through downtown. A new traffic bridge is a waste of money. If it goes ahead, my vote in the next election will not be for my current councillor or the current mayor.

In general I find the traffic not so bad.

Stop issuing fines caught by traffic cameras - use for information only. Change all school zone speed signs to suggested speed only - administrative changes.

The sign situation needs improvement.

Get rid of the bike lains...make sutherland parking free again.

When new areas of the city are developed, the specific new area's tax base should pay for the new roadways and heavier traffic to accommodate their specific area. That should all be included in the purchase of their lot and their taxes. If a new overpass is required for the area (i.e. Stonebridge) that should be reflected in their taxes.

Increase flow.

Increase the use of durable marking, drivers in Saskatoon seem to need lane markings to understand multiple lane roadways. It is embarrassing when visitors come to the city in the spring and none of our major roadways have markings on them. Invest less in chevron markings, it seems only concrete barriers keep Saskatoon drivers from crossing double white lines.

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working on timing of lights to allow better flow the north bridge to get bigger trucks out of the city faster the traffic bridge to take pressure off Broadway and University bridge ZERO \$\$\$ attributed to additional dedicated bicycle lanes.
The program the city currently uses is highly ineffective - problem intersections like Preston and Taylor have never been addressed. Not sure what the City uses for painting of lines, but it obviously doesn't work. Painting white lines is of no value in winter, snow is white and it is not possible to see the lines most of the time. I believe the City needs real traffic control, and the best place to start would be to ticket or fine those that can't or won't follow traffic laws. For example, in every other City traffic circles move a lot of traffic efficiently, however, in Saskatoon they do not. The reason they don't is because few people use signal lights, etc. People entering the circle can't enter unless they know the traffic in the circle is exiting. Just one example of how our lack of enforcement of traffic laws affects people's ability to move around the City.
Traffic management should start with the original design,,not after,,trying to redesign streets,,like 33rd going west,,that is ridiculous...that should never have been rebuilt...also the narrow streets in Hampton, etc..that is crazy,,just accidents waiting to happen...Also,,STOP putting those silly rubber barricades in intersections...we have one close by,,and it has increased "truck" traffic alot,,especially large trucks,,long school buses on our street that wasn't built to withstand the weight of them,,the road is starting to show it.....!!!!!!!!!!
Priorities include improving transit to the point it can be a viable alternative, promotion of ride share and car pool options. Urban sprawl is creating need for more roads. I would like to see continued/ expanded incentives for infill development.
Is the city of Saskatoon able to influence driver training? I find that most traffic problems are due to the people using the roads rather than the pathways. Could drivers be trained to better use what they have?
Is some of this "traffic" money going to help walking and biking in our city? If so, let's spend more.
Traffic reduction. Make the buses efficient and cheaper for people.
Highway #5 and McOrmond Road intersection is getting very dangerous as vehicles are completing U turns on McOrmond Road south to cross the intersection to jump the queue. So they are driving east on highway #5, move to the far right turning lane to go south on McOrmond Road but U turn and go north on McOrmond Road. So many near misses.
Better signing. Arrows on the road, to warn of right/left turn lanes only. Cross street names posted on busy streets in advance of the actual street crossing.
Bridges! Traffic Bridge should have been pedestrian/cycle only connecting east to west expensive River Landing. 33rd St bridge is INSANE! Stop with the bridges leading to City Centre! Build a true "city bypass" bridge!
Decrease incentives for driving automobiles, increase incentives for public transit.
The city planners for traffic flow and construction need to work together to ensure road closures and timed traffic lights promote traffic flow not gridlock.
Again more threats to decrease service - this seems like the only mantra city hall can come up with - reduce expenditures elsewhere! Service reduction is no longer a viable threat.
Traffic isn't that bad in the city. Plan train schedules better across major roads.
Divert funds to implement active transportation
Making sure I can drive around reasonably quickly in the city. The vision for transit seems ridiculous to me. A 33rd street bridge makes little to no sense and having dedicated lanes for transit makes no sense. It seems to me someone thinks transit will fix all traffic issues.
Traffic management and the traffic planners are way off track. It would be easier to keep traffic flow if they wanted to rather than making it inconvenient to drive. That won't make people take public transit.
Less traffic lights on circle drive
Need to figure out how to ease the traffic congestion on Attridge. Also get rid of the new bike lanes downtown whose implementation saw a large reduction in parking stalls as well as traffic flow from no rights on red.
Try and synchronize the lights better on your busy arteries,get rid of the stupid trains going thru the city,or have them just going thru at nite???
Delete bike lanes on 23rd St.
Please only put sound walls where they actually work. Use the other millions to improve parks for real quality of life.
Traffic review has been good I hope the program doesn't end because of the recent problems. But also

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happy to be able to report specific issues and get good response to those. There is so much money spent on sound walls that look nice but seem like a colossal waste of money because in many instances make no difference. Why are we doing this?

No suggestions, but cudos for the dedicated turning lane on Central Ave. to Attridge. Now if only citizens would be thoughtful enough to allow merging with the Attridge traffic, everything would be much less stressful during the morning commute. Drivers bring on their own troubles. I've seen drivers avoiding the turning lane because of long lines on Central on the Silverspring side and using the middle lane as a turning lane.

How in the world did we end up with a new Traffic Bridge.This is not a growth area and the adjacent bridges are doing a perfectly adequate job of serving this area. Nobody that I have questioned sees a need for this bridge. The old bridge needs to come down but we don't need something else to maintain.

New interchanges at McOrmond and Highway 5, as well as Boychuk and Highway 16 were identified as priority in 2014 and should be treated as such. Begin work as soon as possible on these interchanges.

bypasses on circle drive west/south. Something needs to be done at the avenue c and circle drive area. freeways through the city.

Look at reducing speeds in residential sections and/or reducing speeds near parks like other cities. Living a block from a park on a crescent I see people who fly at 60 km/h down our street and past a park where little kids are playing. Increase speeds on major routes like Claypool, Boychuck, Taylor Street where there is no direct access to the roadway (60 or 70 km/h).

Stop expanding the city limits!!!!!!! And why are the police so focused on chasing down people with expired plates instead of working to make sure traffic flows better? We will soon need cops directing traffic in key areas of the city but as yet this seems to be a completely foreign idea to city planners and the SPS. More photo radar, especially red light cameras, will help that a lot. Slow traffic down where and when it's needed. Speed bumps work too.

This program should be financed through the growth in population tax

I want more attention paid to smarter transportation, not more roads or infrastructure.

find more alternatives to car travel. I travel from the Exhibition to Confederation Park each day - If I could take a bus across the South Bridge I would. Right now my option is 45 - 60 minutes on the bus or 8 minutes in my car.

urgent safer pedestrtian crossings on 22nd and Ave R-V, urgent boulevard redesign for accesssibility

fix downtown lights, stop / start almost every block is hard of the road and my car. change the timing of the lights

This should never be the same price as snow and ice management.

Start getting better paint. We had newly painted crosswalks in Hampton village- Hampton Circle and Hampton Gate/Dawson Cres- this summer. They are barely visual and I am sure will be totally gone come spring.

Reduce building new infrastructure for cars, that is not the future. Focus more on active transportation and transit.

It is obvious that city is growing rapidly and more more infrastructure is required.

Focus on other modes of transportation

This City can't manage traffic flow. We have a stop sign policy approved by city council, however these rules don't apply for the erection of stop sign. As well I have visited plenty of bridged cities. Bridges are expensive, and all we do is install lights so our bridges become parking lots.

How about in future developments, you build overpasses first, not as an afterthought when you already have neighbourhoods completely filled. This shows lack of vision, or competence. The argument will made about lack of funds, but the cost to commerce by slowing traffic will be even more.

more bike lanes and study on bikes in the city

More transit priority, more protected cycling lanes, more roundabouts. Less soundwalls. People need to realize that if they buy a house next to a freeway they are paying less for it because it's going to be loud. If they want a soundwall installed, they should pay for it themselves.

obviously your planning isn't working, traffic tieups where ever you go , every set of lights make you stop and waste time & fuel, instead of adjusting lights so traffic flows continuously .

Build while money is cheep and work levels are lower. Also build on a 24hr work schedule create

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a plan to build 16 interchanges in next 3 years and set up large contract on this with time line incentives move to a plan where we grow into areas and over build while we are doing it which will keep cost down significantly in the future and avoid traffic concerns

Light patterns need to be reassessed in order to maintain traffic flow through the city. Routes that are no longer high travel roads need to have their light cycles changed to reflect new traffic patterns (ie. Victoria St., Main St. & Broadway).

This city cannot move traffic at the best of times the way it is set up! Traffic lights are not set to traffic demands at specific times and demand. No amount of increased funding will help .Common sense should prevail. People in this department should do their job, be out there visualize what`s happening at ground level. Not rely on studies from other cities that cost tax payer`s big dollars.

The primary focus should be on major ways.

No more bridges. Incentives to use public transportation. More bike lanes. More emphasis on walker & biker safety. Perhaps a toll for bridge use. Many major cities do this. Timing of traffic signals needs to be addressed. Use of left turn signals at some intersections needs to be activated.

Bridges. Bridges. Bridges. Build 33rd st bridge (A decent to the rail bridge)

Create a subway, or train . so less people will drive and arrive at their destination quicker. stop placing parking barricades in random places in the city, they usually get taken out when the snow removal occurs

Focus on getting the trucks out of the city to keep traffic moving and reduce wear and tear on our roads

Quality of life is significantly impacted by discretionary time. Commuting time has significantly increased with growth and the City has not kept up with Traffic planning to deal with the growth. Too many areas of town have lower speed limits than they are designed for and this contributes to traffic flow problems - increase speed limits where it is safe to do so. Plan traffic patterns for the common good - not just for a few people who come out to a consultation meeting and want their street turned into a cul de sac. A priority would be to get the road open from Primrose Drive south so that people don't have to drive all the way around on Warman to go north -- now that traffic flow is better on Warman Road, it should be opened as it was designed for. It is a waste of money rebuilding the traffic bridge -- that was just a bad decision. Make sure our bridges are being properly maintained so we don't lose them.

Stop installing rubber traffic flow curbs that are bolted to the asphalt which are simply going to be ripped up by snow removal equipment throughout the winter. Widen street in future developments to allow for better snow remove & parking. It's ridiculous when a two-way road only has enough room for one vehicle at a time. Also, have you ever driven West Hampton Circle? Once you get to where there are cars parked on both sides it is down right dangerous (visibility) as a result of the road being built too narrow compounded because it is on a curve.

Get to know their cities and learn from them.

I feel a lot of this is spent on high wages, engineers who've never lived/worked in large cities where good planning is priority, too much public input (see disaster at 22nd st overpass) and poor attention to detail.

Longer amber lights. They are too quick to accommodate safe stopping. More damage to my car. I stop, the person behind me does not, another car repair. If I don't do a panic stop on Saskatoon's short amber light, I get fined for preventing a rear end collision. <sigh>

Speed limit enforcement. Noise reduction and sound barriers by busy roadways. Need to increase hieght of some existing sound walls

An app for the downtown parking which would allow people with disabilities to pay for parking without hair to walk down the street to the pay meter. More traffic lights are needed at busy intersections such as main and Preston, Preston and Arlington, etc. Traffic studies/ review/decision making process needs to be vastly improved as the 9th street debacle has shown

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us.

1. This recommendation kind of follows the road maintenance suggestion above. Fixing the problems the first time, will ensure it stays fixed, and you can make headway on solving more issues. In addition to this, start applying better urban planning, it's blindingly clear that there are better options, but this cookie-cutter mentality to our "burbs" is nothing more than the half-assed route that best suites the builders. "Build em' cheap, sell em' high" as they say.

No need for cameras and photo radar . Put up more speed bumps in high risk ares

Increased number of bike lanes in/to downtown, University, Sask Polytechnic. Less cars on the roads means less traffic issues and vehicle related infrastructure is needed. Our city is not cycle or pedestrian friendly and needs to move that way.

The intersection of college drive and central ave, the people making left hand turns onto central need a longer cycle.

Better synchronization of lights. Shouldn't have to stop every kilometre for a red light

City council should actually listen to experts when they make suggestions regarding traffic patterns. Improve roadway driveability by decreasing use by investing in public transit.

Synchronize the traffic lights!!!!

Signage improvement for work areas. Cover signs when workers go home. Do not put up signs till day of work. Also need to improve turning lanes off circle drive. For example at boychuk south and circle drive the traffic turning north on to boychuk need to change from 100 km down to a stop or slow turn if light is green. The turning lane needs to be longer

Why don't we plan for a city that requires less dependence on personal vehicles to navigate?

Overpasses at railway crossing or get the trains out of Dodge! Forget the stupid idea of carpool lanes, we are not set up for that in our mainstream streets.

Good program. Requires follow through (9th Street access to Idylwyld).

Build roads BEFORE developing areas. Circle Drive and Idylwyld interchange. Avenue C and Circle interchange. Eliminate the gauntlet of lights.

More emphasis put on the safety of pedestrians especially on busy streets like 8th

public transit

Keep exploring ways to increase transit ridership and active transportation rather than finding ways to accommodate more cars.

Current traffic study procedures seem to count traffic, determine that congestion occurs and then propose an expansion. There seems never to be any thought given to instead move people over from private motor vehicles to transit and active transportation, which is the only sustainable solution. More or wider roads move the congestion further down the road; they never solve the congestion. In addition they actually create more congestion because they allow more vehicles onto the road. Speed limits should be lowered to 30 km/hr on all residential streets in all neighbourhoods to make active transportation safe for children, seniors and others. Safer crosswalks across all major roads are urgently required. An 8-year old should be able to walk safely by him/herself from home to school, the park, the library, the sport centre and shopping without adult supervision in every neighbourhood.

Privatize traffic management. Save taxpayers the \$\$\$

Residential streets should be 40 km. Circle should be 80 km.Speed kills.

Pedestrian and cycling needs

Make the light systems on busy streets truly synchronized instead of the haphazard situation now

Listen to the community consultations and don't let one or two people "convince" council to override them.

Merge traffic management with transit. They should have the same requirements and goals, why have two departments with higher overhead.

More savings and funding towards interchanges and physical traffic improvements.

Proper planning for road building

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It's probably much cheaper to monitor the effectiveness of the existing sound walls then build new ones. Get some evidence they actually work before investing in more. How about get better data on pedestrians and cyclists instead of relying on the mayor to count bikes around city hall <http://www.eco-compteur.com/en/solutions>

another road out of stonebridge

Switching the bike corridor from 23 street west to 21st street west, where traffic flow is already hindered.

Better times traffic lights,

Better pavement markings, better implementation of long term planning with private developers, with a hierarchical network there are no last minute cost-cutting measures that ever can provide benefit.

how about you just try to maintain what you have and when new neighbourhoods come on line that required improvements they pay for them.

Infrastructure!

only use sound wall along circle drive.

increase speeds on some of the main roads as Taylor, 8th, Cumberland to get traffic moving at the 50/60 kms per hours. Eliminate freeway exits into neighbourhoods as that is very dangerous and lucky a serious accident has not happened as of yet. Also, school zone after school zone does not allow traffic to flow, feel like I am travelling at 30 K on some of the main roadways through the day. Also, better access to the university in the am instead of such a back log.

once again, stop expanding this city - the infrastructure we have now cannot keep up with the size of this city.....all I hear from people that once lived here & have moved away, complain how horrible it is to get around this city when they come to visit

Traffic Management seems to be operating fine, but I would like to see more of a push towards alternative transportation such as busses and cycling.

Reduce the amount of Bike Lanes planned on City Streets.

Focus shouldn't solely be on enhancing car dependence.

to many stupid choices ---the new parking meters, bike lanes we watched the expensive 33rd street lane over a 3 day period not 1 bike used the lane and only 2 people walking through.

Something needs to change with the north half of Circle Drive - the stoplights there make traffic slow to a crawl during rush hour.

Collect more data, and more detailed data. Increase markings for bike lanes (very cost effective method to help encourage active transport). Produce materials to help educate ratepayers and council about key traffic issues: you can't build your way out of congestion, active transport and transit reduce car congestion, sprawling suburbs increase traffic (and maintenance costs) disproportionately to development charges and tax assessments. Investigate congestion charges and other behavioural modification methods that are more cost effective than 'building more lanes'.

One point of contention is some of the "traffic calming" measures that have been instituted. These can have the effect of creating more congestion and in some cases cause collisions. For example placing crosswalk signs on the roadway on already narrow residential streets can be dangerous to motorists.

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What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Fire Department? What change(s) would you suggest?

Top priority would be fire prevention, specifically cracking down on slum houses, hoarders, etc.
no particular need for change, as it seems to be doing well
Growing population should not affect costs because there are more ratepayers. Do not accept that growth should cost each person more.
Again, make due with the equipment in inventory. This could be done and provide the same level of service. We don't need shiny brand new fire trucks every second year.
Again lets look at how each of these fire depts. are being utilized. Driving a Fire Truck to pick up groceries for their meals is not being efficient with our money when the fire hall is 2 min from a grocery store. Has their ever been a public report to the tax payor for these civil sevices with a breakdown of how these halls are ran?
Get serious about what we need. In a growing city when does the extra tax revenue pay for the extra services?
Fire response has dropped due to better fire safety, it should require less funding. The increased number of new properties should cover any increase the department needs. Also, reduce redundancy in response. Fire response doesn't need to be present for every 911 emergency.
Not sure how growth is affecting response but satisfied on service
News Talk published a story about the fire department moving fire stations - my priority is getting Stonebridge neighbourhood within the 4 minute travel time that the article talked about. I would support increasing my tax dollars for a stonebridge area fire hall and for increased service/presence.
Preventative maintenance programs for the fire department equipment should prolong the life of existing equipment, while reducing overall expenditures. Improving the property inspection program would go a long way in beautifying the city - there seems to be little enforcement of some of the nuisance bylaws (broken down cars littered on a property, etc.).
Fire services are not needed to the extent they were in decades past. Fire safety should focus on prevention, not just on fighting fires once they start. We could get away with many fewer bodies in this department.
They do a good job but sometimes I have seen with "first response" several stations and police responding to what is a minor event. Better communication?
Put the damn fires out
more tickets for bylaw infractions
I have no reason to believe our fire services are underfunded. In fact, if this is the case, we should cease the boundless bloating of our city which necessitates the expansion of these services at geometric rates. Not only do we need new roads to service these new low-density suburbs that are proliferating on the edges of our city, but we need emergency services, utilities, snow removal, recreational centres, new schools et al.
Wages at the fire department are very high - just scroll through the public accounts. Wages should be frozen in the next contract. I don't care what kind of large wage increases other cities gave their firefighters - the point is they are paid very well here, and hiring and retaining staff will not be a problem at current wages. This is a crucial service - however, it seems they are paid more than adequately for their roles and responsibilities; it is time to examine this more closely.
As the City expands, we require more physical infrastructure (i.e. fire halls). I would allow this level of funding for that purpose, but not for expanded operation beyond that.
Good as is
Economies can be found here as well
Maintain the existing service levels.
Seems to be going well so far!
Increase level of service.
freeze wages
Remain as is, they do do a thankless job.
Advances in building design, standards, and materials have resulted in a reduced need for service by a municipal fire department. I fully support a reduction in funding to the SFD and I would be willing to accept the consequences.
Once again, the City should stress the importance of operational efficiencies and challenge the Fire Department to find creative ways to be more efficient in delivering services to the extent reasonably possible.
Response times.

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Funny, no suggestions here
No real oppinion.... No experiences with this service.
Local ambulance should be part of emergency services and not a private enterprise. The Fire Dept and ambulance and police all seem to respond to emergencies. Seems like these services need to be further integrated and not silos.
What's wrong with a cheaper wages fire dept.
Happy with services
Perform random smoke detector checks with a fine if not functional. No real excuse these days!
Fire dept response times are great for the most part. More staffing needed.
Give these guys something to do on the side ,they have tons of spare time,been there.
Okay as is
It is ridiculous that fire responds to picking up needles with an entire fire truck full of employees. And more ridiculous that they classify these as calls in order to inflate their numbers and make them seem far busier then they truly are.
ok for now.
The city is growing,,we need more firefighters, and protection....
I'm OK with longer response times.
Community gardens on their properties shared with the fire hall.
Charge the developers more - they are making huge profits and the expansion of the city is causing the problem.
Cannot afford standards that are currently above other cities.
Kudos to the fire department that has to deal with ignorant rail companies in terms of routing trains through the city.
We could always benefit from more funding for the fire department.
Have them do more then drive around picking up needles,thats just ridiculous ???
Better education and policing in the areas that are "fire prone" (inner city areas particularly). Better enforcement of fire codes.
No top priorities. Just continue with necessary updating and new fire halls.
I question why we need fire trucks rushing to each medical emergency, particularly if it can save significant money. Surely the dispatchers can determine whether there is an ambulance which can provide timely service before dispatching fire trucks which are cumbersome dangerous vehicles in themselves when compared to many cars.
No concerns.
Any new Fire Halls can be funded through property tax growth. I do not think we need any more emergency preparedness. Focus on putting out fires and not other activities.
Satisfied with current
sensitivity training for poverty issues
Leave same as last year with government of Canada inflationary increase calculated for Saskatoon
Put them to work when they aren't fighting fires. Don't them run their own home building companies from the fire hall! Or at least make those guys give a percentage of their profits to the City!
Just keep doing what they are doing! Build more fire hall's , closer to new areas , up graded equipment, more staff, The Fire dept seems to be very well managed, They go above and beyond from what I can tell. Also very thankful We have never required their service, but I know they will respond asap. Please note: I am not a first responder
City firemen are overpaid.
Doing a great job. Maybe setting a up program for fallen elderly instead of the fire department doing it.
The fire department should require fire fighters to do other things other than just wait for an emergency to come it. It's a waste of man power. For example, in Brazil fire fighters are utalized by the human milk bank so mothers don't have to drive to drop donations off.
These guys do a great job getting out into the community and keeping us safe.
More efficiencies. Do we really need a firetruck attending a medical emergency? That seems to be a big cost for the equipment and is hard on our roads.
With increased density comes more revenue and less roofs per person to cover. It should become cheaper with growth.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Fire Department? What change(s) would you suggest?

They already do a great job. It just a battle keeping up with uncontrolled growth. If a developer wants to build a new housing area, they should have to install the infrastructure including streets, water mains sewers and the new fire hall.
At this time I (fortunately) have not had to use the Saskatoon Fire Department and associated services. So specifically commenting is impossible. I can rationalize though that they are probably under budget, under staffed, and require additional resources to optimally do their jobs.
Firefighters highly over paid There's no shortage of people wanting to be firefighter . Use the imates to pick up needles in the park Fire department needs some major over site for correction on cost.
A lot of money for very little return
Enough is spent
Better access to Montgomery due to long trains going through. This applies to any stree that has railroad crossings that cause delays in traffic movement.
Hold the line on this budget.
More Stations
I feel like fires are extremely rare, so am not in favour of current or increased spending. They are glorified EMTs who drive million-dollar trucks. I don't see that as an effective use of tax dollars.
Seriously restrict urban sprawl so that we do not need more fire stations.
More fire fighters please.
Keeping up with city size growth.
Better equipment
Keep up the great work.
Focus on moving train lines out of the city core to speed up emergency response times and access to neighbourhoods such as Montgomery.
City needs to lobby for changes to the provincial development act so that new firehalls in new neighbourhoods are funded via development levies.
Maintain as it is, new neighbourhoods should be surcharged when expansion of the Fire Department is needed.
More accessible fire stations-locations.
we don't need to move fire halls.
no problem
Don't know enough about the Fire Department's needs to offer any input here.
I am happy with the Fire Department. \$266.00 is a lot of money though. But, I do think it is odd that there is not a fire department down over by Stonebridge. So currently with only two overpasses. A third on Lorne, which I won't count. Hypothetically if something happens on both of the overpasses and my house is on fire, how are they going to get to my house in enough time? Does the fire truck come from a small town outside of Saskatoon.
Cities rarely burn down, modern building codes help protect things. We don't need expensive firehalls in every neighborhood; response times can be increased and services centralized. At a minimum, low-density suburbs should cover full cost of any incremental service increases.
I believe our fire services are good. Let's stay the course in this area.

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What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Police Service? What change(s) would you suggest?

Should have build smaller, community based police stations instead of the police palace. If there is any money left after building the new police station, then you should build community police stations. If other social services are increased, we may be able to reduce the police service required.

Better affordable housing and social programs, education, rehab, engagement with marginalized communities, more youth opportunities, etc would reduce the need for police presence. In an ideal world, police would be scarcely required, wouldn't they?

With photo radar we should be able to reduce police staff costs. Paying an office over 100K a year to issue traffic tickets is not a good use of tax dollars.

The size of this increase is highly conspicuous. Crime is driven by poor access to community resources. Increase those, decrease the marginalization of certain communities, and policing costs can go down. Crime rates are falling in general, and fear-mongering often drives the perceived need to perpetually increase funding for police services. I would also like to see police cracking down on dangerous driving, but that rarely seems to be much of a priority.

improvement on reduction of gang/drug crime/violence and gun violence

More aggressive driving enforcement.

We don't need more police, this will not cut down on crime. Do more with less resources. I would personally cut the bike patrols, they do no good and haven't cut down on beggars and street people hassling paying customers and people who work downtown one bit. Also why we need a 4 % increase almost every year, this is getting old and not necessary. Make due with what you have (brand new police station for example)

efficiency monitoring in the roles of the police officers. Their are so many efficiencies we the tax payors are paying for that possibly SPS can look at. Ex:Do they require special training in other parts of Canada/US-travel expenses are on the rise (who pays for this) can we bring leadership trainers, etc here to the city to save costs. Why are the police officers getting 3 hrs of paid time to vote for the federal election when it takes 2 min? This is taking police on the street. It is endless to what this police service can do to minimize their funding so the tax payor is not always being hit for their in efficiencies. Why do they get a 5% salary increase year to year when the rest of us get a minimal of 1-3%. A city of our size has several police officers on the street-lets look at how each dept is being ran to streamline certain areas so this will free up Police Presence and response time. I am not convinced handing over money at this percentage is the right answer. I would like the police service run as a Business like it was their own!

More patrols, we live in a neighbourhood with a lot of kids and a lot of speeders, hardly ever see a cop.

look after the reasons added police are required rather than adding police to control the problems..Like if "homeless people" are causing an added strain on the police..put funding towards helping the homeless..not more police.

We need more presence of police on the road patrolling, not enforcing traffic. Crime seems to be getting worse with the increased population. Certain communities would need more than others.

As our city grows it is important to give the police the resources they need to keep gangs and organized crime in check. Crime prevention seems more efficient than just arresting people after crimes. I like the attitudes toward those living in poverty expressed by our police chief.

Have the Chief of police allocate the front line officers to deal with the bigger issues like gangs, drug/violent issues with in the city then having 4 to 6 officers parked on side of road handing out tickets.

Reduce corruption and improve community relationships. Get rid of the cowboys. Someone needs to take a stand to get rid of the bad cops and let the good ones shine. As it is, I want as little of my money going to the police as possible.

Is the police budget just a bottomless money pit? Get serious about efficiencies. This is possibly the most wasteful city operation. A gym at the new white elephant police station or police salon. How does the new police car paint scheme aid policing?

We need increased Police presence on our streets. It's not enough just to have the police driving around in cars, they need to be out walking around. Also we don't need a group of fully trained officers standing around operating traffic radar. There should be lower paid technicians operating the equipment and just one officer there to write the tickets. This could also apply to other Police jobs that don't require fully trained officers. We want our officers to be well equipped but the is "tank" that they use from time to time really necessary? I've seen them use it to drive up to a house and crawl into a window....

Focus on reducing poverty and the police response needed will be less. This change might not happen this year, but start make poverty reduction a priority now with serious tax dollars. The social and economic ramifications are long lasting and benefit all citizens of Saskatoon.

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Get back to the basics. Properly review the entire departments staffing before any increases are made. This focuses on support staff as well. In a growing city every civic department requires more manpower. The city can not afford to continue to focus just on Police. Their contract alone takes a major piece of the pie.

Living on the east side, we don't see much of a police presence at all for our current taxes. The priority/suggested changes are to have a stronger and more consistent visual presence on the east side. A significant portion of tax dollars go to Police and a large increase was requested again. If we are paying that much for the service, we want to see it in the area regularly and consistently, and not just when downtown. More community engagement and personal interaction with the east side is also needed.

This city spends way too much on policing, and way too little on social housing, recreational centers, drop-in centers, and poverty alleviation. Also there should be more community police stations, not one giant palace that removes the police from the public. No wage increase! If anything, a wage roll back so they get a clue about how a great number of the citizens of this city must live. No reason to pay them like they are professionals - lawyers, nurses or doctors.

The police service is bloated and overfunded. Crime prevention is important, but I haven't seen a cop in the North end in weeks.....just saying. Obviously they don't spend their money properly. GET RID OF THAT STUPID POLICE PLANE THAT CIRCLES AROUND DAY AND NIGHT WASTING MONEY. USE YOUR HEADS HERE!!!! COMMON SENSE.

I'm wondering if my American friends are correct. Should citizens be allowed to have a shotgun in their homes for protection of people trying to enter our property with knives and machetes? American friends say the bad people run away when you shoot the shotgun in the air outside your house!

I find that a lot of petty crime is not reported. Small amounts of theft and vandalism in particular. Don't have any suggestions for this one. More of a police presence?

Safety of officers should always be a priority. If it means increasing numbers so officers always have a partner or updated weaponry or whatever needs to be done.

SPC should set up a user submitted ticketing system. If someone catches someone else driving illegally on their dash cam, or by a passenger with video, they should be able to submit the footage and have the wrong-doer be ticketed. Increase in police funds from tickets without the need for increased police presence.

Actually solve real crimes instead of giving tickets to the good citizens. How can response time get worse than it already is?

Now that we have a new federal government perhaps we can stop the culture of fear. I see that very little money goes to social and family services compared to police, while I realize that this is mostly federal and provincial responsibility, starting at the bottom would likely decrease crime over time. Income and affordable housing also lead never seeming to move ahead legally. Police seem to have great incomes. I have often thought that instead of the grand new station, that with our media links local sub-stations (like fire halls) where police are visible made more sense.

have the police concentrate on the high crime areas drug and gangs. instead of giving people tickets for skateboarding on the sidewalks etc

Arrest the damn criminals

have police write more tickets for infractions of the law, in particular, cellphone use, none use of headlights after sunset, lack of signals, speeding etc.

Motorists in this city get away with carte blanche these days

Recent events in late august have indicated that our emergency response time is abhorrent.

Honestly, the Police don't really respond to most calls in my neighbourhood and I don't feel that will change with more officers.

Wages at police are very high and getting higher - just scroll through the public accounts. Wages should be frozen in the next contract - hiring and retaining officers will not be a problem at current wages, regardless of increases in other cities! This is a crucial service - however, it seems like they are paid more than adequately for their roles and responsibilities; it is time to examine this more closely.

Crimes rates have been going down - and it's not related to more Police Officers on the street. We should be reducing crime by reducing income inequality and poverty.

I believe our priorities need to shift from law enforcement to social supports (food bank, Lighthouse, affordable housing, etc)

Way too much money is being wasted by the police 120 million for a building 300000 for a swat truck etc.

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What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Police Service? What change(s) would you suggest?

Work within your means. Tax dollars were spent on a police station that would be more suitable in a city 2-4 times larger than Saskatoon. Way to easy to say police can't do their job if we don't continue to increase their budget. It's like being blackmailed.
I would like to see resources go to fighting the social factors that generate crime instead of funding focused on the back end i.e. more police feet on the ground.
Saskatoon is managing fine with the amount of police it currently has. I am not interested in paying for a fancy building and the fanciest vehicles in western Canada. The police do serve and protect the people however, let's teach them to serve and protect their budget. If the police service cannot run on this budget, management is failing us. I realize this is a political issue but, it is hard to see a new building but, no differences in service.
get rid of the air plane; let the social workers to the social work
Put the officers out on the streets, down size over loaded office personnel.
none
Response time should be less.
Speed patrol in residential area. One more officer doing that all day would be nice.
Continuing to work with community organizations and social workers to prevent crime
I am not a big supporter of more "boots on the ground." I think there are greater gains to be made by addressing the root problems associated with crime (i.e., focus on social programs). I do not support a "tough on crime" approach.
While I remain a proponent of SPS, it is clear that additional police presence does little to reduce crime rates. Operational efficiencies and community outreach programs should be the focus of SPS in the immediate future.
police is becoming an over bloated mess - over 1/5th of taxes going to policing tickets for littering would likely bring in some \$'s , stop forcing non profits w/ beer gardens to pay over \$100 per guard per hour for policing when licensed security is already required and effective - it's a tax gouge without reason.
Less time wasted on small drug offences and Traffic offences moved to some privatization
Additional bicycle patrols of trails in the city and around U of S campus would be appreciated.
Focus on major crimes and a decrease in frivolous municipal bylaws that results in increased work load to the Saskatoon Police Service. Increase red light cameras and speed cameras.
I understand crime is going up and gangs are moving in but with the new place station and new officers, police needs to take a backseat to needs to find innovative ways to police our city. I won't cut their funding but I also don't think they should get new funding for 3-5 years.
Recent request for 4.7 million more than last year and only looking to get 7 new officers? Kind of confusing as I am sure they do not make \$600,000 a year.
Crime in the core neighborhoods seems to be getting worse. We need more police on the streets patrolling on bikes or on foot and a stronger police presence in the core. If this means highering more police, then it MUST be done. Lose control over the core and folks perception of safety will begin to effect business and property value in the downtown core. It will drive people to the suburbs and the city will become a dead and dangerous place to be! Don't let that happen!
Property crimes are large in our city. More officers need to be hired/dedicated towards an investigative unit that strictly focuses on offenders who are doing such crimes. Would insurance agencies such as SGI be in support of providing funding to such a unit in hopes of reducing insurance claims?
Get rid of the fancy things like the airplane and emphasize work with agencies that assist the poor, first nations and especially the mentally ill and addicts on the street. We need to and ensure police are trained in working with people that make a lot less money than they do. I suspect it's difficult for police to understand the issues faced by the poor and first nations people. They need more training.
Get rid of plane .stop the police overtime.the police should walk the streets not sit in their cars ..why do we pay police 100000 \$ a year to fill in forms.if they were doing a good job we would not have high crime rate
Yes, Saskatoon is growing. Hospitals and schools feel it every bit as much as the police do but there is no increase in funding for hospitals and schools. Staff are just told they have to do more with less. Our police chief is a bit grandiose with his armored vehicles, airplanes, police palace, etc. Perhaps he could focus more on policing and less on toys.
Really need to start basing services off other cities that are successful. Don't understand why such an increase
Our country continues to be a safer place year after year. That trend is reflected in our city. We do not need more police to enforce petty bylaws.

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they are doing a good job. An easy way of reporting minor incidences without going to the police station would be a big help. For instance, if someone steals my garden hose, I am not taking time off from work to go down there - but the police should know that there are issues in a neighbourhood.
Use the revenue from the speed cameras that have supposedly garnered great financial results.
Reduce drug usage
Look at how to better utilize the staff you have. Sending 10 cars to a shooting when 5 or 6 would do. Better response time to accidents and violence reports would be appreciated.
Already employ more cops per 100000 than calgary,too much emphasis on speeders,not enough on alphabet city
(xx). Expedite the promised renegotiation of the police pension plan and reflect the savings in the budget. Aside from staff increases (xx) compensation costs exceed any other units, this cannot continue.
The police budget is out of control...restraint is needed or it will overwhelm the city's resources. More police are not needed...better use of the existing resources, which are plentiful, is.
We need more drinking and drinking monitoring and arrests. People are not scared to drink and drive here.
Make it requirement for police to investigate crime; disipline them when they refuse to inforce the law - dismissal for refusing. Educate them to be curtios to victims, not vindictive. Establish an ombudsman to handle complaints.
Gangs.
More community engagement and public assistance, less focus on petty crime/ticket-able offences and more focus on ensuring safe neighbourhoods.
lowering salary of top officials to allow for more officers on the streets. Less admin staff. We want officers on the streets responding to calls.
Personal and property risk reduction through increasing emphasis on current social/societal (root cause) long-term positive effects.
Not sure it would change much, we still have high crime rates and the police force focus is on money grabs rather than policing.
I believe our City has created laws that it is ridiclious to have police enforcing. Spitting, smoking in a park,etc. does not really endanger residents. If they were left to do actual police work, they would not require so much additional money. Also, it should not require an actual police officer and the accompanying police officer's salary to hand our traffic violations - for example failing to signal should be ticketed, but does not require a fully training police officer.
The city is growing,,,we need MORE officers!!!!!!
Police should start using tax funds more appropriately. Their new building is over done and an airplane how necessary is that.
Priority to make streets safe for citizens, to be able to enjoy public spaces including trails, etc.
Could the Saskatoon police force br more pleasant to interact with? Whenever I have an experience with the Saskatoon police it is not a good one. This not the case with police forces in other cities or other countries.
I think that I'm getting good value for this money. We need to get a lid on crime -- I hate it when we are always listed as the crime capital of canada.
Homelessness reduction by making a priority for housing before addictions treatment, like medicine hat did!
Love the new building. Tough job but they seem to be trying to work with the community.
When they respond to a minor incident they should use it as a community out reach, not a waste of their time.
Personal safety in all neighbourhoods with visible police presence in all neighbourhoods. Higher focus on street drugs, prohibited weapons and gang activity.
Pay the secretaries less. Apparently they are paid more than the managers of some other departments within the city.
Invest in prevention of crime through increased equality and social services dealing with root causes, rather than focusing on superficial symptoms.
Gang and drug control, community presence to reduce property related crime in residential neighbourhoods.
Shift positions into prevention rather than response.
Community strolling quasi police not necessary - every penny counts.

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What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Police Service? What change(s) would you suggest?

It took an hour and 10 mins to get a response to an attempted break and enter into my house at 1 am, and carding on the west side is a major charter violation. Youth detained overnight for non violent offences is inappropriate. It also seems ridiculous that we don't have road checks for such a large city, to prevent drinking and driving.
Invest the funds better planning of the city to result a overall happier city population leading to less crime
Make sure we have enough officers on the street and quit with having them work the highways handing out tickets. Saskatoon Police Service should service our city and the RCMP can look after the rest. I believe our present police chief is doing a great job.
Reduce traffic cops. Focus on drugs gangs and property crime. I would pay more to have this focus as opposed to driving by 10 cops nailing speeders at one location. My property crime and thieving are much more important. I am very unhappy with the police service in respect to serving my interests.
Spend less time nailing people for minor driving offences and more time on improving public relations
We could always benefit from more funding for police services.
Just to top heavy,top brass making way to much money doing nothing??
Initiate a "Lean" program for City Police- make them more efficient at what they do.
I totally agree with Weighill's belief, that we need to get to the root of the crime problem rather than deal with the consequences. i believe education and sport is the key. Keeping these young offenders in school and involved in sports or art or anything extracurricular will help. Could some of the recreation funds be used to sponsor some free use of community leisure centers? Poverty is an issue, but even poor people can go to school.
I would life to see an increase in enforcement of aggressive drivers in the city.
We should not be concerned with police response times but how the police are trained and how they move up the ladder. Rookie cops should be out walking the beat in core areas with experienced officers. They should also be wearing hi-viz uniforms instead of this ugly, (xx) black stuff that we've had since the mid or late 90s. What's wrong with blue, which has the psychological effect of encouraging latent trust (black has the opposite effect and is hard to spot from a distance). What's the knock against hi-viz vests: "Criminals can see us coming." Isn't that the point? To scare them off/keep them on the run? I'd rather be able to see at a glance that there's a cop nearby if/when I'm in trouble (especially important for women and people living with disabilities) rather than see someone wearing intimidating colours. Who represents the community wearing black? No one--because it's NEGATIVE. It creates distrust. Hire more women and Aboriginals. If you can't hire more of them, what does that say about how this profession is esteemed by these groups??!? Act like a more representative force. People haven't forgotten about Mr. Thunderchild and the Northern Lights tours. We need to have an entirely different approach to policing that isn't about bandaid solutions (as indicated by this stupid alarmist red notice strip after I drew the line left to decrease the budget): we shouldn't be thinking of response times but about how to deal with the root causes of crime, namely poverty, addictions, inequality in society and lack of buy-in among certain groups in society with regard to the larger community. This whole notion that we need more cops to keep up is only adding to the problem. It's cyclical, or can't anyone at the city see that?
The increase in police numbers should be funded by the property taxes resulting from growth in population. The increase in building maintainance costs would not have been necessary if the new police building had not been built as a de-luxe hotel.
Satisfied with current
Perhaps if there were more supports in other areas the police wouldn't be needed so much.
address source of problem - poverty, plus reduce speeding on major arteries
Get the airplane up more, if needed. More bylaw enforcement officers, have them handle more of the local laws and police can work on larger crimes / traffic issues.
Saskatoon's crime rate is horrible. Figure it out. Stop spending. Why not sell the old police station for something to help out. There was a reasonable offer last year... instead of sitting vacant for years.
A reactive approach to policing. There are other ways to reduce and support the community in a proactive way.
Focus on the social issues that cause the crime in the first place. Just locking people up or excessive carding is not the answer.
Increase the number of police officers
Police just received more than \$4 million, how much is enough?

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What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Police Service? What change(s) would you suggest?

<p>I think the priority of the police should be against violent offenders and property crimes. Wasting resources to go after people with personal amount of pot is not the answer. Im not a pot smoker, but this just seems like a complete waste of time an money.</p>
<p>Party patrols - seriously? 2 squads respond to noise complaints. Gun crimes are way up in Saskatoon, good to see the resources going to the right places. It is those reasons I would decrease funding, in areas not needed.</p>
<p>focus on serious crime. Do not focus on petty crimes</p>
<p>More money for social programs i.e. housing, addictions, poverty reduction. More of a focus on address route of most crime: poverty, mental health, and addictions issues.</p>
<p>stop wasting money on traffic violations and speed traps, more concentration on crime & crime areas, My fence is deteriorating and house needs painting. My house and yard have to look good also, What right does the City have to have all its properties neat and clean and new and mine are not even close to that. Tighten the belts reduce staff or quit building new buildings for everyone. I have suffered for 20 years or more surely you can do some spending freezes instead of always increases.</p>
<p>I reduce this funding in order to fund wage increases for Access Transit drivers.</p>
<p>I suggest they become more streamlined , more efficient with what they have to work with, time management, I see a lot of police vehicles driving around and all meeting for breakfast/lunch/supper at the same time. Meal`s are required I accept that, but nothing is being prevented. Also (xx) relocate officer`s to help out in the out skirts of Saskatoon and get funding from the the provincial goverment extra officer`s are not required. (xx). Bottom line is no matter how many police are out on the street they cant be everywhere. Please use tax payer`s \$ wisely. Also please look into all the electronic devices in police vehicles they are a distraction, which has been witness`ed</p>
<p>The city needs to become more progressive and forward thinking- focus MORE on affordable housing, smart urban -AFFORDABLE- planning, job creation for low income or unemployed and focus on services for the communities - that is how crime decreases.</p>
<p>Police are overpaid. Unfortunately this appears to be true in all of western Canada not just Saskatoon. City Council must take a broad-based approach, including working with other city councils to rein in runaway police budgets. The increasing costs of policing should be covered by the broadening of the tax base as the city grows.</p>
<p>The primary concern should be prevention of crime, detection and apprehension of law offenders. Let the machines give out the traffic tickets.</p>
<p>The police do not response in a rapid time when called. Set proper priorities for police services. le someone harming themselves is not as important as someone harming others.</p>
<p>More attention needs to be focused on social issues instead of only focusing on suppression. Intervention and prevention are key parts of policing. Look at models other cities have implemented. I want to move away from Saskatoon because it is dangerous. The recent increase in gun violence makes me feel scared to be in pharmacies. I don't feel safe walking around. Non-random violence is becoming a thing of our past which is very scary. Actual issues need to be focused on such as gang violence and the explosion of prescription drugs on our streets</p>
<p>Something isn't working as crime is increasing as are violent crimes. More officers is not the solution - as seen in the past, but a new tactic is required.</p>
<p>Police must have too much money if they have huge resources to take down a medical marijuana store -- is that really a priority? Police have just gotten a contract that gave them a raise significantly above inflation and no indication that they are having a hard time recruiting or retaining officers. If the wage increases were based on inflation, they wouldn't need the increase they are now asking for. Fixed income/retired taxpayers don't have the ability to continue to pay for this type of wage increases. Need to make better use of the police building that was built for a population of 500,000- they need to be using some of the extra space much more effectively for the benefit of the City and taxpayers. More lower cost staff need to be doing some of the lower skilled tasks - don't need high paid police officers for all duties.</p>
<p>cancel the surveillance airplane</p>
<p>Hire more police & less city hall administrators!</p>
<p>Decentralized deployment of patrol cars. Higher presence, faster response times. Every fire hall and residential street is a potential dispersal point.</p>
<p>Focus on community policing</p>

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This is the one area where I would be willing to heavily increase my tax disbursement, and increase it considerably (even higher than the slider).

The continued lack of Police presence, graffiti program, sting programs, etc; is disturbing. This Cities crime management practices in general are disgusting. In the last 8 years of living here, I have gone from loving living here, to building a compound around my house to protect my family and my possessions. The police force needs to increase along with the development.

This is the primary reason we are considering selling and moving away from Saskatoon. Lack of aggressive forward thinking programs, such as vehicle and bicycle theft "stings", graffiti program, stronger gang programs, hard drug programs, etc.

To be present in the community, instead of waiting for a call be pro active.

Highest property taxes in Canada with highest Crime rate
Maybe change the laws . Weak laws repeat business for court system and more spending for protection . Instead of building \$130,000,000 police station . Add on to each fire hall , 3 million per hall firehall / police station
Per neighbour . Easily done for under \$50,000,000

Dont worry about someone going 10 km an hour over the speed limit and go after real criminals, gangs, drugs, etc

Enough is spent

Stop wasting my money chasing petty drug crime and harmless dispensaries. Put this money into preventative programs that have shown to be more effective.

Reduce crime. Follow up on phone calls from the community. Stop the robberies.

My top priority includes NOT SPENDING city funds/tax dollars to close down a marijuana dispensary -- seriously. Saskatoon has an issue with racism and other social problems lets spend some money addressing those issues. I live in a core neighborhood, the police respond quickly to problems as they arise, but having more police, won't address the social issues that lead to crime in this city.

Crack down on drugs and driving while texting,phoning or drinking.

Hold the line on this budget! Reduce salaries of Chief and non-patrol management. More foot patrols in business areas other than downtown (33rd, 22nd, Broadway)

Do not fall behind on hiring an adequate number of officers. Not hiring enough last year has made a visible impact and not in a positive way.

Increased police presence

(xx) Stop wasting money on investigating the use of marijuana. If you have money to waste on pointless jobs like that you have too much money in your budget

Allocation for police force drug division should be diminished and the funds should be diverted to solving social issues. Some examples would be mental therapy, drug rehabilitation and public housing.

Focus on prevention rather than the discipline of criminals. Legalize marijuana to further free up our legal system.

More Patrol officers

Research best practices on effective use of police resources - what combination of tactics has been shown to be effective in other North American cities? It's not enough just to have more cops; you have to be strategic. Don't waste resources on pointless laws like not being able to swim in the river.

Simple - eliminate the wasteful, unnecessary, non-essential Eye in the Sky Police Plane Program. This money instead could be used for more practical purposes such as having more Officers on the ground patrolling the streets and enforcing traffic violations such as the dangerous practice of cell phone use. Judging by the number of traffic violations that we see when driving around the City, we are sure that the number of tickets that one Officer could issue in one day would more than pay for his/her wage, car, employee benefits, etc.

The Police Chief has stated that urban sprawl substantially increases his costs. He has also frequently stated that SOCIAL solutions are required to reduce crime. Start putting some serious effort and resources into these social solutions. For example drug addiction creates a lot of crime to feed the addiction, so provide treatment and eliminate the illicit drug trade and thus starve the gangs to extinction. Eliminate poverty and ensure adequate, affordable housing, etc., etc.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Police Service? What change(s) would you suggest?

We should establish community response teams with a social work / mental health focus
More cops please.
I don't understand why every year we need a police increase above inflation when crime rates are overall down
We pay enough for police services - not a penny more should be given - they, like everyone else, should learn to live within their budget!
Address the issues of crime in our neighbourhoods more aggressively. It's not just on the west side either.
Keeping up with new officers as city grows.
Don't card minorities or raid medical marijuana dispensaries.
No priorities except less focus on marijuana and more on real crime
Crime is going down, we don't need any more tanks are military grade weapons, invest in poverty reduction instead.
Spend less time trying to catch speeders on 60 km/h roads and more on vehicles hauling loads or towing trailers with insecure loads and defective equipments. More regular patrols through residential neighbourhoods - visual presence will deter inappropriate or illegal behaviour.
Keeping it from militarizing further and being even more removed from the majority of Saskatoon citizens.
Too much of a priority, more enforcement seems to just be creating more crime. Stop going after marijuana smokers.
Too much money invested in policing crime, not enough investment addressing the root causes of crime.. Poverty, systemic racism, wealth inequality.
Maintain the services as they are per capita, however I think it is time they start living within the same kind of inflationary increases the working population does
Decrease the fancy stuff-don't even get me started on the cost of the police palace. Spend it on police officers! How many times has the tank been use Different?
with better icing control & snow removal we would see a reduction in MVAs which would require fewer responses and allow police to focus on crime, hire bylaw officers vs police officers which should be cheaper for non violent issues. Increase speed limits to 60 on 8th, and some of the other roadways as it seems most people travel that speed anyways, would require less policing.
definitely need more police presence as the scum in this city is getting out of control....also want the police to be involved with idiots/druggies who steal our pets to support their habits
I would like to see some funding funnelled away from police on the streets and put towards social programs that help prevent crime such as poverty reduction, affordable housing and mental health services.
An increase to allow more patrol cars, however, I would like to see an additional committee established to keep wage increases the same as other civic areas rather than basing it on country wide mandated increases. At some point this is unsustainable and needs to be dealt with.
Patrol the north industrial as a deterrent instead of fishing for speeders on Millar Ave on the weekends. Quit wasting tax dollars on the drug war and all other victimless crimes. (xx)
Maybe stop raiding the compassion club. I am relatively sure there are a lot more individuals/groups committing far worse crimes.
Cancel the plane more walking beat police instead.
The Saskatoon Police should be focusing on gang activity and violent crime in Saskatoon rather than focusing on carding people downtown and busting the Compassion Club.
I think the police service is good. They have been more of a presence downtown, which has helped with the high homeless traffic down there. The community people that work for the city but are not cops, I think they are awesome and we need more of them. They deal with the inner city homeless people really well. But, I don't think increasing the city will help the current problems. Saskatoon is growing really quickly and social problems are increasing with it. I think If more resources are dedicated towards tackling the source of the problem. I don't know what all those would be, but affordable housing is one. Maybe also access to affordable food. Have more resources to inner city programs. Create a progressive view to the drug problem. Which the city has done there is access to the fentanyl test to see what the drug is. Currently there is lots of armed robberies, that is sad to see. Not sure how that would be fixed. I have meet and witnessed more kind cops then mean heavy hand ones. Which I am very happy to see. I think cops are more social workers then military police. As which has been in the news in other countries and cities lately. Keep up the great work.

**SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS
(Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)**

**What are your top priorities for Saskatoon Police Service?
What change(s) would you suggest?**

More boots on the street

There have been recent significant budget increases. Police should have adequate funding per officer. However goal should be to reduce need for policing per capita. Investigate other jurisdictions (esp. developed European and Scandinavian nations) and emulate their best practices. You cannot force the public into compliance. Instead more funds should be spent on social services and community support, and on urban forms that are associated with lower policing requirement per capita (dense, mixed-use, mixed demographic, walkable, active).

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Transit/Access Transit? What change(s) would you suggest?

More bus shelters, additional routes, more buses on busy routes. Until it is cheaper and more convenient to leave my car at home, I'm not going to ride the bus.
I fully support the Transit Plan laid out in the Growth Plan to Half a Million. This will take \$\$!
More focus on transit and alternative modes of getting around will require less money to maintain vehicle-bashed roadways.
Developer newer routes and more efficient routes also start saving for LRT
Our transit system is dismal compared to many other cities, and its horribly expensive to use. This has to change.
I do not use transit so cannot assess how it is doing and what needs changes
Rapid bus service. Build this system out. They will not come until it is built.
I'd like to see newer, more efficient and quieter busses in Saskatoon.
i don't take transit, but i sure notice all the buses are empty most of the time. Why not start commuter buses from places like Stonebridge that get on the freeway off clarence and go downtown every morning and say at rush hour, I would take them for sure if this happens.
Greater lobbying from the Provincial and Federal governments from the gas tax, etc. This impacts the environment and should be a top priority when granting major project funding to municipalities.
There are 3 or 4 bus stops right within our house, why? Also, they sit at some stops and idle for 20 minutes. Aren't we trying to be an idle free place?
It is my understanding that 4% of the population use public transit and the rest of the community pay for it to a great extent as such there should be a greater user pay approach to public transit.
lower fares.
privatize it
If I could I would reduce the City's subsidization of the transit service to zero. This wins for the biggest boondoggle in the city. No one uses it but the busses keep going around and around and around burning fuel, employing staff and spending capital like drunken sailors in relation to ridership.
decrease ridership costs and better routes with more frequent service during peak hours.
Quit putting money in a perennially money losing venture. Ridership nation wide is dropping. Have central community stops not every block. Express lanes will not work in old infrastructure as buses still make the same stops and traffic lights. This will only lead to more of a back lash by commuters
we dont use transit because it is not more efficient than driving our truck. Route time needs to be faster than us driving. It takes 10-15 minutes to drive to downtown and sometimes takes just over an an hour to get home using transit at 5pm on a week day. For changes, it seems like the city gives free bus service lots - canada day, new years, federal election - so less free service.
Saskatoon Transit really sucks. Improve routes. Have night buses. Run the buses on feeder routes from the downtown to University, and from 20th Street and Broadway to the downtown, from 5:00 AM to 2:00 AM.
I am sure you can find efficiencies here as well.
Increase Access Transit. Decrease regular transit to only the routes and hours of heavy use. This service should be privatized, and not provided by the City of Saskatoon. The amount of funds spent on Transit studies over the past 15 years is amazing, and virtually no progress has been made. Citizens of Saskatoon want to drive their cars, not ride the bus!
subway/rail system. I'm not joking. well maybe I am.
The system is already in shambles and why should I pay for something I never use
Access Transit should be the priority. As I travel around the city, I often see buses with only a few people on them. Why run those routes, or perhaps change the large bus to a smaller vehicle for those routes, thus saving fuel.
Move the bus barns sooner - develop a much better downtown terminal.
If the city settles with the transit union and keeps fares low I would suggest I can live with this rate. Sometimes I feel that those with the least money have a difficult time coming up with money for the bus fare. I realize that sometimes it can be claimed on income tax.
Free rides for everyone
I'd suggest more professionalism with drivers. IF you saw them on the road you would see that they are not good drivers at all.
To attract new transit goers we must increase the level of service and dependability of our public transit system. It is no secret that our culture is adversed to public transit. I believe we should be cultivating a new generation of public transit goers by focusing on youth and high school students. Not to sound defeatist, but

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the middle-aged in our city are fully dependant on their private-vehicle lifestyles. We should be focusing on fostering a culture of public transit in the new generation.
If I am paying for Transit to exist, it might as well be a service worth using. I would take transit more often if it were in any way more convenient. At present, the half hour between schedules does nothing to encourage its use.
Better service is required to make anyone with options ride the bus.
Reducing overtime and controlling wage increases. Also, we need to do rapid transit right - this means skipping BRT and going straight to a Strasbourg-style on-street tram.
This should be a top priority - improved transportation options to reduce the need for single occupancy vehicles.
Good as is
Transit is useless in a city of this size and population. I am tired of subsidizing it
see above. I can drive to work in under 20 minutes, bus takes over an hour, with 15 min wait between buses. I used to walk faster to the YWCA than waiting for a bus!
If they already haven't then reduce frequency on routes at non peak hours. I cannot count the number of times I see a bus going by with only 2 or 3 passengers.
Heated bus shelters would attract me to use the transit system more often in the winter. And digital schedules at stops telling me when I can expect the next bus.
Increase frequency of busses to in demand locations.
reduce hours in the evening
Improve service and dedicate roadways to buses so that they are faster than private cars.
No free bees to anyone, if we all work together & contribute to the system, we are all equal, if you ride you pay. Do not buy someone else problems, better bus Mtc.
express or rapid bus service routes with fewer stops and cleaner buses
Either city should overhaul its transit system completely or should minimize expenses of all old bus maintenance. There is hardly an bus shelter in whole city where people can stand in extreme weather conditions.
Up the bus passes.
Major improvements are necessary for Saskatoon Transit. I have very few good things to say about the current state of affairs. The Growth Plan is a step in the right direction but I think more aggressive action is required and would be beneficial to the city as a whole.
An elaborate public transit system is not required for a city of Saskatoon's size and demographic. While I support public transit, proponents of the system need to embrace the reality of Saskatoon's size and demographic. Many residents of Saskatoon choose to live here for the convenience of personal vehicle transportation. It seems entirely illogical at this time to expend the resources required to bring Saskatoon City Transit to a standard that would make the system attractive to the majority of residents.
increased ridership does not seem to be happening in a city built for cars - deal with the reality vs forcing the issue - doesn't need to be a bus stop every 150ft
Increase bus availability and efficiency and get more cars off the road. This will reduce traffic management
From the university, extended the route times late at night would be valuable.
Would like to see the 'Bus Mall' moved to the property east of the Saskatoon Police Department with cameras. How do you increase riders if they do not feel safe?
Rapid transit or more direct routes. I would consider taking the bus if it did not take as long to get to work.
This is a tricky one for me. 95% of people in Saskatoon drive vehicles and a large amount of money is being invested into bus transit. I see buses driving around with one person riding during the day sometimes. I think a massive audit is required on the effectiveness on the current system before any new budget allocations should be made.
I think the way this money is spent needs to become much more efficient.
BRT, future LRT. Planning for the future must take in to account future BRT and LRT lines when designing new neighbourhoods. Current plans are far to car-centric and lack forward thinking.
I would like to see the City move away from being the only transit provider. I would like to see more private operations providing services. Maybe the City can sell off their proposed Rapid Transit system. I would also like to see employers provide transit options to employees similar to dental and health. The transit service to the north end of the city is horrible and there are more places to go than Lawson Mall.

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What are your top priorities for Transit/Access Transit? What change(s) would you suggest?

This is a low priority because I have a car. I'm sure it is a HUGE issue for folks who do not.
Increase service levels, so more people could use transit instead of cars.
Less outward growth of our City would help provide better public transit.
Improve ease of use for the non-regular user. Some cities such as San Francisco have GPS on their buses linked to electronic signs at each stop to let you know how far away each bus is - so smart! Also, we live in a winter city - outfitting bus stops with shelters and heaters would make a lot of sense.
free public transport
No more illegal lockouts - they're too expensive. Why does it have to take so long for some departments to get a settlement while others get an 11% increase (2 years)?
Just privatize it. Its a given up part of the city since routing and timing is getting worse.
the only things I would suggest were already stated in that study - more frequent times so we can catch "a" bus rather thsan "the" bus.
Transit needs to be much cheaper and way more availability!
I do not and never will take the bus again. Connection times between the north end and downtown terminal is atrocious. I used to ride the bus everyday and it would take 1 to 1-1/2 hours to get from 42 and faithful to Preston Ave. unacceptable if they want more people to ride the transit system. It only takes 20 to 25 minutes in a car
Additional routes and subsidized monthly passes, resulting in shorter travel times to encourage more commuters to see public transit as a viable alternative to driving
user pay not taxpayer pay
Settle the contract but at what cost given the police settlement? . Not sure there is any hope for the current system , maybe more privatization? The city taxpayer is on the hook for too much of its costs, ridership is not likely to increase just a lost cause.
Transit is an abject failure. We are just throwing good money after bad. Maintain the status quo, let it perpetually bleed red ink and admit the car has won.
I ride transit everyday weekday to and from work. Customer service is abysmal. Drivers do not leave on time, customer service lines for pass renewal are unacceptable, trying to renew at City Hall is useless if paying by credit card. On many routes (1 and 8) for instance, there are some stretches where there is a bus stop every block. This is ridiculous and adds wear and tear to buses and delayed routes. It is not unreasonable for people to walk 3 or 4 blocks to the next bus stop. Raising rates is not the answer, this makes transit less desirable not more desirable. Fix the poor customer service, mandate on-time departures, and reduce the redundancy of bus stops.
more protection boot for the winter.
Incourage people to walk. I walked 16 miles a day when I went to University. Remove all meters up town. Provide shuttles to bring people down town. Park at shopping malls and use shuttles to go down town.
New buses, drivers need a raise.
proper bus shelters, LRT
User pay, plain and simple.
Buses dont connect in winter. Having quicker routes from east side to west side.extended hours.buses running more often
Quicker routes, ease of access for stops and less need for transfers.
rethink how you are attracting riders. In my neighbourhood, there is an uncontrolled intersection in the middle of a bus stop (Reid RD near 117th) and a bus shelter a block from the sidewalk requiring southbound riders to walk through snowbanks or on the road to access it. (Central north of Reid.) It could have been installed 1 block south and have sidewalk access.
this service needs a complete overhaul. My high school grade level child suffers through the bus every year. Bus drivers that don't stop for her. Busses that never show up. Routes that are poorly serviced. If you want more riders and less cars, this has to be a priority. This money SHOULD NOT go to wages and bureaucracy...but to increase the actual services we see and need in this city.
Focus on demonstrated increasing demand for Access Transit. While increased utilization of regular bus services may be a desired future state, current and historical ridership demonstrates that it is simply not a high priority for the majority of citizens. Accept this and move on.
I see huge busses driving around our City constantly with 1 or 2 passengers on board (sometimes none). I think the City should plan routes more carefully, and maybe in some instances use smaller vehicles (even vans) when ridership does not warrant a large bus and the fuel and maintenance costs associated with it.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Transit/Access Transit? What change(s) would you suggest?

Until routes are designed with good traffic flow,,and going into all areas,,theres no point spending anything on transit,,,,people will just drive,,,no matter wht..
The system is just so bad I dont want to add more taxes to the incompetence.
Priority to have a transit system that I can rely on to get to work in a reasonable amount of time. Currently, when taking bus, I have to leave home over 1.25 hours before I start work to be assured that I can make necessary connections. Drivers refuse to let other bus know that a transfer is coming. Buses going out to new subdivisions need to be better spaced; currently one bus follows the other and then there is no bus for another half hour.
I think that the goal of providing high quality service to everyone is not attainable. I think the transit service should focus on the routes with the most ridership and expand hours spent and equipment used as needed. There is no reason for an empty bus to be driving in the north industrial area at 10pm for example. That bus could instead be providing better service and actually carrying people somewhere else in the city. Could the city also have different sizes of buses running? A 15 passenger van would likely work for many routes in off peak hours. In the areas of rows and rows upon rows of homes a transit system seems almost impossible to achieve a level of good service. I find the bus, slow and expensive. Taking an hour at least to get anywhere, and at \$3 a ride that's a lot if you take it to work a minimum wage job.
We need vastly better transit. I support the initiatives for BRT and more frequent transit expressed in the growth plan. I would also support dedicated BRT lanes even if they make my car trip slower.
We don't use it as it has always let us down. Even to the point that a bus driver stopped the bus route to get a sandwich at a quizno causing the riders to miss the U of S connection and needed to run across campus to get to CLS. This last incident happened in 2014 and now we just rely on our family and friends for rides. We had even used the online bus route system to plan the connections so we know it was not a scheduled stop. Using the bus is unreliable.
Arrive on time, not early. Not take an hour to reach my destination. If there are too many transfers older people might not be able to negotiate the system.
Reduce the hours. Most buses are completely empty in the evenings. By reducing the number of empty buses driving around our city in the evening, fares could be reduced. It is less expensive for 2 people to drive downtown and park at expensive Midtown Parkade for 3 hours than it is for 2 people to take the bus. I don't think dedicated bus lanes and an extra bridge are warranted for the percentage of bus ridership even considering future population growth. With company vehicles and our "now" "now" "now" society I don't see ridership increasing!
Create more incentives for public transit use while decreasing incentives for automobile use. Consider planning for a public subway/light rail system in the near future.
Increase quality of bus fleet, customer service training for drivers, and remove oppressive advertising from windows. Clean busses on the inside so that they are no longer filthy.
No subsidy - people are not going to take a bus that takes hours and has inconvenient routes. I don't come straight home after work and if I have to detour over the bloody city to get where my gym is or other area then I will not take it!! Additionally removing traffic lanes for bus only on streets like College is asinine. Not impressed with any plans for commuter bus traffic. Again the mantra of decreased services - perhaps decreased staffing levels and salaries in line with provincial mandate instead of higher!
extended routes, more rapid transit
Privatize transit. Eliminate the expense from City expenditures freeing up funds for more important initiatives such as: leisure facilities, park space, activities for youth, young adults and seniors and funding sports, arts and culture. Also the savings would simply help support basic services the citizens of Saskatoon enjoy. The fact that 4% of Saskatonians use transit leads me to believe that transit is not a service valued by the citizens of Saskatoon. My impression is it does not meet the needs of potential users, or even generally satisfy existing users. If there is a need for transit in the City, a private service provider would happily fill the void.
Increase effectiveness of transit to make it a real alternative to cars
Until public service is efficient we should subsidize less. The bus is inconvenient for most of the city and I don't think we are near the stage of dedicated bus lanes.
I don't use it so don't take it out of me. Let the bus travelers pay for it. I pay enough for my own vehicle expenses plus have to spend for others.
N/A
All day buses, often double trains, run with few passengers. I'd like to see real data on passengers per hour

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What are your top priorities for Transit/Access Transit? What change(s) would you suggest?

for each bus in the city. Instead of wreaking havoc on the environment and the budget by running these behemoths, substitute 6 or 12 passenger vans. If one gets full, have a backup to dispatch. This would still be less costly than boating around air all day,
Improve service during working hrs 5:00 to 19:00
Have to admit, I don't use public transit simply because it only takes me 10 minutes by car to get where ever I want to go.
Burning down the old system that doesn't give a better option than driving. I have zero faith in the management of this group, distrust that the union is interested in improving things for citizens. Our public transit is a stain on our reputation. I can't understand why we raise rates for the buses when we are seeing decreased ridership. Charging a bit more per person isn't going to help. This will force people to look for alternatives and make driving a car a more viable option.
If we are truly on our way to 1/2 million residents, then the answer is not rapid bus service but an LRT system. Start off simple, but money should be put aside for the planning of LRT in Saskatoon. Think big Saskatoon!
I would love to see transit funded so that residents of Saskatoon could simply show their card and jump on the bus. There is no reason why a small increase couldn't make that happen. Ridership in areas like Hampton Village could jump for local usage between home and the center shopping areas. If you don't live in Saskatoon, then you need tickets or cash.
Get rid of drivers who don't care. Job security should be based on public and management reviews of performance. City Hall workers shouldn't get free parking stalls but should instead be given a free bus pass. Lower the cost per individual trip back to \$3. The current cost is a joke, even if it's only 10 or 25 cents more. To imagine that Calgary's transit is far better and costs less should give the STS something to think about.
I do not see any need to subsidize this service. Let the user cover his/her own costs of getting around just like I do.
more frequent service; routes along Circle Drive - express from one area to another
human rights based Access transit, freedom to book trips without judgement. need fair funding increase
We do not use public transit. I do not think that I should have to pay almost 4 times the amount for road repairs for a service that we do not use. Mostly due to the horrible times and amount of transfers. Monitor use carefully. Why are double buses being used at 10am? How to best send one bus to similar communities and have a central drop off/terminal that then commuters can better access other services.
Decreasing route availability might help make the system more usable. It doesn't have to go everywhere. A more strategic approach would be beneficial here.
Make this a priority rather than building new infrastructure for cars.
How about smaller buses to circle an area and larger ones for transfer terminals. Like bigger cities.... Calgary
Lower cost for users
10 min frequency. New busses. Dedicated bus lanes. Busses that are clean and comfortable. Driver training.
The transit department is a joke. I think we all know how tax payers feel about this department
Dedicated rapid transit routes that won't randomly change. Actually create rapid transit routes (i.e. that don't stop every two blocks) on 8th, 22nd, and Idylwyld) and use feeder buses to get people to those routes and/or build park and ride locations. Actually get policy in place to ensure the development around major transit routes is appropriate for those people getting on/off a bus. There shouldn't massive wind swept parking lots between the grocery store and the transit stop. Stop looking at transit as last resort only for those who can't afford other options. Stop treating transit spending like a subsidy exclusively for those that take transit. Every person take the bus benefits those having drive by reducing congestion.
should pay for itself....
The salary of an Access Transit driver must be no less than that of a "main line" driver, and probably more, given the former's additional duties of ensuring that the passenger is safely escorted to their door and safely secured in the bus, among other things. I would reduce the police request accordingly.
This city should really figure out where the most user friendly routes are required, and then understand you can't be everywhere for a few select riders that complain the service is not close enough. I live by a bus stop that I feel is very unnecessary judging by the amount of people on the bus at any given time. I see the bus every time it stops in front of my garage. For this issue i will never ever use public transit. Figure it out! There is usually 2 car's at least per household, Quit chasing a some what dead horse!
More money to Access and less to regular transit.

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More focus on affordable transportation will help low income and unemployed - so they can afford to get to jobs- resulting in less crime. Again- forward progressive thinking needs to happen.
I used to use city transit but have not used it in many years. I gave up on it long ago.
I feel this is an important service that is underutilized; primarily because it is not efficient. I like taking the bus, it is an opportunity to read while I am transported to work. However, it is a 1 hour bus ride to work or a 10 minute drive. I live in avalon and work near the airport.
See some of my transit related comments above on roadways.
No new buses, subway or train system. the Transit system in Saskatoon is horrible and cutting down lanes to make them for transit only is a terrible idea. Access transit is great but usually the people who need it are on a limited budget.
It needs to be more convenient to take the bus than it is to drive in order for people to use transit. No one will use it if it takes longer to get places on the bus. Better routes, faster routes, and bus lanes would be beneficial. The price to ride the bus is close to what it costs for parking so that's another downfall. The bus depot downtown needs to be cleaned up, many people are scared to go down there because it's perceived as dangerous. I would set up a new location all together for a fresh start.
Safety at bus stops and better shelters are needed before the service can expand and attract new customers
Focus transit resources so that buses are on time - which everyone benefits from instead of adding bells and whistles. Too many people are having bad experiences with rude drivers - suggest that focus needs to be on ensuring reliable and courteous staff.
Provide on time pickups at bus stops. It is a huge frustration & deterrent to taking transit when you have to wait outside in the blowing snow @ -40C and the bus arrives 10 minutes late at your stop.
Make plans for lrt.
Until the BRT system is operational there is little point in spending more tax dollars on a transit system that few citizens use. Increase the annual fees paid by post-secondary students by 10-20% to increase revenue.
The bus is ridiculous. When the free service was offered after the lockout I took my children on a bus ride downtown. Used the online schedule to determine what time the returning bus would leave the stop. After waiting at the stop for more than 45 min the other people at the downtown stop said, oh that bus only runs every 2 hours in the evenings. So we walked home. Good thing it was a beautiful evening.
Brutal. Not to mention expensive and inconsistent. I would want to have to rely on it for work etc.
1/ 15 Minute service city wide, 20/7 and smaller buses that do less damage to roads and traffic patterns. People work from 0600 to 0200 every day and we can't get a bus. The city's phobia against hiring drivers is causing massive traffic congestion and a lack of faith in the transit service.
2/ Time to start buying emission free buses.
More! Implement plan that administration proposed at faster pace. Bus lanes .
Stop subsidizing. User pay. Everyone pays the same per ride. Better route strategy like fewer locations (ex: for every 2 stops split difference and put one in middle where possible). Shelters of some type at each location.
Transit needs major work to make it convenient and attractive to citizens.
1. If we could stop buying old busses that need to be fixed all the time and do a capital investment into new fuel efficient busses that can make it through a winter without breaking down. And not take a 5 year study costing hundreds of thousands to come to a decision on which busses to buy. Perhaps trial 3 or 4 different manufacturers as part of the tender process for a season or two. Free "demo" busses for the winter?
Up the fares for people using the bus
It would be great to see our rapid transit plans come into effect sooner rather than later. With all of the bedroom neighborhoods on the outskirts now, we need to improve transit services to business areas to make it easier for people to get to work. This of course reduces traffic and many other issues the prior questions address. I would pay more than a \$25.76 increase (double or triple) for transit but that is the max that the scale allows.
It should be self sustaining, user pay.
More frequent service. No more hour service ever
I like the city's future plan for public transportation: Get away from having all routes constrained by central hubs. Take the money to implement this well, and as quickly as possible, to reduce the trend towards car-dependent sprawl that we see on the edges of the city.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Transit/Access Transit? What change(s) would you suggest?

Reduce cost of bus fares. No free bus fares to refugees. Our own Canadians who are not employed should be given free bus fares before those outside our country. Refugees already get free bus passes from federal govt during their first year in Canada
Why are transit users the only transportation to pay for use? The transit system sucks. The buses are standardized. You can't get GPS notification. And the routes are abysmal.
Make transit smarter, incentivized, and quicker for a user to navigate the city.
I don't use it.
Transit should try to be self sufficient, user pay
System doesn't work. Takes too long to get anywhere, quicker to use any other method of travel (including self propelled). Cannot justify giving it more money until it works.
Settle this contract and bring wages in line with other cities. New buses that work!
Rapid transit!
Focus on electrically powered vehicles to reduce operational costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
Better routes and Less wait times not peak hours and get business to use public transit
Better adherence to schedules, especially in winter; more bus shelters; digital signs showing next arrival (via GPS technology) in bus shelters along busiest routes; bus fares on the dollar or a dollar amount plus 25 cents, 50 cents, or 75 cents (raising to \$3.10 was stupid).
Later service on Sundays and more express routes. (Direct route without stops from one hub to another) (e.g., Circle Mall to University)
Transit, in conjunction with active transportation, needs to become the backbone of all commuter and other people-moving traffic. Seriously reduce spending on new or widened arterial roads and instead spend most funds for the next 50 years on improving transit and AT.
We need to look at express bus routes
Privatize Saskatoon Transit.
I live in Hampton...my senior mom is (xx) in Westview. Our bus service sucks. Nothing during the day???? At least if a bus ran on 37th we could access it. McClocklin has nothing anymore. There is NO bus close. It runs around the outer area - Richardson to Hampton Blvd. Missing the inner areas. Put a bus line on either 37th or McClocklin once an hour at least!!!!
Nothing during the day for seniors or anyone to get to appointments or home. This is ridiculous!
Reduce the service as the city certainly has made no effort at all to improve the situation despite spending too much money on it!
Make riding transit more palatable. I ride every day and even I find grouchy attitudes and inconsistent service extremely frustrating. How do you attract new riders with that kind of service?
BRT and fleet renewal
More frequent service; faster adjustment to future transit plans; bus only lanes; prioritization of transit over single vehicle transportation
Better routes, make it worthwhile to buy a bus pass
Better access for newer areas; more frequent service on evenings and weekends. The current fares are similar to what you'd pay in larger cities, but the current service isn't on par.
Transit ridership has been steadily decreasing, obviously the current strategy isn't working. A 16% reduction in per capita ridership from 2013 to 2014 is shameful, a 55% reduction since 1987 is just sad. Let's invest in transit, BRT, Buses every 5 min on major routes, lower fares.
never used a bus in time I lived here. neither has my family
Bus shelters. Better routes. Park and ride facilities.
Focus on a BRT complete with dedicated transitways, river crossing, proper stations and high speed high frequency service along one or two backbone corridors (E-W and N-S), then redo all local bus routes to service the nearest stations.
Top priorities: Increase funding Suggestions: Encourage residents to commute to bus terminals or the edge of Bus rapid transit zones so they can drive a small distance in the suburbs and utilize transit to take them the rest of the distance into the city. A combination of car trip and bus trip to get to work/University could seem more viable to commuters. ONLY transit and ONLY car may not be mutually exclusive.
Continue modernizing the fleet. Make public transit a desirable means of transportation. Another place the city can lobby for changes to the provincial development act. Some basic level of funding for capital investment in public transportation via development levies. Increase frequency, especially on higher volume routes. Start increasing frequency for evenings & weekends, possibly even morning hours. Consult with

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<p>business community and workers to learn when they start operations in the morning and ensure transit routes begin early enough for people to get to work on time. Start planning for bus lanes, priority traffic signals. educate the non-transit using public that the more people that use public transit, the less cars are on the road. Even non-users benefit from increased transit usage. Encourage and promote higher density development along high volume / high frequency routes. Work with the school boards to create a "U-pass" for high school students, they shouldn't be paying significantly higher fares than post-secondary students. Transit routes should be high on the priority snow clearing list. This will increase reliability of transit and potentially attract more users.</p>
<p>Do something about all the buses I see running around completely empty, maybe reduced schedules during off peak hours. you are not going to force people into riding the bus so qive up trying, and spend some of this money on parking in the downtown area</p>
<p>I don't use it.</p>
<p>get rid of all public transit as we are not capable of providing decent dependable service</p>
<p>increased LRT but as Edmonton has seen with that you have to increase parking spaces for park and ride and make them reasonable enough or free so that people will park and ride. The greatest amount of people seem to be University students as traffic dwindles in the summer so I would say to the University should be priority. Transit needs to be easily accessible for people to use in our colder climates.</p>
<p>worked there for 22 years - no comment - transit was always a joke & still is</p>
<p>Allow Uber into the city without regulation.</p>
<p>Treat the drivers better</p>
<p>Transit really needs a lot of work. For a city the size of Saskatoon, we have the least functional transit system. Ridership is down because buses are frequently late and transfers between buses get frequently missed, so it's almost impossible to get where you are going in a reasonable amount of time. Meanwhile, service out to the suburbs is not as frequent as advertised, forcing people to drive vehicles, which contributes to our traffic problem, and then everyone ends up paying a ridiculous amount of money for parking downtown. We should make an effort to be more green, and subsidize the prices of annual bus passes (which are stupidly expensive) and lower the price of fares in order to increase ridership.</p>
<p>Routes that cover the city more. Within communities, routes that not just go east and west/north and south, or make them intersect for transferring, not only at terminals. Put GPS on the bus, so I can track it on my phone. I know when my bus with actually be at my stop. My kid takes the bus to school, it is a 30 - 40 min ride in the opposite direction to go by his school. Otherwise would be a 15 - 20 min bike ride. Personally, I have taken the bus over the years. Most recently there was a express that would take me to work (awesome). But, the PM express sometimes would run other time it would not without enough notice. I used to take the bus to and from the university. That was horrible in the afternoon, there was never enough capacity. I would wait for the next bus, same problem. I would like to see the city starting to plan/budget/set aside land for a LTR instead of one more bridge. Bridges just encourage more cars and more driving.</p>
<p>Should be self sustaining</p>
<p>Increase transit development, accelerate the Transit plan in the Growing Forward growth plan to 500k. Much more cost-effective than filling potholes - decrease load on streets by single-occupant vehicles.</p>
<p>Currently we are not a large enough city to support a world class transit system. Furthermore, I believe transit costs should be fully covered by the users, not subsidized by taxpayers.</p>

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What are your top priorities for Planning & Growth? What change(s) would you suggest?

Do not build a traffic bridge at 33rd street! A pedestrian/bike bridge would be great there.
I think we've done a good job here. I'd maintain status quo.
Hiring young, ambitious, and talented community planning professionals to manage the city's growth responsibly and according to established standards in the community planning field. NOT the status quo. We should ACTIVELY AVOID becoming just another suburban city like Calgary.
We cannot maintain growth. Instead of paying more staff to service lots let the market correct itself. We have been servicing lots at an alarming rate and now we have too many homes on the market.
Planning for growth is important, but the city's priority seems to be mostly new neighborhoods at the expense of all the other growth issues. I would like to see more of a focus on revitalizing existing communities (infill, increasing density, etc.) and less salivating at the prospect of developers throwing up cookie-cutter neighborhoods in the far reaches of the city.
to avoid urban sprawl becoming a large issue and the associated effects in particular environmental effects in terms of increased car use as these areas are usually lacking in access to commonly used stores, schools, and other needs (rec centres, libraries, etc)
I do not understand this at all. Why does planning and growth need *any* input of funds from existing ratepayers? This indicates that growth does not pay for itself. I would put \$0 into this as a ratepayer.
I'd like to see options on future arterials, interchanges, BRT systems, and green city design for the future. Something the public can browse online and have input in would be nice.
sell off all the entire land bank and take those funds to fund future infrastructure needs. The city is basically playing a shell game each year and using monies to expand new areas that starve their budgets for urgent and emergency infrastructure needs. This doesn't make any sense, especially in a growing city like Saskatoon (we are the only jurisdiction in Canada that still does this)
Build it right the first time! Already the intersection of Betts and 22nd St. W. had to be changed because you never took into consideration the amount of traffic that would be coming into and leaving Blairmore, and having to retroactively add left turn lanes when that could've been done from the start. You assumed 75,000 people would be living in the area, why didn't you build roads for that amount?
Saskatoon has been on a growth curve for a number of years, we are water downed with housing, less permits, etc..possibly this year we can place some of this cash towards recreational centers, like additional hockey complex for the families who are 60% of your top tax payers. Talk about bringing money to the city- we cannot even host an AAA tournament as we do not have a complex. Now this is an embarrassment - hosting tournaments of this caliber generates a lot of money to a community.
There are tons of empty houses now, quit building them!
higher qualified city planners.
More walkable neighbourhoods would be nice (better pedestrian crossings & traffic slowing measures). Commercial areas allowing shopping close to home are good. Personally, I'd love to see a neighbourhood zoned as pet-free—I'd move there.
What does it matter anyway? City planners decide what they want to do whether the general public wants it or not ex) 33rd st bridge...
Why should this not be paid for by increased tax base?
I'm all for planning for the future, but how much of the Planning & Growth Development budget goes to "pet projects" like downtown development? Yes we want to have a "big city" downtown but shouldn't that be left mostly to the private sector?
use Calgary style development, neighbourhood builders provide services
Stop the urban sprawl. we need to start building density. Develop the lands south of Saskatchewan Polytechnic.
Decrease traffic flow in residential areas. Continue green plan. Service roads off main traffic avenues. Reduce traffic lights on major traffic avenues.
INFILL!!!! Don't listen to the NIMBY's that think century old crackhouses are worth saving, or that their neighbourhood will change because someone builds a duplex on their street.
Remove Transit service from all new outlying subdivisions. These areas should be paid for by private companies developing the areas. There should be no cost to existing tax payers. Possibly the areas should be gated communities, with no police service. Schools should not be developed in these areas, and all students bused to existing schools.
more development downtown and in core neighborhoods. more access/ability to walk and bike
Need to rethink the layout of neighbourhoods (Canadian spelling) to make access & "escape in an emergency" quicker & safer. Perhaps back to the grid rather than all the courts & crescents would

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accomplish this.
Fix the failing roads we already have before worrying about parks and beautification while the population boom has slowed down. We've expanded so much in the last few years, now we have too many places to live and not enough people to live in them. Even with students coming back to school, there are way more places to live than there are people looking to live in them. Use the funds for something we need now. Like roads.
slow the growth. How many people can actually afford all these high priced new homes?
Land development is going too fast; bubble will burst soon. Population, wages not supportive of current growth rate
Paid for by lot sales and developers, not existing property owners.
The City has already done such a fantastic job of revitalizing the downtown - so focus more on the new North Downtown neighbourhood development. I realize its probably easier to throw up giant suburbs but to continue investing in the core will help draw people into the downtown to live, play, and for services
Right now growth seems to have gotten out of hand, there are so many places empty. More people to support services do not seem to keep taxes down. Do you not pay for infrastructure when you purchase a lot/home? Even if you rent I'm sure the landlord includes the tax on the property as part of your rent.
Plan properly the first time. hirer more qualified planners
New growth should pay for itself; subsidization of new suburbs at the expense of existing home is ludicrous and a true affront to good governance.
The city is growing faster than our (taxpayers) ability to pay for it. We need to get back to the basics.
I do not believe we need more funding on planning, but we do need to cease this Saskatonian Exceptionalism and start looking to other modern centres. We are not the first city to face sprawl, we are not the coldest city on earth, we are not the only city to have unadulterated access to expansive greenlands at our city's edge in which to expand in to without physical limitations. We do, however, seem to think that all of these aspects are insurmountable and that we have no choice but to appease our taxpayers by growing outwards instead of an ernest focus on densification, revitalization and development of our core.
I want to be in a livable city. I would prefer Planning decisions be delegated to the Planners, instead of becoming election issues with councilors. Sprawl in the form of new neighbourhoods is causing undue stress on servicing.
I think our projected growth to half a million is way off. Rather than planning for unnecessary sprawl, I believe it is much wiser to prioritize polulation density while protecting the city's outlying areas such as the North East Swale and other valuable arable lands.
Another waste of 20 million
Stop doing convoluted neighborhood layouts! Plan for smaller homes, like in the core neighborhoods - more friendly, easy to find, affordable, sustainable, etc
Ensure developers are paying for this infastructure.
I like to see the balance between growth and infill.
Increase revitalization of existing neighbourhoods by providing sidewalks in areas that should have them (ie: near school zones).
The city NEEDS to be beautified...especially the older areas if we expect to attract Canadians from other provinces. There are so many places that are not very nice at all...especially as people drive into the city from the main roads. Even just cleaning up business fronts would really help. Downtown and the outer ring to the downtown must be cleaned up so that we can attract the professionals we desparately need in Saskatoon.
Emphasis needs to be put on planning for ongoing improvement in all existing neighbourhoods and the planning department needs to improve it's processes for adaptive reuse and neighbourhood rejuvenation. Singleminded focus on sprawling suburbs is a poor use of resources.
Stop big city spending, if you don't have the money don't spend it. We are not Toronto or Calgary!!!!
City is growing very minimal right now so we can put on the breaks a bit or just build the cost into the new construction permits.
I would like to see a modest increase in Planning and Growth Development. These initiatives will make our city great.
Steady growth for Saskatoon is expected. The City must plan accordingly to ensure services are delivered to new neighbourhoods on a cost-neutral basis.

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people now equate growth and development with tax increases. while it was thought the 'boom' would help with keeping taxes down, it has been the opposite for many/the majority - enough with the strip malls. growth is not 'another strip mall with a dollarama, gas station, tim hortons' - ever see a construction crane in Saskatoon... it's very rare increase business tax: more people = more \$ for business = they can help out and pay a little more.

Too Many Cooks, Its simple improve mass transit and to allow for growth and changes, People have to be discouraged from driving not encouraged. Privatization

Better maintained green space would be fantastic! Also, knocking down the abandoned homes on 22nd and Idylwyld Drive would be great.

Planning for bicycles, BRT, LRT and creating walk-able neighbour hoods. We must not fall further into the trap of the car. We do not want to become Calgary.

I am surprised this number is so low compared to all the other services in the city.

Let the new home development be paid for by the developers / new home purchases. They did not pay for my area to be developed.

I would like to see planter strips on Idylwyld from around 33rd street to around 25th street. The ones that are on 25th just before the University bridge are beautiful and they force people to cross at cross walks. This is both attractive AND safe!

Spend more on planning better for long term infrastructure (roads, sewer and water, and landscapes) Much more mindful planning of new neighbourhoods is needed and these costs should not be put on the mill rate. Large houses on small lots, too much irrigation and wasted water, poor management of soils that will be important for sustainable landscapes. Too many high maintenance and long term costs associated with the current growth. Invest earlier in better planning and slow this growth down. Growth like we are growing is not sustainable.

Please make it more attractive to live within Circle Drive. I know so many young couples and families who are attracted to new areas like Stonebridge and Hampton Village because it's cheaper to buy a home there. How can this be?? Suburban development costs should reflect the true cost of that kind of growth: not just the new roadways and utility infrastructure, but also the fire halls, schools, etc. that growth/sprawl necessitate.

Neighbourhoods haven't been planned out at all for new areas causing problems in road works and traffic flow after. Too many houses approved and now you want to infill everything which is a terrible idea. We shouldn't have to pay more tax because the infrastructure crew more than you could deal with. Maybe shouldn't have approved so much housing to have been built quickly. The booms gone, stop building.

see above comments re 33rd street bridge.

In a slumping economy and rapidly slowing real estate market, I do not see this as a priority.

I think there didn't need to be new neighborhood development for a couple years but then it may resume.

Slow down on new development and look into improving older neighbour hoods

Hire a proper top city planner...a 33rd street bridge would not decrease property values in the area? I think we have the worst of city planners

Build infrastructure sustainably and check the work of contractors. I've seen examples where shoddy work is deemed acceptable and the city refuses to hold them accountable.

Stop the sprawl. We don't need to grow outwards, we need to focus on revitalizing our current and inner communities with infill incentives. Sprawl only adds to more costs and issues for roadways, snow removal, transit, police, fire, sewer, water.....

The new areas should pay for themselves with their taxes - for their roadways and for the building of schools in the new area.

Greater focus on a high-density downtown less focus on suburban growth and city sprawl. More mixed use buildings with commercial and residential in same buildings to get more density.

we need to stop making medians look pretty and light poles painted red. Planning of areas is not well done at this time with issues like getting out of stonebridge. Whoever is planning neighborhoods needs to look at these projects closer.

Growth slow-down provides breathing room (time & \$) during which focus should be on repairs and maintenance to current infrastructure, ensuring its long-term stability.

These services should be paid for by Developers and not a cost to the City.

STOP....growing all the new areas,,,they are affecting the older neighbourhoods infrastructure!!!! The city wasn't designed to work this way....also,,plan areas more effectively....I'm totally disappointed in how their being designed...

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Growth and development should be covered more by land sales

Priorities includes revitalization of existing communities and zoning policies. Transportation and infrastructure challenges must be addressed before residential developments are approved.

Even though we have infill and other densifying policies in the growth plan we still seem to be building new neighborhoods at an alarming rate. Can the city refocus its energy and funding on making saskatoon more urban.

The walkways in the parks would not need to be resurfaced so often, if the heavy trucks did not drive on them. Dead grass is easier to fix than new pavement. Listen to the on the ground workers, on how to reduce costs. Get them involved with reducing costs.

Stop expanding. Stop making loans to young people who should be saving money to purchase their first home. Making housing available in new areas is devaluing established housing, and yet the existing homeowners are being asked to subsidize the new areas.

More walkable neighbourhoods, green spaces, and core development as opposed to suburb development.

Stronger communications related to development plans and infrastructure. Have developers responsible for road construction at the same time as building the residential areas, building roads after the infill is ridiculous.

Implement some cycling infrastructure over time to build capacity.

focus on infill

Keep revitalizing existing neighbourhoods and increase population density, particularly downtown.

Infill inner city and create policies that densify new neighborhoods while prioritizing active transportation

Let the property owners buying in new areas pay for the cost of that development. Why are we subsidizing large for profit companies?

Not my concern

I see so many empty homes around the city that need to be filled. It seems that construction is booming in areas without proper planning. Communities are made and filled with families without schools. Adding this influx of children into surrounding community schools puts strain on students, teachers, and resources. The city should slow down development until there is a need. We have to fill old homes and new homes in existing communities before starting development on another. South Kensington is completely unneeded.

Since you have deftly eliminated Administration from the tax payers budgeting exercise, I will use this space. Having spent \$10 million on a web site I'm sure you have room to reduce the part of pensioners' cheques you deposit in your own bank accounts. What would a system wide cut in management salaries of, say 12%, much less than the hit to the resource economy, do to tax bills?

For \$10 million, we should have been able to easily afford installing a line item budget tool, by department and program, and even allowed some code to give potential consequences of each line item adjustment. I know people who can write that code for you if the premium talent you hired is not up to it.

Thats enough with these stupid bridges already ??

Hire someone who actually knows what they are doing.

We need to adequately fund implementation of the growth strategy.

Inner city development and increased services

We need to take the plan to action which require funds, very important to do this thoughtfully, with proper resources.

Continue as before. Perhaps plan infrastructure in new neighborhoods for future growth and expansion. Problems in Stonebridge come to mind.

I am concerned about the amount of planning going into the half million plan. I think that it is important to do enough planning to set aside public reserves for green space and roadways. I think that the half million number within the plan dates is not likely. Use caution in spending our money for something which may not materialize

move the train tracks out of the city, and out of the planned growth areas.

No concerns.

We shouldn't be growing out more at all. Stop the insanity! Calgary learned hard lessons after the 90s and we're still building big-box malls for big-box retailers and telling developers that we don't want mixed-use residential/commercial space. Who in their right mind is against increased density for housing and neighbourhoods? If potential homeowners want to have a house and yard, let them either pay more or move to Osler or Dalmeny. Enough of this subsidizing suburban growth at the expense of livability in core areas!

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This program assumes growth is a good thing. Some growth may be necessary but when it leads to higher taxes.

more affordable parking and alternate transportation for a larger city for low income single mother families, and those with disabilities.

Heritage development, sustainable and responsible infill, NOT the development of new neighbourhoods

Stop growing out. How long before we are unable to sustain law, order & infrastructure. Every new area is that much farther away from the river. More & more pumps to pump water out & to take sewage back, the system will get overwhelmed, break and cost millions to repair. The farther you go out, the more the inner city gets forgotten about. it's coming back now, but for years was left to decay, we don't want that kind of city.

Make sure the planning takes a sustainable approach so that new developments actually reflect the priorities in the strategic plan. Our future is worth investing in and requires strong policies to lead growth and development in the right direction.

When developing new area, it is suggested to consider the proper access to allow for future growth. It has been noted that

Or you could have developers to these initiatives. Do not remove the urban forest.

Nothing should be added. If I remember growth should pay for itself from. The city is in a conflict of interest in regulating private sector land development and be in the land development business itself. Our most recent credit rating mentioned all was good except if there was a housing downturn. Guess what?

I don't believe the city should be in the business of property development. Competing with the private sector is not the answer. Especially given that the private sector does a much better job at development. The cities over inflated costs to operations have inflated land prices to the point where homes are becoming seriously unaffordable. So what is the cities solution? Make lots smaller to charge less. Way to go on creativity. You want affordable housing, make land more affordable. Its not like we are lacking space.

Get policy in place to allow more dense infill development to occur. The Garage suite guidelines and approval process is not working. Stop writing policy based on the fears of people who have not seen the type of development being proposed before. Even if it's just a pilot project for a couple years or a max number of suites that can be approved, do something so that people can actually see what that type of (slightly) more dense development looks like and give it a couple years to see if people are still terribly afraid of it once they've actually seen an example of it in a Saskatoon neighbourhood. This goes for the Infill guidelines as well. Some of the regulations are so bizarrely restrictive. It's like someone took a model of a specific 1920's house design and put together guidelines in an attempt to force people to build the same houses again and again. The limits on the width of a front porch is super bizarre considering how many heritage houses have porches running all the way across the width of the house. The height limits and limits on the height of the first floor are similarly strange. If you want infill and density, then basement suites are a great thing and a basement suite with decently sized windows is a hugely benefit, but the new regulations do not allow that.

use land bank money for growth !!

Clean up areas that are in need of revitalization, stop the sprawl.

We do not need more money put into suburban sprawl- we need money put into affordable housing. Build UP

More bike lanes and improved sidewalks for pedestrians.

Saskatoon is still a liveable city despite the recent rapid growth. I hope the city can keep it that way by focusing on re-vitalization of existing communities, alternative transportation, zoning, and development of high-quality public spaces

No more sprawl. No more "projects" style apartments to be allowed to be development. Develop the core.

Quit doing studies. Just build roads to get in and out of these new areas

none

Stop growing out, grow up. It's going to take too long to get anywhere in the city at this rate. Stop building houses and flooding the market, it's decreasing property prices and making it impossible for people to sell and move.

Focus on the core and stop expanding outwards. New condos and builds are not required and focus should be on restoring our central neighborhoods. The new subdivisions are build too quickly and the quality is low, we can't afford to keep expanding at the rate we are.

This budget needs to be smaller. How can the City of Saskatoon possibly spend over \$2M annually on planning, rezoning & heritage management?

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Get to, and learn from other cities. Hire externally. (XX).

Other means to be established to create revenue for these initiatives. For example introduction or increased levies on commercial development projects.

Why do we need to expand? Focus on what is already here within city limits. Get it right and deal with traffic issues before you add more expanded communities and more problems.

Keep with the self contained neighborhood concept. Zoning regulations should encourage essential businesses such as grocery stores that are close enough to use the bus to shop in each neighborhood.

Need more emphasise on sustainable and environmental conditions. Require higher insulation standards for me construction of both residential and commercial buildings. Less influence by developers , city set parameters and ensure development meets.

Downsize City Planning Department. Freeze Hiring in this department.

A comprehensive network of cycling routes within the core is long overdue!

Planning. That's the cornerstone here. From my understanding we have consulted outside agencies for optimized plans for new developments, better traffic flow, better communities. Only to stick with the same old, same old. How about we innovate a little bit? Upgrade existing infrastructure that carries the load of these new communities as part of the building permit costs, etc.

I'm trying to recall how many times my friend in Sutherland's basement has flooded due to over capacity drain lines back flooding into his home. 3 or 4 times in as many years I'm sure.

To amend my initial though. Planning, and evolution of design practices is the new cornerstone here.

Increase density of existing areas, not expanding into new areas.

Higher some new people who know what there doing .

Why on earth we have an art galley on prime downtown land . We should have had casino paying taxes for city

Oh that's right the lighthouse is also right down town not creating any income for city .

I would again pay more than the scale allows to make our neighborhoods more accessible on foot, and better places to live. We need to plan on reducing traffic and improving quality of life in other ways by improving transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel in our city.

I wouldn't live in one of the sprawling edge communities that Saskatoon has been building recently, e.g. the new developments in Willowgrove. The city planning going on there is old and outdated -- we need to develop communities that people actually want to live in, and can feel at home in, or soon we'll regret having built large portions of the city.

I prefer not to see growth. Saskatoon is already too big in my opinion

Who is planning these new neighbourhods? They are ridiculous. And why is the new exit out of Stonebridge only allowing vehicles to drive to Saskatoon and not to take the highway south? Developers are running rampant with the city and you're not putting any reins on them.The new areas are horrible.

Plan with less of a focus on personal automobile ownership, and plan for age-friendly communities, and incorporate place names and design influences that reflect the indigenous peoples of this area.

Stop building white elephants on the riverbank. That gallery is way over cost and was totally not needed or wanted by most people

Revitalize older neighbourhods first.

Planning and growth seems to be out of control anyway

Focus on growth of interior city rather than constant expansion. Build up not outwards. There is prime university land that should be a priority for development rather than the outer city limits.

More housing downtown

Active transportation plan (especially better cycling infrastructure), transit plan, emphasis on infill and de-emphasis on suburban development, action plan for dealing with displacement of low-income individuals in neighbourhods like Riversdale, remove weir and implement public water transportation, winter park with free admission to encourage physical activity during winter.

If your planning to grow the City make sure that your existing infrastructure does not take a back seat and suffer like it has in the past. Also, as the City grows, make sure that you budget properly for the extra snow removal accordingly.

Less urban sprawl and more infilling in the core.

The Growth Plan points in the right direction. Implementation needs to start immediately. We are still sprawling the city by building low-density housing suburbs, and creating separate ghettos in the form of

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Planning & Growth? What change(s) would you suggest?

office parks, seniors complexes and big-box stores around enormous parking lots.
Steady as she goes.
Give planning to university students. Our, too many engineers, are doing a horrible job. Hamptons vehicle access is horrible.
Make the developers pay for "new" neighbourhoods. Those of us in established neighbourhoods continue to pay for urban sprawl while our infrastructure is largely ignored.
More focus on infill and downtown revitalization.
NEW AREAS SHOULD PAY FOR NEW AREAS. NONE OF THESE PERVERSE SUBSIDIES.
I didn't realise you planned currently, planning is good
Please take a serious look at the cost of building the suburbs, are they bringing in as much tax revenue as they cost to manage? There was supposed to be a report on this, be it didn't seem to actually address this. We need to continue to have great people who represent the city so the developers don't just build for the greatest profits but follow the plans developed by the city that will actually make our city great. If choosing to live in the suburbs does cost substantially more for the city, then suburban dwellers should pay their fair share. Municipal tax levels should vary based on actual costs to manage the specific neighbourhood.
We need to build with greater density, passive solar layout, solar access for all and with building in the alternative transportation infrastructure from the start. Hold developers accountable for bad neighbourhood design and low quality housing stock.
Planning is fine, the implementation is always the problem, too many cost-cutting measures that cripple an otherwise sound long term plan.
Priorities: Increase urban density (say no to a Calgary-style sprawl), encourage/incentivize vacant parking lots to be developed in the city inside of Circle Drive, incentivize underground parking to reduce strain on residential street parking in inner city areas.
I would like to see us slow down on neighbourhood planning, spend more time on our existing neighbourhoods that need work. City Park, Pleasant Hill, Riversdale, Downtown Core.
This should be paid by tax levies on new neighbourhoods, maybe then you would have better in fill and upgrading in older established areas and reduce the urban sprawl
Stop with the heated sidewalks nonsense and start thinking ahead about access into and out of neighborhoods. Stop giving tax breaks to developers.
the boom is over and we do not need to fund more new areas at this time.
Developers should be asked to pay more for these studies.
Saskatoon in growing and easier to address this now than later. When I learned that there was only one bylaw officer for drainage I was amazed. A Bylaw for drainage would also increase revenue through fines for non compliance.
once again like I've said, this city is BIG ENOUGH
Less sprawl.
Density, mixed use, high quality public spaces. Incentives towards green builders, leed buildings etc. Green anything, stop burying your head in the sand.
cut back until you catch up with city repairs
Urban sprawl in Saskatoon is ridiculous. We need to stop building new poorly designed neighborhoods, and focus on increasing density and stopping the sprawl.
I disagree with future growth. I don't agree with the city continuing to grow into more suburbs. Build more in the vacant space within the current city, utilizing infrastructure that is existing. The infrastructure is still being put into place in some olders suburbs (Stonebridge), then adding new suburbs (Evergreen & Rosewood) before the other one is sufficient resources. In addition I think taxes in those areas need to be higher than others as they are getting new services. Stonebridge just is getting another well needed overpass. Evergreen only has one road in and out (as far as I know). Evergreen has this weird walking overpass from new residential into some guys field. I think that money could have been spent better now. And do the walking overpass later. I would stop growing multi-burbs and focus the attention in a bit more. The city has existing infrastructure that is in serious repair, adding more infrastructure does not help. That is why I would decrease the budget. I would focus the resources on what exists not adding more. But, Please Please fix the roads!!
Build taller buildings in downtown, less urban sprawl...focus on booming downtown now!!

**SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS
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Growth must pay for growth. Anything less is a perverse subsidy that distorts the urban form into less-efficient and more costly structures. The Financing Growth study (as well as numerous analyses around the world) show that greenfield suburban sprawl does not cover all of its costs; stop this subsidy! No one is saying people can't choose to live in low-density suburbs; they just have to pay the full costs. Otherwise the city is losing with each new development. Educate council and ratepayers about the benefits (and lower costs) of core development. STOP SUBSIDIZING sprawl developers and development.

And _start_ subsidizing higher density infill (until balanced against previous implicit subsidies to sprawl development). Apply current best practices in urban design.

Correct the ridiculous and irresponsible decrease in population density. Stop creating and subsidizing sprawl development, there is no need for this; simply charge what it costs (pressure provincial/federal gov't if more tools are required to allow full cost-recovery on new low-density developments).

Investigate congestion charges, and toll charges for Warman/Martensville and suburban commuters.

We should ensure that when new development occurs that any new infrastructure costs in that development are borne by the developer and ultimately the buyers of the new property.

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What are your top priorities for Community Grants/ Affordable Housing? What change(s) would you suggest?

Continue with the Housing First initiative, to ensure everyone has safe housing.
I am proud that we provide affordable housing, but at the same time, I recognize that we are one of the only municipalities in Canada to fund this type of initiative. While I believe this is important, I feel that we have more pressing matters on our table right now. So I would support reallocating some of this funding to other programs.
there should be no homeless in our city. This is the 21st century and we should all be able to live in a comfortable and permanent environment
The city should not be in affordable housing. This should be a provincial/federal role.
Let the provincial government take care of these things, you are basically letting them off the hook as this falls under their mandate.
Affordable housing criteria should be restricted for those who are working? Possibly look at some of the inefficiencies this program offers.
Affordable Housing shouldn't fall under the scope of the municipal government. I already pay for this from my income taxes, so essentially I am paying twice. If I could, I would reduce it to \$0/year.
Make the process harder, they should need to be either working or actively looking for work and proving they are. Make them accountable at the places they rent for the house so they aren't wrecking it, it shouldn't be generation after generation in those housing units.
We should make affordable housing a larger priority. I think poverty reduction is a critical way to improve the quality of life in our city. I do NOT think that it is equally important to increase funding for sport and culture groups.
my top priority is to stay in my home, if taxes keep going up I will need affordable housing.
city administration gives millions of dollars in tax incentives for building developers; have the developers provide incentives for affordable housing and reduce mine and other single income home owners for a change
I'm in favour of the Housing First program. I don't know the numbers but providing everyone with a place to live might cut down on emergency services, and also ER visits.
Poverty is a huge issue. Affordable housing is one way to help. This will help reduce policing costs in the long run. Let's build our citizens!
This seems like a lot of money but I am not sure on the form of payback the city receives from these incentives. Does this appease the squeaky minority?
Spend more on affordable housing. Expand grants program to provide grants to private companies working on the development of intellectual property that will improve life in Saskatoon, eg. laser or radar timed street lights, sound scaping for busy back allies, greening the city in new and unconventional ways.
Affordable housing can go a long way toward directly improving other aspects of the city, by providing people in the lower incomes more disposable income for groceries and other necessities.
ZERO DOLLARS should be spent on special interest grants and other programs. If people want these things, let them pay for it themselves!!!
eliminate homelessness. More places like the lighthouse.
why should I pay for something I can't use?
No longer required. Housing surplus looming.
With the rents so high and minimum wages so low (and often only part-time work) people need this. But often only families, not single people seem to be considered. Does Habitat etc. build for singles?
Free houses for everyone
As a taxpayer, I cannot continue to fund these programs. I am on a fixed budget, living in a very old house and make do just fine. It is high time that municipal governments stop trying to be everything to everyone and get back to providing the basic essentials.
I do not have a reason to believe we are doing especially well or especially poorly at creating affordable housing.
Affordable Housing is essential. I would prefer to see more done to ensure housing is available in this city.
This is SO IMPORTANT. I'd happily pay a few extra cents per month.
VERY IMPORTANT!!!!
No more grants
Affordable housing should be managed privately.

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the Prov and Feds should be doing this
The city should focus on housing affordability that doesn't require grants/subsidies. For instance, advancing small lot subdivision to create 2 lots out of one opens the possibility of affordable housing by simply lower land costs without requiring subsidies. Infill guidelines need to be taken further to open the door to small development.
Reduce grants to sport groups. Users should pay more directly.
Get people from the Food Kitchen, off assistance, especially those you can work, but think they are special. Too many free loaders.
Community groups provide added value and services to residents to a rate cheaper than the city so grants should be increased. good value for money here.
You private funded millions for art gallery the same could be done hear.
I think there would be greater gains with respect to public safety by increasing funding for community programs and affordable housing than there would be by increasing police funding.
Once basic infrastructure needs have been met, the City can begin to allocate funds towards very important humanitarian projects such as "affordable housing".
a \$1 'cultural charge' per ticket on event tickets at civic facility - TCU Place and SaskTel Centre - the cultural charge (est. \$750k annually) would go towards greater support for arts and cultural events and organizations.
The affordable housing program is necessary to help ensure that there is housing available for lower income families.
Affordable housing. Recreation and sport opportunities.
This seems like a large chunk of my tax money. I'd rather have better kept roads.
My husband and I recently applied for a basement suite grant and it didn't work out, because our tenant makes \$3,000 more per year than the cut-off. Net effectively run if you ask me.
I don't support leaving people behind but housing should not come off taxes. This should be Provincial funding grants that pay for this.
I think that people renting single family homes to disadvantaged groups should have to register themselves as accepting housing subsidies from governments and tribal bands. Once they have registered, they should be made to submit to annual inspections to prevent the creation of "low income slums". The idea would really benefit anyone who can only afford to rent. Poor or not!
Encourage more people to own their own home.
No one payed for my house why should I pay for someone else's.
Most people are taking advantage of it and don't need it. I won't invest into it until a better system is in place
I think affordable housing is great but not simmering the city needs to interfere with, private business can decide on their own.
I am all for affordable housing. We are fortunate enough to own our home but know quite a few who would benefit from affordable housing
Get the feds to contribute more, much of our problem is aboriginal related and particularly acute in Sask and Manitoba
Get people off the streets and into homes and shelters. Encourage, through planning and policy, home ownership and discourage through bylaws and public health and fire inspections, an atmosphere that allows sleazy slumlords to breathe the same air as me.
Not enough low income housing.
Affordable housing is the only grants you should be giving.
More housing for single people on one income.
Mixed use facilities. More combination buildings with residential above commercial to help create more dense and affordable housing.
Past efforts toward affordable housing have elevated the supply to a balanced / over-supply level. Thus less need now - CONGRATULATIONS - therefore reduced resources required. All grant programs are "frills", funds for which should (for a specific period e.g., 3-5 years) be restricted to ensuring basic needs are met, per Maslow's hierarchy. I'd rather ensure that community school students are well-supported and served than have a "pseudo-heritage" building pseudo-preserved.
Be a facilitator for housing only through working with the Prov and private developers. Let those groups determine where money goes. The city shouldn't be in role of cutting cheque a to people.

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I believe that citizens should choose who they support in teh area of sport, culture and community groups and not have their tax dollars go to those that happen to be favored by the mayor or city councillors. If the City does not build or operate affordable housing, why the costs???

There are organizations that are there to help,,it's not a "cities" priority....grants come out of tax payers pockets,,and we don't have a say in where those grants go...

Elected officials need to be petitioning other levels of government to put focus on importance of the funding levels being maintained and increased. A larger portion of provincial lottery and gaming revenues should be supporting culture, sport groups.

I think that the granting programs are a good thing but I'm really not that supportive of affordable housing. I think that this is a senior government responsibility and we should be trying to get them to live up to their obligations.

The people that get the housing should be more responsible for the upkeep of the surrounding area. Safe bike storage and transit access available. Veggi garden available. Program for property maintenance and care prerequisite before they get property. If there family is destructive it could be given to someone else.

Did the rich developer who bought the property beside me for \$300,000 and put up a generic, ugly house that includes a basement suite that is priced at \$960,000 get a city grant for 'rental' property? Even though the new house will actually house fewer people than the old one did? (big kitchen, big laundry room, big bedroom, big bathrooms)?

Eliminate homelessness.

Reduce grants and contributions to white elephant "cultural projects" invest in community wellness initiatives and less on private sector culture projects.

Should be role of Saskatoon Community Foundation and other organizations.

Any time a City can help people with affordable housing, it can help prevent problems further down the line. I was interested to read the City of Medicine Hat has eliminated homelessness. My impression is that eliminating homelessness will help prevent other social issues such as crime and drugs, which results in dividends to society.

I've looked into some of the housing options, and while you are giving grants to people who need the housing, I found the actual value of the property is about 10% more than market value. Are the builders taking advantage of the extra? Someone is making money on this venture.

Most of the people I have encountered in affordable housing do not need the help. I don't blame them from taking it but there should be a lower income level to qualify. I know of one person recently that sold his house with a lot of equity in it and qualified to purchase subsidized housing

Not my concern

N/A

First it's a mugs game for you to have combined cultural payoffs with low cost housing. Shows the administration's biases. I'd zero budget those subsidies and expect the mayor to lead private philanthropic efforts to fund a municipal foundation. Low cost housing is a provincial responsibility. Keep my front door out of it. If the city administration has council persuaded of some obligation then fund it though development, eg. 1 out of every 10 units you build must be for low income. The money the city should spend on arts/etc should be in a transparent "beautification" program that hires local creative talent to do a sculpture here or there or commission a wall mural. But even that should be primarily achieved by a volunteer board supported by the city to capture federal and provincial arts grant money.

No more grants

I don't know if CoS supports United Way, but if so thus should stop immediately.

Strongly believe that increases in affordable housing and community programs ties in with crime reduction.

No concerns.

We need more affordable housing, not less. We also need rent control in the worst possible way. Why should Saskatoon have higher rental rates than Calgary??!?

This is a social program that should not be funded through property taxes. If needed it should be funded at the provincial or federal level.

top priorities are affordable housing and heritage and cultural facility incentives

funding for rent-gearred-to-income (RGI) apartment development for Low Income citizens using universal design for poverty and accident prevention , for aging in place for those with disabilities (SK Disability Strategy). <https://www.google.ca/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#> Require

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<p>10% quota of residential construction be universal design low income rentals, like Vancouver. http://share.hscorp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Canada-Social-Housing-Landscape_FINAL.pdf?p=4245</p>
<p>Affordable housing in Saskatoon is not that affordable. Model is not good. Try to start with the Medicine Hat city who has reduced povertiy. These high density houses are not the answer. Plus, it makes community living tight. Also, when they were being sold for 10k less than our house (with a huge back yard) in the same year is not right.</p>
<p>As mentioned for the police budget, invest more in programs that will address the social issues that lead to crime.</p>
<p>The city is not a social provider. These responsibilities are for othe governments to handle. I pay provincial and federal tax to run social programs.</p>
<p>Housing can be more affordable if the city wasn't charging so much for land.</p>
<p>Community granting for arts groups</p>
<p>More affordable house support (though the current programs are great!), especially in rapidly changing neighbourhoods (i.e. Riversdale, Caswell Hill) and more funding for cultural and arts programming.</p>
<p>municipal governments don't need to supply grants & give money to friends in the construction industry</p>
<p>Everyone should have access to affordable housing.</p>
<p>Quit baby sitting people . The easier it is for people to do nothing, the more they want!</p>
<p>This needs to happen. Saskatoon needs to move forward in this direction.</p>
<p>Private fundraising should be relied on more to support these services</p>
<p>Support community associations. Cut all grants to affordable housing.</p>
<p>Support landlords to produce good properties by changing the laws of the ORT.</p>
<p>Affordable housing does not need to be funded by the City. this is a social issue that should be funded by social service agencies and provincial and federal governments.</p>
<p>There are many groups who do benefit from community grants, keep those areas the focus. As for affordable housing, to an extent it is required, but I see the blatant disregard for these "affordable" rentals/habitat homes by their occupants on a daily basis. Perhaps if they had to put aside more money into their housing they'd take more pride in their properties.</p>
<p>Get the waiting list down. Show piece projects don't help if the availability is the choke point. Subsidized geared to income rentals are more important than building new Ghettos. Just do one building at a time distributed throughout the city.</p>
<p>Affordable housing. Have regulations to ensure maintaince of existing buildings and city prevent historical building buildings from being demolished . if building demolished for new development then if new not undertaken within a reasonable (ie 1 year) the property owner have penalised via significant property taxes increases until new buliding completed..</p>
<p>Grants for sport and culture(arts and entertainment) should be cut or rolled back. User Pay. Those monies saved should then be used for affordable housing. Housing is first priority before grants to sport and culture.</p>
<p>1. Perhaps further stimulation of this could be done by implementing more low-income en-suite grants. Our friends are currently making use of a grant like this, which pays back a percentage of the investment capital over time to assist with the affordability of adding or renovating a legal suite, which offers the ability to offer a more affordable rental rates.</p> <p>2. I often wonder how many illegal suites their are in the city. Properties as such where the owner makes money for their expenses, and how much lost tax revenue is lost due to this, and what the impact (and cost) on provided City services (Garbage, Recycle, Street Repair/Cleaning/Snow) is?. Maybe use this avenue of thought to ensure those who are using illegal suites to offset their incomes pay their dues. Use these new income sources from Legal Suites (appropriately taxed properties and services) to further contribute to suggestion 1.</p>
<p>A positive cycle can be made here. Incentivize making a suite legal for a long term grant, lower rental rates / provide affordable housing, collect more tax dollars.</p>
<p>How can you afford a house with property taxes like this crazy . So we build more low income housing down buy the river . There's nothing low income about Saskatoon . Move to Olser</p>

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Enough giving away , that means i have to pay taxes for those that don't, let the higher levels of government look after it.
Community programs are a huge part of what makes a city a "place". I'll gladly pay a few extra dollars a year to provide programs that draw neighbourhoods together and increase quality of life. An increase to Affordable Housing programs is a must, given that Saskatoon residents continue to suffer from some of the most overinflated housing costs in the country. Almost everyone can afford to suffer a small increase in taxes to protect those who need the most help.
There needs to be a rental cap. Landlords in this city are basically raping the less fortunate who are trying to save to buy an outrageously priced house.
Do not provide sask housing rebates for refugee claimants. The refugee claimants enter Canada under a work, student or visitor visitor. Once they are here they claim to be a refugee. True refugees have housing covered in first year by Citizenship and Immigration. We have seniors those with mental health and homeless Canadians who should be prioritized
Invest in affordable housing and social programs. Make our community a desirable place to live.
Stop spending money on that art gallery and put up more affordable housing on some of the empty lots on 22nd st.
Step up your affordable housing that people can actually afford!
Evaluate these programs to see if they are effective.
Affordable housing needs to be spread out in all housing developments in Saskatoon, not built as separate units.
Community development is the most important thing the city does.
No longer a housing boom. We have a rental glut. This is moot.
Picking up the slack from the provincial governments inaction.
Community programs for the homeless
More subsidized rental housing
Housing first, invest in our community, it will reduce crime and work far better than investing in big business (like subsidizing giant multi national corporations) where trickle down economics do not actually uplift anyone out of poverty. Commerce, Industry, Education Saskatoon needs a new tag line like PEOPLE, COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY
more programs and more affordable housing especially for single mothers
Housing is too expensive for too many residents.
Eliminate community grants, this is not the business of the City, have some empathy toward affordable housing increases
More affordable housing support is needed.
As a senior on a fixed income I do not wish to fund other families or the way the tax increases are going I will be in need of funding as well!
Affordable housing is well worth the spending to help provide homes for for those in need. Cultural and heritage facilities should work off their own fund raising and donations and not tax dollars.
I do not agree with the first time buyer grant of 5% that was offered. it was not proportionate to what the individual or family was making in wages, in mu humble opinion.
best to keep people off the streets and it saves on policing and fire department responses
too many lo-lifes getting everything handed to them, so no need to take more \$\$ from my pocket to assist them
Free arts programs are so important.
Eliminate the programs, sell lots for less.
Maybe addressing some of the societal causes of crime will be more effective than additional officers on patrol
Depend more on other funding
We need to focus on affordable housing to make sure that everyone has a place to stay. We also should make sure that the Remai is accessible to lower income families.
I really think that affordable housing is a serious problem in Saskatoon. Generally when housing prices rise it squeeze the people at the bottom end. Who don't have anymore resources to add to their housing situation. I don't want to see more of the city/builder grants. For example Meadowview Terrace they advertise that if someone make under \$44,000/yr your mortgage can be \$669/mo with \$0. I would not consider someone who is making \$44,000 in need of financing a property. Further that is not the population in need. I would consider someone who a good stable job, who make \$30,000, single mom; that is a

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demographic that I would encourage who is in need of housing who is also going to be a great contribution to the community. Rent's in Saskatoon are crazy. Sincerely, this is not my area of knowledge. I don't know what the answer is. Put in place controlled rents. Add more social housing that rent is controlled. Add community build style housing and build it in the vacant areas of the inner city.

More cost-effective than increasing policing.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Garbage/ Waste Reduction? What change(s) would you suggest?

Add a green cart program city wide. Have green carts collected weekly, recycling and waste collected bi-weekly throughout the year. Or even monthly if enough people recycle/compost.
From what I've seen of the Performance Targets, we will need to increase funding for Waste Management if we ever want to meet these targets.
It's embarrassing how long it took Saskatoon to get public recycling. More aggressive initiatives aimed at businesses, not just homeowners. How about tax credits for composting, things like that?
Garbage collection should be every two weeks all year round. Residents should learn to reduce, reuse and recycle. There are many cities that have this policy. Garbage bin contents should be more strictly enforced and this would aid in the prevention of smells during the summer months.
I would like to see recycling pickup increase in frequency.
I am willing to have reduced garbage, recycling pick up as we don't produce that much garbage if it will save money to go to other needed programs in the city
Growing population should not affect costs because there are more ratepayers. Do not accept that growth should cost each person more.
why such a high budget for garbage pickup especially when its reduced in the winter months.
Where does the money for recycables go that deposits are paid on, i.e. plastic bottles? Also, garbage should be picked up weekly, especially in the summer.
Should be user pay - same as recycling.
weekly garbage pickup throughout the year, front street pickup, so in times of adverse weather garbage trucks aren't getting stuck in and rutting up the alleys
Black bin Pickup every 2 weeks. The Blue bin fills up much faster in our house than the black bin. When it gets picked up it usually isn't even half full.
Very happy with the new mandatory recycling.
I have three bins. I pay for 2 whether I use them at all. The City landfill is a joke, as well as the compost locations which, as usual, are getting larger, more extravagant as they go on. What was a good idea is now becoming a little kingdom for some city manager- waste(how ironic).
I am very happy with the blue bin recycling program!
Food composting. Add it. Doesn't make sense not to have it.
Difficult one to institute but change the charge to pay for garbage and get recycling covered as garbage is now in our taxes.
The weekly pick up during the summer was really good. We use our blue bin more than our black bin so like frequent collection. One change is making more green bins available. we wanted one this year and there were none left.
implement kitchen waste composting as well to the green bins.
Diverting 70% of waste is a pipe-dream. C'mon people get it together! You know that is unrealistic. We WILL have to build another landfill in the future, regardless of the mayor's dreams. We have community recycling centres.....why are spending more money on INDIVIDUAL recycling. Time for the people to take some personal responsibility instead of having the city pay for everything for them!
Garbage collection has to be provided in October. Privatize garbage collection like was done for the Looras Recycling program. Cut the number of Environmental planning employees by 50%. The existence of these planners only adds more ideas to increase our property taxes.
Move to two week garbage sched year round.
Garbage should be pay per weigh. I'm paying for weekly pickup I don't need or use.
Better recycling program that actually recycles styrofoam.
Remove recycling from the city & give it back to the households to take their recyclable materials to Cosmo & Sarcan & provided compost sites.
More recycling, less waste, large companies should be charged for NOT recycling.
reduce garbage pick up
biweekly is fine
Recycling is a top priority - Edmonton does it right
You can add the recycle monthly rate to this amount. I had recycled to bins and asked city for years for plastic to be included to be added...FOR FREE. Now I pay over \$60.00 a year for blue bin to emptied once a year (would be 2 but I still walk my paper over to apartment nearby to support Cosmo who started recycling years ago. Also do not know why glass was included or why families in multi units pay half when I and several single seniors on my street have very little to recycle. Also I you want to really recycle why do

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What are your top priorities for Garbage/ Waste Reduction? What change(s) would you suggest?

you not include twice a year area pickup of large items that get left in the lane or over a fence. Often people do not have a truck or cannot afford to hire., a lot of it could be reused. We do yard sales and Kijiji and the city "free" curbside was poorly advertised.

Recycle that Damn garbage, I'm worried global warming will make January pleasant

find more efficiencies in the system, with more effort on encouraging recycling. If I can manage to only require garbage pickup every 2 - 3 weeks during the summer, there is no reason why other cannot learn to do the same. Perhaps we should be charging when containers exceed a pre-determined weight limit.

The city recently released a courageous goal for waste diversion. I am proud to see it. Again, if our city ceased this proliferation of low-density housing along the edges of our municipality we could concentrate our efforts on providing services to a denser core.

Household composting program,

I'd like to see the cost of garbage collection broken out so that it can be contrasted with the costs of recycling that appear on utility bills. I'd also be in favour of year-round every other week collection.

Start a mandatory curbside compost system.

More garbage collection is not required. However, efficient recycling collection and composting would be beneficial. The recycling program should be evaluated to ensure that it is working (i.e. materials are actually being recycled). If that means reducing the number of items that can go in a bin, like glass, so be it.

I would have preferred to stick with Saskatoon Curbside Recycling, which was cheaper, easier, and much more efficient. PLEASE DO NOT FORCE EVERYONE TO USE THE GREEN BINS!!!! I use all of my compost in my garden and do not wish to be penalized financially for doing so. Thanks.

Maintain the 2 week pickup schedule in fall & winter months

I support the waste diversion options available today, but would like to put my organic kitchen waste into my green bin. If this adds a cost to the program I am ok with this as long as the cost increases include a small kitchen bin to facilitate this additional waste diversion. The City of Airdrie, AB has a green bin program like that.

Reduce garbage collection by collecting every 2 weeks year round. Incorporate household organic waste in collection program.

I am glad to pay for garbage and recycling services -when they come. I should not be charged the same rate in my taxes for week to week pick up compared to every other week pick up.

When we added recycling, we effectively added a 50% increase to our waste pickup. ie. went from weekly garbage pick up to weekly garbage and bi-weekly recycling. Normal garbage pickup should have been scaled back at that time.

Green bin service included in base service covered by taxes

Condos & town houses need only the black bins picked up twice a month & the blue bins the same. All year around.

garbage pick up every two weeks year round

Pick up every week in October for all the leaves. No green bin please as I don't have space to store a third bin.

We need to convert to a user pays system (as we use for all other utilities) that is based on a pay-per-tip. We also need to implement mandatory composting. Both of these are no-brainers and it is a shame that the political courage does not exist to implement such ideas.

increase dump disposal. go to 2 week pick up/removal for a longer period of time

To review what other municipalities have done in this area and determine if similar programs are viable.

Compost.

I would rather have recycling pick-up every week and garbage every other week. If the city is going to be growing to 500,000 we need to be more forward thinking about waste management and reduction. I'm not sure if the costs would increase, but we need more recycling pick-up.

I would also appreciate more reporting on how recycling is managed in the city and how much was successfully recycled. I often wonder if much of my recycling is just ending up in the landfill anyways.

Increase the amount of material diverted from the landfill. City-wide compost pickup.

I think this group is doing some great things with recycling and garbage. I am surprised the number for this is low compared to other areas. I would be in support of reducing black bin pickup to every two weeks.

I would like to see weekly pickup year round!

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities for Garbage/ Waste Reduction? What change(s) would you suggest?

I would suggest that move to every 2 weeks year round for garbage pick up and add a user pay option of purchasing a 2nd bin. Therefore much like the green/grass bin. So those that create more garbage can pay more. Have 6mo 2nd bin rental terms, as a greater option when a house may feel they create more garbage.

Use more \$ to empahsize less consumption. Encourage composting on site or at the neighbourhoo level. Use underutilized local open space for composting or leaf collection. There has to be a better way to manage compostable waste locally than more big trucks driving around the city.

As with garbage pickup, it would make sense to increase the frequency of recycling pickup during the December holiday season - we generate so many cardboard boxes over Christmas!

I think people who don't recycle should be fined. There is no excuse for not recycling, it is just laziness. On garbage days I see garbage cans overflowing and some of the visible "garbage" is bottles, cans, cardboard, etc.

Want to save space in the land fill, make green bins mandatory, then you don't have to have trash pick up every week in the summer. Wheres the logic here? Happy with service, just wish drivers weren't so aggressive with bins (beating the crap out of them)

Put cardboard bins in new construction areas

Main charge needed is to raise awareness of recyclable items. So many people don't have a clue

It works don't try to tweet it

Already getting less pick ups once recycle bins arrive,no discount despite less service,

Weekly garbage pickup year round

Don't set in motion the idea of a pay for service and another arm of city hall to administer such a system as clearly was the intent behind tagging despite what elected officials say. Enforce recycling at city sponsored or sanctioned events as well as commercial enterprises.

The four R's usually include Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and, Recycle. From my perspective the city has done a poor job of following this waste management hierarchy, as well as a poor job of promoting this to citizens and businesses. This city touts itself as being a leader but it has fallen flat in nearly every aspect of environmental efficiency and progress. Changes need to start with the mayor and some council members to turn their attitude toward sustainable practices and activities for a future longer than their term. Changes need to be made for members of the community who find it easy to dispose of waste around the city instead of where it belongs. Every day I see waste that was dropped off along the side of the roads around the city and in the city limits. What sense of entitlement allows one to think this is right and proper? You may be surprised (or not) to learn that I see this more east of the city than west. Westsiders have the sense to just throw their crap over the fence into the alley I suppose. Everyone is hearing lately about food waste. You want a place to start, well start there, but don't end there. Create policy that opens up opportunity for local food producers to be successful. Create an atmosphere that encourages restaurants and caterers to donate food to schools, food banks, shelters and other charities that can make use of safe unused portions. Encourage entrepreneurs to fill the gap in community grocers around the city and make access to these community shopping centres easy for people of all walks of life and using all modes of transportation. From ground zero, it's a long way to 70%.

Garbage should be taxed by weight. Our household composts and recycles which means we put garbage out once a month at maximum, and it is still not full. We should not have to pay as much for garbage collection as those who always have their garbage bins full each pickup day.

Since the Mayor says the Landfill does not need to be built for 20 years,, reduce this budget; change recycling fee to zero.

Once a week ALL YEAR.

I have paid for a Green Bin since they were first offered. I resent when I see my neighbors putting all of their grass etc. into the normal garbage can. Rather than have weekly garbage pick up in the summer - give everyone a green bin at no charge and pick up grass and garbage bi-weekly. Less garbage pick up and more composting for the entire city!

Publicly funded Green Bin program for compost. Restrict garbage pick up while increasing recyclable and compost pick up. Limit style of garbage with restricted bags (or other means) so many provided per year to residents for garbage, purchase of extra garbage bags cost at a premium. This method is used in several asian and european centres.

weekly garbage pick up to include April to October.

offering green bins as part of cost for blue bins to encourage the use of these bins as well. We can't afford

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to keep adding the cost for all these different bins

Recycling good; composting programs unnecessary unless as a volunteer endeavour by interested parties = \$0 tax.

Other town and cities have implemented things like a "Free Store" or a "Drop and Shop" where residents can drop unwanted items and others who want them can just pick them up. I strongly believe in landfill reduction but don't believe we get there without the city implementing programs that encourage citizens to donate and others the opportunity to use donated items without cost.

We are over paying for the service that we are getting...having employees that know HOW to DRIVE and KNOW how to PICK up the garbage....will save wear and tear on the trucks. The misuse that I see every week on the city trucks by the drivers,,is deplorable....

Recycling- what we pay for the service,,,we are not getting enough for it...pick up should be every week,,,if they want us to do it....the cans fill just way to fast,,,we are being overcharged for the little service that we get.....

Household composting should be prioritized

should be user-pay similar to recycling

Priority to keep green bin program affordable for homeowners. City does not seem to be ready to handle an expanded composting system that included kitchen waste. Suggest further study on best practices in other communities- have to get it right the first time. Continued Messaging from City regarding tons of garbage being diverted from landfill due to blue bin and green bin programs.

I pay for a blue and green cart but my black cart is free (and usually empty!). Can each service have at least the same pricing?

There should be days where you can put stuff on the curb and anyone can come and take it away. City trucks should then go around the next day and clean up anything that was left behind. Often people do not have access to trucks or the muscle power to get it to the dump. What to do with batteries and dangerous waste should be better advertised or posters in public places.

NO MORE BINS FOR OUR YARDS! Put more composting sites In the city for self delivery of composting materials. We have a beautiful city! More bins and many front yards will be housing bins. Many back yards are fully developed with no place left for more bins!

Get rid of the blue garbage bins. We have 4 people living in our house, but because we have legal suites we are forced to pay for three - yep THREE bins for 4 people. We used to recycle, now I don't care if I do or I don't. Have you seen the mess in the Loraas building? Cosmo Industries were very good at their job, the "recycling program" brought in by the city ruined that, and ruined recycling. Bet Loraas throws most of their collection out - they only wanted the bottles that could be recycled at SarCan.

include organic waste, yard clippings etc, as part of the regular garbage stream to enhance the breakdown in the main landfill

Create a proper mandatory composting program.

Quit telling me I have to pay more for recycling. I used to take my recycling to the depot for free now you charge and quite frankly Cosmo has been terrible on picking up and attending to recycling in our condo complex. Do not charge me for recycling compostable material as I don't generate much of anything and I hate the city punishing me for being environmentally responsible!

less garbage collection, more recycling and compost

The single home recycle program is excellent. It has helped us to divert a significant amount of waste from the landfill. I am interested in potentially having our green bin all year and being able to put compostable foodstuffs in the green bin for collection and composting. I actually believe we could have garbage pickup less often and save some funds.

Ensuring the employees are actually picking up the garbage. I've had significant problems with pick up. The recycling program is inefficient, if only clean garbage can go in. Other cities have programs that seem to work, why not see what they do for recycling.

Implement city wide composting. Investments will be offset from savings on landfill environmental future impacts

The recycling program is wrong when we raise costs based on a supplier who wants more money for the service. Not knowing the basis of the contract, this seems totally ridiculous.

Develop a composting program and more recycling pickup as well as weekly garbage pickup longer. We need to reduce dump fees and promote recycling. The large increase in dump fees has just caused a disgusting amount of garbage to be dumped around the city. The city should take responsibility for it and

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clean it up. Especially the area behind the dog park on the way to cedar villa estates.

This cites that recycling management is paid through this portion of taxes yet we pay monthly on our water bills for this service. An amount which increases each year as well. No need to fund it twice if council was doing a better job budgeting.

An ecological audit of the recycling program will demonstrate it actually causes more environmental harm than any hoped for benefit. The resources abused in the intensive recycling industrial complex outweigh the potential harm from having to open a new landfill. The only reliable way of reducing waste is to price it, which a flat tax does not do. Charge by weight-volume -- which is absolutely practical since it is how most private waste management companies operate, with a weigh mechanism in the lift. Regardless, your flat tax approach is an incentive to wastrels to continue to generate as much waste as they want and a penalty on the responsible since they are forced to subsidize the wasteful. If this budget tool was correctly provisioned, this line item would be a positive contribution to the budget rather than a cost because properly implemented a user pay system would do a little better than break even.

Every 3 weeks in winter ..

A more sensible user friendly system for recycling.

Love the green cart program.

Garbage and recycling collection is fine the way it is. It would be nice to have the North East composting depot open more days and hours than it was this summer.

I don't need my garbage picked up every week. Nor do I think we should be charging extra for recycling and green bins.

We have it backwards. Every item that goes into the green bin or the blue bin means the super expensive landfill lasts longer.

I would like to pay for my garbage by weight.

I like the current garbage collection frequency.

Before the blue bin program, we had garbage (waste) collection weekly in the summer, bi-weekly in the winter. No with recycling this hasn't changed and we have added recycling into the mix. We are not reducing waste. Reduce to bi-weekly garbage collection year round. For those who need to throw away more, they will either learn to adapt, haul to the dump, sign up for the green bin service (like I have) or haul to the compost depots. Optionally including the green bin program to allow for more than just grass and leaves would be a benefit.

We should be doing everything we can to encourage reduction of waste, re-use of materials (such as plastic bags and bottles) and only then thinking of recycling efforts. We need a civic levy on junk food and takeout food containers and materials to slow the growth and proliferation of garbage from these industries. How can you tell there's a Tim Horton's in your neighbourhood? From all the garbage on the ground near it. It's time we acted on this instead of allowing them to continue to generate waste. And speaking of which, when will the city finally crack down on the city's largest single producer of waste, the(XX)? Enough of the flyers that only seniors read but which get delivered to everyone only to be instantly recycled!

Again any growth should be funded from the increase in the tax base.

Satisfied with current

fund education and awareness directly for apartment recycling users vs landlords

Bi-weekly pick ups! Our bins are HUGE and if we can reduce the amount of garbage used the landfill will last longer.

frequency of garbage collection is not the issue. new programs need to be developed such as curbside composting so we can catch up to teh rest of Canada.

AS a citizen living in a condominium, I find that property taxes to the city and services received from the city ratio is not balanced very well. Many single family homes pay the same amount of property tax receiving in return individual garbage pick up and snow removal. At the same time the same service for a unit within a condominium is shared between a number of units resulting in unfair cost/benefit distribution

Smaller bins for garbage. Those bins are a real eye sore to our city's street appeal. less frequent garbage collections and/or reduced availability of programs such as household hazardous waste or composting. OR do more with less.... like we do when taxes go up and our wages don't increase

We were told the city would save millions through the recycling program. I am paying for recycling when this should have been picked up by taxes. Why do you need more money for less service?

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The cities roll out of MURRS is a mess. Passing on the cost to households to fund this is unacceptable. The cost overruns are going to push the cost up even higher. If only we had a private company who could have handled the recycling. Oh wait, we do. Its loraas disposal. And they were doing it for less than what the city is.
We need a compost program! The recycling program is a great start.
quit using the enviorment for an excuse to raise fees for recycling & waste.
Garbage pick-up should be reduced to once every two weeks, even during the summer months, which could possibly encourage more recycling.
You don`t solve anything by cutting back on service`s to bi-weekly, employee`s still get paid, same amount of trash still ends up at the landfill. All i read about is there are less people using the landfill due to pricing and you people can`t figure it out!
Get rid of mandattory recycling, increasing the city taxes by \$1/month to cover the additional land fill costs.
I lived in a community in Ontario where we PAID to have garbage removed- a tag per garbage bag or bin. Recycling was FREE. This is a great way to encourage people to recycle. Perhaps something similar could be done with composting.
good job. You could stretch the season with 2-week garbage pick-up from mid-September until mid-May
Property taxes in Saskatoon are among the highest in Canada. They are out of control especially since they keep getting increased and you are cutting services. For example. Having garbage pick up only every second week is tough for an entire household and we dont really need a billion dollar art gallery when people can barely afford their homes.
Less garbage pick-up. We implemented a recycling program without reducing the amount of garbage a household can dispose of. A significant amount of people need to be encourage to recycle, by reducing what they can throw out. When I stayed in Kelowna, the garbage bins were half the size of the recycle; which means you need to clean out the "can" and recycle it because you don't have enough room in your garbage bin. Keep the hazardous waste and composting programs.
With mandatory recycling, trash pick-up could be reduced. Also, many cities contract this service. The city could look into this and allow for citizens to pay for the type of trash and recycling service they individually need.
Actually recycling the products that is put into the blue bun not putting in to another landfill. Creating a facility that will go through the recycling.
Composting is too expensive! It should be an included service like it is in many other cities!! Loran's recycling has been a disappointment. My bin regularly is skipped or they don't come until late in the day. If it's even the slightest bit of an open lid they skip it.
Education and enforcement. If recycling is contaminated by garbage our time and money is wasted. educate the public on proper sorting and fine people/companies that do not comply
Garbage pick-up is a core service for tax dollars. Costs associated with the garbage collection should be going down now that Lorass is picking up more than half of our garbage under the name of recycling. The increase in funding for recycling should have been cost neutral so that the budget for overall garbage/waste was neutral. No more downloading our garbage costs.
add one month of weekly collection in spring and fall
Find a better service provider for the recycling program that will take glass & not simply reroute it to the city landfill. A company that would provide weekly pickups would also assist in enhancing the recycling program by reducing & diverting materials from the landfill
No changes, people just need to learn to recycle better and produce less waste.
Better recycling. We lost our paper recycling in Avonlea and now all that stuff is going into the landfill.
Waste reduction. More emphasis on reduce,reuse ,recycling. More options for reuse and recycling.
No Green bin program should be allowed. The waste put in these are biodegradable on their own and should be allowed in the landfill to decompose on its own. The green bin itself would not even decompose in 100 years. No city employee should work holidays or overtime for garbage pickup. Accountability and common sense in this department needs to prevail. Less admin. staff if we go to two week pick-up.
We need a food waste compost pick up service !!!
1. The bylaw fines for garbage all over the alley way? \$100.00. After litigation expenses, warnings, etc, etc; the bylaw fines for garbage all over the alley way? Still \$100.00!. It's clear that kind of enforcement doesn't work, and doesn't cover the costs of policing this bylaw.

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Does it make you wonder why property managers (XX et al.) don't give a flying ca-hoot what you say to them? A One-hundred dollar fine is laughable. It's time to change some bylaws, give the city more enforcement power for these and other issues.
make people pay for the amount of garbage they produce
More frequent pickup during holidays
No change needed
I would like to see more composting options.
stop charging us 5.00 a month for using the blue bins. because of the FORCED charge I don't recylce.
Weekly pickup dandelion and weed control
Biomass pickup (green bins)in the summer and fall should have a different kind of schedule. More frequent pick-ups in the spring and fall to accommodate yard clean-up's heavier cycles. Less frequent in summer.
Garbage could be picked up less often (much more waste is being diverted to recycling stream)
The programs are good.
Collection of garbage and recycle to 2 weeks. No subsidies for commercial. business and MUD's.
Reduce garbage/waste pickups to every 2 weeks.
Biweekly pickup for may and October made our garbage ridiculously over full for the entire month. Please revert back to weekly pickup during these two months.
Composting service for everyone! Maybe the city could make some money on it. Also, I don't think we need garbage pick up every week, even in the summer. Less frequent pick up might mean people recycle more effectively
Convert to user pays system, create incentives to recycle and compost.
Promote more recycling and possible make garbage collection bi-weekly year round.
The first target should be to eliminate waste. Manufacturers and retail need to change the way goods are packaged. Charge the manufacturers and/or retail for all waste materials they create or sell and they will soon find better ways.
Neighbour backs up to garbage and recycling bins. Maybe parking lines and ticket them.
Agressive waste reduction program
Stop blaming the residents of multi-unit dwellings for putting garbage in the recycle bins. I witness people driving by everyday to dump their junk in our large recycle bins. Make the landfill more affordable for these dumpers.
leaf pick up for a two or three week period once a year. No increase in frequency of garbage collection. I think the current composting system needs to be reworked, if I want to compost household food waste I don't want bi-weekly collection of it so I will do it in my backyard or just put it in the garbage. For leaf collection I have too many leaves in late fall that the biweekly collection stops before I can get rid of all my leaves.
I'd like to see extended landfill hours so after work visits at least in the summer are possible.
Better composting
Lets keep moving forward on the waste reduction plan, the cost of inaction and starting a new landfill is substantially more expensive than waste reduction. Universal recycling and Household compost with anaerobic digestion energy production should be a high priority.
garbage pick up returned to weekly time periods like it was before you changed the schedule. ie this year pick up could have been extended to weekly until the end of october and started weekly about a month earlier. the smell from garbage bins attracts rodents and cats .i would gladly pay more taxes to have better service
Provide green carts to all residences.
Promote recycling - my blue bin is always full - Garbage can is never full.
bi-weekly collection year round. Cheaper access to landfill for residents.
Ensure accountability from recycling companies (xx)What amount of 'recyclable material' sent to the depot ends up being diverted from the landfill and 'reused'? Are those materials actually reused? If recycling is sent to a recycling depot, ensure it is recycled or increase communication and education if materials are being recycled incorrectly and end up being thrown away.
I would like to see more pick up on my recycling as we utilize it more than our garbage. I would also like to see a curb side compost with our Green Bin.

**SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS
(Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)**

**What are your top priorities for Garbage/ Waste Reduction?
What change(s) would you suggest?**

<p>Garbage should be "pay by weigh" or by frequency of pickup. Those that produce more garbage pay more, those that produce less, pay less. Consider if recycling pickup could also be tied to either weight or frequency. Often I have no need of garbage or recycling pickups as frequent as the current schedule. If the recycling and garbage cans are micro chipped, is it possible to pay per pickup? Or reward those that skip a pickup?</p>
<p>Just leave it alone, every time we turn around we are getting hit with additional charges for this and that. my amount of waste has not increased in years, and I had no issue going to a recycling centre. but now I am required to pay for more containers etc.</p>
<p>Introduce green bins to all households.</p>
<p>Stop with the threats-we'll fine you if you put a sheet of newsprint in the garbage-and continue education efforts.</p>
<p>Pick up my Garbage weekly until the snow flies!!!! Garbage is a health hazard and I do not like the reduced pickup schedule,</p>
<p>As a condo owner, I do not feel that it is fair that I should have to pay these fees as the city does not remove my recycling or household waste. Further, I do not have the option of contributing to a compost program.</p>
<p>I believe composting bins should be provided by the City and would reduce costs in the end as this could be composted by the city and not end up in land fills. 25 bags of leaves in the older neighborhoods per household could save a lot annually from going into landfill. Also easier access to recycling and composting drop offs.</p>
<p>I do have the green bin but if it's increasing again, you can come pick it up. I'm also tired of your Elm trees causing sewer issues, extra work for me being it bugs, etc. I should be given a green bin for free just to keep up with the leaves from these annoying trees</p>
<p>I appreciate the door to door recycling.</p>
<p>Move towards an automated weigh and payment system at the landfill. Long wait times for residents are not acceptable (55 minutes Oct 25th). If this is not possible go back to a single charge per standard vehicle. Weight does not equate to volume of material.</p>
<p>have recycling receptacles beside all garbage ones downtown and in parks. Provide sorting for paper, cans, plastic. I have seen these in some areas so maybe it is already being done.</p>
<p>The focus needs to be on corporate waste reduction. Adding a compost program to residential areas would be helpful as well though.</p>
<p>The city added recycling which is great to see. But many people grumbled about having to pay for recycling. I would like to see if the city changed it around. Make recycling free and charge people per bag/house of their garbage. I have seen other cities do this. I think their perception will change. I liked in the fall the city has put out items people wanted to get rid of for free on the curb. I am happy with the garbage pick up service. I have decreased the budget on garbage because I think that the city could make people pay per bag. Make each person accountable for what they are using.</p>
<p>Overall, services are pretty good. I would like to see year round weekly garbage pick up and a better strategy for leaves in the fall.</p>

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities Parks? What change(s) would you suggest?

Parks are important for a vibrant and healthy community. Let's make Saskatoon more attractive.
Parks are pretty great in Saskatoon -- let's keep it that way! Also, what's wrong with beautifying spaces that aren't parks? There's no reason public streets can't be park-like to encourage walkability.
more money spent from the city to improve playgrounds in older areas. these playgrounds are deteriorating and do not have the equipment that most kids want
Growing population should not affect costs because there are more ratepayers. Do not accept that growth should cost each person more.
Parks are fine but again need to be looked after better. (too many weeds in all our parks and especially off of freeways and arterial routes which would included overpasses and cloverleaves) Circle and Warman road is perfect exam. Looks bad all this past summer.
This is great, if the grass is cut and the weeds are cut and they are actually maintained (which I see less of).
current parks are adequate..
I'm happy with our parks in general, but more maintenance would be useful. It would be great to have some more tennis courts like near market mall.
Parks make a city livable!
Green spaces maintained in a manner that they do not get overgrown in length of grass and scrub growth. Low maintenance color to give the area some attractive appeal.
Put a soccer pitch in Victoria Park. The southwest part of the city is really under served for soccer facilities. Edmonton has soccer pitches along its river. So does Winnipeg. They look beautiful there, and people can play on them when there are no scheduled games. All Saskatoon has are trails, green space, and skateboard parks. More public washrooms in parks. More pocket parks,
General improvements to the maintenance of the parks.
We need to kill all dandelions in City parks and boulevards. Not poisoning dandelions in parks has resulted in dandelions spreading to private properties and property owners being frustrated and bringing in private companies to poison the dandelions and weeds on their property. Citizens would be ok for the City of use the private companies to kill dandelions in the parks.
Stop doing unnecessary "maintenance" i.e. Ripping out established perennials shrubs & trees and replaching them with all new plantings & ugly mulch
more food plants in parks. Like apple trees, saskatoons etc.
Treat all of them equally.
clearing the meewasin (already doing a fine job at this) - and more investment in dog parks - they are invaluable community spaces
I love our parks!
Do we really need planters all over the city? Let the people that use these services pay more for them
Take from the wealthy and build a roller coaster for the poor
More effort on low/minimal maintainence parks, that reduce the need for watering and grass mowing.
We are relatively spoiled for park area in our city compared to comparable cities in which I have lived. They are also relatively underutilized with the exception of youth sports. I believe our current stock of parks have the capacity to serve a denser population instead of developing and maintaining new parks for estranged sub-divisions. I would consider investing more in this area if we were focused on winter recreation or connecting our existing parks with active-transportation corridors.
Parks has been building brand new parks in newer developments but maintenance of existing parks is important.
"Manage and protect" does not mean "develop unnecessarily". PLEASE LEAVE CHIEF WHITECAP PARK AS IT IS!!!!
How can you spend 80 million dollars on this?
keep planting trees! Mini parks, infill parks, parks linked together so form walking / biking corridors off of the roadways
I have noticed reduced service levels in our parks over the last 2-3 years with no reduction in taxes, what gives. Grass is not cut as often
I would like to see an increase in natural plants and grasses used in parks with the understanding they will require fewer resources to maintain both human and physical - for both financial and environmental benefits.
Increase maintenance funds for parks.
Please complete the Meewasin trail loop.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: ONLINE CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS (Raw Comments from Monday, October 19 to Friday, November 13)

What are your top priorities Parks? What change(s) would you suggest?

attention to riverbank parks and other high use area
The city should work on making our parks serve us better. Large swaths of poorly maintained grass (Pierre Radisson Park) serve nobody. Why not sell off half for new housing (now that's affordable land...it's already serviced) and invest the proceeds into installing a playground or splash park. That serves the existing community better and gives up grass that is completely unused.
More police on bikes, dogs on leashes & with poop scoopers. They are basically in good shape. Our parks in the Lakewood area are used a lot, even by the wild life. Lots of garbage containers.
pick up garbage from over flowing garbage cans
City beautification is what makes it worthwhile to live in Saskatoon. I support an increase to the parks budget. I would like to see the city focus more on urban agriculture by expanding the community and allotment garden programs. The city should also encourage green roofs, educate property owners about the environmental impacts of having a lawn, and try to increase rain water capture to reduce the need to use very expensive treated water for keeping our parks green.
Once basic infrastructure needs have been met, the City can begin to allocate funds towards very important humanitarian projects such as "parks".
no recycling bins
Privatization. Need I say more!
Maintenance is priority.
Greater emphasis on naturalized landscapes instead of grass with the odd tree.
I think they are going a great job. Our parks are one of our best assets. I would like more done about spraying for bugs.
This is particularly important for the core neighborhoods. The medians and other common areas are often poorly cared for.
Ramp up DED monitoring, and elm tree replacement.
More investment of dollars for the planning of sustainable parks and open spaces for more healthy parks in the long run. Do a better job of preserving soils and natural area. Make sure there is associated dollars for the long term maintenance of landscapes.
Keep Saskatoon beautiful!
Less concrete in them. River landing is nice, but not natural looking at all. Same with over by the south bridge. Too much work went into such a little area there for getting up to the park. The dirt paths and natural areas are excellent. Only thing I don't understand is the newer areas with parks, only later to be made smaller and have houses built on them (briarwood as ex)
I don't know who thought that doubling the size of the Kinsman Park attractions, and then cutting the parking lot in half, was a good idea. The overflow is killing off Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan and the boat tours, there's no where to park. And what will happen when the Children's Museum opens? Where will those patrons park? I recommend increasing the size of the Kinsman Park parking lot, there is lots of room there to expand and it is badly needed. That should have been a fundamental part of the plan in the first place.
Perform general mowing but some parks are watered almost daily, totally overboard and cause more mowing to be needed. Why water grass in the rain?
Better roads and upgrade to existing parks would be better than building new parks
to many parks that are dandelion infested despite have dozens of workers driving not working,two in a truck
Better management, can't believe the time spent by city crews in trimming trees this year in city park. Way too many employees both winter and summer spending more time driving around wasting gas and time.
Work toward removing those damn nuisance elm trees that grow everywhere that we aren't allowed to dispose of at the compost site.
Urban forestry has to relax and realize that progress means a tree might have to be removed once in awhile.
Put cross country skiing trails that are protected by trees and maintain them. We don't have enough outdoor activity provided by the city in the winter. Same goes recreational skating rink downtown the one by the Hotel is too small.
This department can be contracted out.
Plant food....fruit trees. Edible plants.
provide more funding to the Mewasin Trail, the riverbank is one of our best assets.
I have watched the city demolish Dundonald park and "redo" it in a 3 year project for not much difference. What a waste of money. The park was fine. The lights are nice but regrading the park took away portions of the night toboggan hill and they are now working on the top part of the park that is a waste of money.

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reduce the sprinkler watering system to save the cost of water. I often see the sprinkler on when it's raining. What a waste.
I believe the City could implement a "work for welfare" or other similar program where people could work in parks, etc. for what I assume would be a lower rate of pay than current City workers. This would not only keep our green spaces looking great, but programs such as these have proved very valuable for participants in other towns and cities.
Parks seem to get more attention than snow clearing and road maintenance does,,,,leave it where it is...
Priorities to maintain urban forest. Developers in new residential developments should be expected to provide more trees / park space for neighbourhood. Although these costs may be passed on to homeowners through increased home prices, the benefit to air quality and storm water management is paramount.
I think that our parks are managed really well and appreciate the care given to the urban forest. Keep up the great work.
More maps of parks and biking paths available; libraries, public places. Keep the trucks off the pathways. Schools and organizations should take part in helping to keep parks clean. Community clean up of parks (just like the Meewasen clean ups).
Control the dandelions! Our beautiful parks do not need to be filled with this pesky weed that goes to seed and fills our yards with more of them!
better maintenance on the MVA trails
More parks!
Complete dog parks as promised.
Meewasin valley needs support and not in the downtown area but in the outlying suburban areas.
Parks are used much more by people with dogs. Dog parks are in high demand and it is very disappointing to see chief white cap taken away from the people and dogs that actually use it.
Doesn't concern me.
I feel that in Confederation our parks are not given the kind of attention other areas receive.
Instead of creating and maintaining specialized parks like dog parks or boat launches at everyone's expense, users would be expected to pay the cost of their hobbyist choices. These are not basic requirements justifying the forced appropriation of free people's hard earned income. Try for a little while to consider the practical reality of your choices. To you it's moving numbers for your pet ideas. To most of the people paying the price it is literally the confiscation of part of their life, since they must work to live and those hours of life are subtracted from the finite time each of us has to live. Every hour of wages you force out of the average person is an hour of life you have deprived them of living fully in their allotted time. Perhaps you can understand in that context that authority should not be imposed to throw us literally to the dogs.
Green space of general use is important to the overall health of the city so it is unreasonable to excessively cut this area, but since you provide no opportunity for a better level of detail, I am forced to choose an arbitrary reduction.
What parks,where's all the dog parks ??
Keep parks tidy and safe.
There seems to be a lot of run down parks and play equipment that we don't have money to replace or improve. But we fund sound walls?
Indulge the citizens with better linkages to and from the river valley (bike/pedestrian-without vehicles). Castellated/Mayfair
Couldn't choose a specific amount on the slider, but increasing this amount in general so that the city will do more to fix up the old playground equipment and parks with nothing in them. It may not just be in this part of the budget, but we seem to rely heavily on residents to raise money for new playgrounds instead of the City doing this. Increase the budget or quit spending money on useless things (how many neighborhood playgrounds could a "sound" wall build?).
Saskatoon is an incredibly beautiful city because of all,the trees, parks, walkways, etc. I'm fortunate to live so close to the Natural Grasslands, the North East swale and many walking paths. The only thing I wondered about was the scheduling of the mowing along the walking paths. It seemed a waste of resources when mowers would come around twice a week during a period of drought earlier this summer. There was nothing to cut. I would suggest a better monitoring system might save money.
The more public space the better. Stop spending on inefficient roads.

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What are your top priorities Parks? What change(s) would you suggest?

Keep them up.

Turf all the staff working in city clean-up for parks and watering. Hire this out on a full-time basis to companies that can be gauged by their effectiveness and annually reviewed. The fact that this is done in-house is a waste of resources on a massive scale.

Parks are an important asset to the community. New parks should be funded through property tax base growth.

Satisfied with current

less grass (expensive to maintain); more natural areas. More edible plants - and let the public know about it (berry trees, Swiss chard, etc)

edible plantings in core neighborhood parks - saskatoon berries, plums, . bring non-sports green spaces and pocket parks to existing low income dense areas with high suicide risks - 22nd st w, like the relaxing spaces by Arts building on campus.

No dogs allowed in parks where there are playgrounds. They urinate all over and our children play soccer, run on the grass, roll down the hills , have picnic lunches in areas where dogs walk. Many dog owners do not pick up feces. We do not allow our citizens to urinate on the parks and public places or city boulevards, so why do we allow dogs yo do so? Dog parks for dogs. Human parks for humans!!

Why are two areas providing similar outcomes and expectations.

Mowing and watering can be reduced from current levels, pesticide use should be significantly reduced or eliminated for the health of our children (science has proven a link between pesticides and childhood cancer as conclusively as is possible within the ethical limits. Planting perennial and native plants can also reduce costs.

Urban planting is utmost concern.

As mentioned before growth should pay for itself. Snow removal was discussed earlier.

More linear parks, more pocket parks, more neighbourhood square parks. More urban-style parks. Saskatoon does a great job with sports fields and big open parks, but those only serve a small percentage of the population. We need more small, public spaces that can be used for community events or are just nice places to sit and have a cup of coffee. Especially if it's mixed in with other amenities and/or apartments/condos. The squares, linear parks, an pocket parks in the new neighbourhoods are great. We need more of those throughout the city.

better park maintenance which will support creative park design.

Green space is " Great" But you need to realize it come`s with a cost! Maybe gradually decrease the size of "Green space' in newer areas and people will not notice.

development and maintenance of riverside parks including the Swale.

I lowered this because a few years of maintenance only could be done with parks to free up more monies to get the transportation situation better managed.

Stop contracting out companies to cut certain areas of the city or hold them accountable if they are not properly maintaining the area. Hire people that are actually able to work, if they are unable to work a job accommodation could be given or not to hire them back the next season.

Our parks are great, nice work

I took a picture of 10 City workers standing around one tree on City property. One person pruned, one person took the fallen branches away, eight people watched. That kind of thing gives a bad impression of how the city is being managed.

Utilize able bodied unemployed to support operations and maintenance.

The number of acres of park space has increased dramatically in the past 10 years without the corresponding increase to the maintenance budget. It might be time to increase the number of private contractors providing these services.

Our city is pride is centred around these parks and the mewassin valley. As well as being a free activity (places for families to play and gather) these areas are also used for many visitor attractions and maintenance/improvement should be a priority

I'm happy with what we have.

More space for green city. More community garden areas.

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What are your top priorities Parks? What change(s) would you suggest?

1. Parks and facilities are the life of the city. A direct outlet for the frustrations for dealing with the trials and stresses of life. In addition, they provide a strong perception of the City, and how the City cares for their citizens. So, please ensure more frequent monitoring and cleaning of vulgar graffiti is done in this area, and general maintenance. I had to call in to request more sand be added to our park this year. Which leads to the question of why did I have to call? Isn't someone responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the park? Are they doing their job properly? Are processes flawed?

It was extremely disturbing to go to the park this year for over 2 months with my wife and 2 year old boy to see the graffiti. And yes, I called in and reported it. Multiple times.

2. While I'm replying, the Wilson Park safety issue I brought up with the City; twice; still exists. Around the "Medium child" play centre area (enclosed in wood chips) is a plastic border/berm between it and the surrounding grass, the mower hit this a few years ago, and very sharp pieces of plastic are protruding / hole exists in this plastic "berm", if a child (or adult, or dog) trips and falls on this they are going to seriously hurt themselves. Perhaps this could be taken seriously? Actually fixed?.

Cuts to police and fire (costs are out of control)
Add more to parks

The money spent on parks is criminal, we don't need to spend this much on them, especially since you don't spray for dandelions anyway, the parks are just dandelion spreading pastures.

I think our parks are beautiful and well-maintained. Meewasin trail is kept clear of snow in the winter. Thanks!

Parks needs more staff in the field and fewer people in the parks and less people in management. Their equipment could also use an upgrade. These people make our city look beautiful!!! I'm sure they could use a longer season as well. The grass is still green and no workers in site.

More money to Meewasin and keep the Whitecap Dog Park available to dogs.

None

Our parks and trees are what makes Saskatoon beautiful.

Preserve natural areas as natural areas.

More urban agriculture - currently too much grass to maintain and serves no purpose, clear snow on pathways, winter park with no entry fee.

Increase field lighting if field is booked with cash and increase portipotties.

Preservation of the river, the remaining natural environment, the urban forest and our parks are essential for a vibrant, healthy and ecologically friendly city.

Privatize parks maintenance.

Tree planting; cross country ski facilities and winterized park facilities in general

Dandelions, pigeons and mosquitoes are not indigenous to this region. Start doing something about them instead of letting things "go back to nature". A city is not a natural habitat.

I like the natural looks of green spaces for a majority of the larger areas but for high traffic areas in the city I do appreciate the plantings, think it makes a difference to the overall feel of the city. Keep the snow clearing on pathways!!!! I ride year round and the pathways are cleared better than roads therefore much safer.

maintenance of the valuable greenspace assets that we have.

Better maintenance of dog parks

Our connection with nature is what makes our city so great, more parks, more tree, lets create food forests, and more parks like buena vista.

maintenance on gravel ball diamond parking is always excessive.every year.some of this budget should be transferred to maintaining back alleys . its ironic that the alleys can be filled with potholes and the ball diamond or park parking lot is maintained. also we should go back to weed and pest control as whats the sense in having parks if they look like crap and you are eaten

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alive?

Weed control.

Bathrooms in parks with sports facilities - ball diamonds, soccer pitches, football fields, etc. Even portapotties for the summer would be good.

Parks are in great shape, keep planting an urban forest. Trees are one of the most striking features of Saskatoon.

Reduce unnecessary maintenance. This past summer the park near my house had work done that was probably unnecessary. Shrub and perennial beds that had taken years to fill in had much of their mature plants heavily pruned or removed and mulch was put down to suppress weeds. The plants had filled in nicely and had choked out any weeds that tried to establish. In addition the heavy pruning and removal of some shrubs now means that there are clear sightlines that make the houses behind very visible. Prior to this "maintenance" the plantings obscured the houses behind which created the illusion of endless vegetation, which was much more aesthetically pleasing.

We have too many poorly located parks with no programming that are consistently empty. Going forward fewer parks should be created, but ones that are created should be of higher quality than currently existing ones requiring a smaller total investment with a better result

None

Better maintenance of trees.

You watered the park near me 5 days a week all summer. This is excessive and wasteful and wouldn't have happened if they didn't have money to burn!!!! This doesn't require less service just better management!

Dog parks should be a fee for service. Dog owners should pay for this service when they register their dogs for a license.

my only concern as for parks are the lack of decent dog parks in this city.....the city is quick to want our dogs licensed & the \$ to go to these so-called wonderful off leash areas we have??? please show me one is all I ask

Parks has not received adequate funding for years. Seven years before boulevard trees are trimmed is not an acceptable standard. A homeowner would never trim his own trees based on an interval of 7 years.

Privatize the dog parks

Happy with this

Snow clearing on the park paths during the winter is really important. It would also be nice to see the development of more hiking trails within the city.

The park's kind of suck, they do have snow on them 3/4 of the year. I don't like the forestry farm. Going to see the monkeys and lions in cages is depressing. Then there are the animals that I would see if I went a few hours north of Saskatoon. I do like the grass fields that are for soccer and other field sports. Some of the field I have had to play on feel more like weeds in a clay. But, I would not say that I am unhappy with it. I would like to see more outside winter sports things to do. The rink at the Bes. needs to be fixed the ice sucks, someone it going to kill themselves. A really great outdoor hockey rink in city limits. a city run and rental toboggan hill. The city could put in a water activity, that they could make money off of. For example: white water rafting, rent out kayaks, teach river safety lessons. Make money off the beach areas, instead of running people off them. Make the Parks make money for the city. With all that said, I would not add money to the budget for parks. I would put that money to housing. Can't have fun if they don't have a house.

Saskatoon has a good parks system, new Kinsmen park is excellent, keep up the great work and expand upon it. Cheaper than increasing policing. Important employee recruitment tool.

As this is not a critical service, I believe we should strive to minimize costs of the parks program.

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What are your top priorities for Recreation & Culture? What change(s) would you suggest?

Same comment as Parks.
compared to other cities I think Saskatoon is doing well in this area. the rec centre have good access, a good variety of programs and are not deteriorating. decreasing costs for memberships is good to encourage people to use them and to decrease the barriers for those with lower incomes
We need a freeze on new leisure centers. We used to live in Arbor Creek and prepaid on our lot levies to have a school built down the street, i didn't see any refund once the school went to willowgrove instead.
Why with all of the growth in this city we cannot build a multi recreational center like so many other cities in Canada in the new residential areas? Swimming pool, a couple sheets of ice, soccer center, lacrosse field, track field, weights/work out area....Saskatoon is very OLD SCHOOL- we do not have one new recreational center on the East Side in 40 years that is multi functional---keep putting money in some of the facilities that are not generating any cash flow. Again, lets run these centers like a business.
More family programs and options (e.g. indoor playgrounds), maintaining the current affordable rates, for a growing family-oriented City.
This is great, but why should my tax dollars pay for something everyone benefits from? If there are 4 families living in a home using these resources, why am I paying the same for one family to use them?
Lay off the people that move from the closed art gallery until just before the new one opens. also not build the parking for the gallery and quit with the add costs that seem to arise every few months.
people that use it can pay for it.
I'd love to have a leisure centre in stonebridge.
Keep building facilities no one uses and then drop the user fees some more so the property ratepayers can subsidize more.
Users should pay for programs and services
Reducing rates at leisure centres. Get people active. They don't account for sunk costs on tax bills, but the out of pocket expenses at the door.
Not sure of current needs but like the route the city is taking?
we will probably never go to the new art gallery and we are unhappy with how much that project is costing
Drop in centers.
A fitness complex for Riversdale, King George and Holiday Park. Don't let the Indian bands run it like White Buffalo. More wave pools. Why do we have to go to the North or East ends of town to use them. Reduced usage fees.
increased maintenance will prevent large future expenditures
The city should provide the necessary facilities: leisure centres, public golf, sports fields and parks in neighbourhoods. Arts and culture should be funded by those that want these special items. I never used the Mendal, nor will I ever use the new Remai, but I and thousands like me will be paying for it for years now.
Privatize hours of heavy use. Make use lower cost during hours not used. Leisure Service buildings should not be provided in new subdivisions. Any leisure in this area should be provided by the residents, or they can travel to existing areas.
Reduction of membership costs. Increased cost caused me to cancel membership and move to independent facility.
How many homeless people could be housed in the Remai art gallery? I do not want my tax dollars supporting the gallery,hence, the decrease.
Lower fees! More classes
focus on equipment
The only reason I would suggest a reduction in this area is because I believe the difference could be made up by no longer subsidizing those people that chose to live in outlying communities and not pay city taxes. Those people, while they do support our economy, should not pay the same rate as the citizens that actually pay taxes to for these service. People that have chosen to live elsewhere and not contribute to the tax base should not receive the same benefits as those that have chosen to live in the city of Saskatoon and do pay taxes.
I have not visited a leisure centre lately because of the cost. Thank you for decreasing the fees. But I seem to recall city council meeting about a year ago where people were upset about surrounding towns/cities registering and taking up spaces in Saskatoon tax paid facilities. My thought at the time was so what because how many of them shop, eat and do other business here. Do we charge them for driving on our streets and using the bathroom?

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What are your top priorities for Recreation & Culture? What change(s) would you suggest?

The new Mendel art gallery what a waste of tax payers money. This city is not big enough to support it and now you want people that never have or will use it support it! What a joke.

More parades

start charging non-saskatoon residents for use of civic facilities like Harry Bailey center, etc. Make the spaces available to saskatoon residents before offering the spaces to non-tax paying people from outlying communities.

Arts organizations are underfunded in our city. They are major employers.

I stated above that the addition of new subdivisions requires extended recreation infrastructure whereas an earnest focus on densification would allow a greater percentage of Saskatonians to utilize fewer facilities with a higher level of service. I also think that it is important that we start to look seriously at engaging the populous in winter activities. We are far from the coldest city in the world yet the ethos of Saskatonians currently is that civic culture is not worth participating in during the winter months. Warm-up shacks, groomed cross-country ski trails, protecting our current store of dog parks, and encouraging active transportation - even in the cooler months - would benefit the health and wellbeing of our constituents and the fostering of a stronger community.

The east side is severely underserved in terms of indoor pools. We need a new indoor facility with more than one waterslide! Alternatively, Lakewood should be expanded.

Less frequent equipment replacements would suit me fine.

No more culture! 20 million plus for an art gallery that we already had?

Give Saskatoon ratepayers first choices for registering for swimming etc.

I would like the City of Saskatoon to slow (or cease) its efforts in the "gym" as many private businesses can deliver this programing for a variety of costs. However, social programming that involves fitness aspects I would continue to support.

Keep admissions low so that cost is not a barrier to usage. These should serve everyone in the city, especially those with modest financial means.

More advertising in leisure centre's to keep costs down.

Yes I use them, keep the user fees as close to what is charged now, some need up dating, keep doing it small pieces at a time, so there is no hugh increase to the public, in one big bill.

more recreation and culture programs in civic centres - civic centres need to become hubs of activity for residents so need more programs beyond swimming and fitness equipment. They need to be people places alive with activity day and night.

Tender it out to a private company to run and maintain the buildings. It would be cheaper because I've worked in the maintenance department and it's a old boys club. Nothing gets done and take 3 times longer than it should.

I think there would be greater gains with respect to public safety by increasing funding for Rec & Culture than there would be by increasing police funding.

Increased funding to recreational programs is a more appropriate way to reduce crime rates; however, the addition of the monumental Remai Art Gallery was excessive and extremely short-sited. Public entities need to be cautious in approving capital project simply because a large private donation is available. Ongoing operational costs need to be considered in addition to the capital expenditure. The University of Saskatchewan will also face challenges in operating the buildings that were built on large donations.

charge \$1 per movie rental at all libraries

stop forcing non profits to pay for policing when having a beer gardens when licensed security is all that is needed. it's a large 'tax' that was completely unnecessary.

Recreation is a money loser any way you shape it. These services are overfunded, Look at Privatization where ever you can and let communities and churches provide recreation and culture.

Increased grant opportunities for cultural events.

You hear about this group in the news hurting because not enough people are using city facilities. I question this because more and more fitness centers are opening so this groups needs to rebrand itself and provide more of the programs people want. And Please get a better registration system already.

Let out of towners pay more to use. My taxes should not pay for people from out of town.i

Privatization

I think anyone using the facilities who is not a Saskatoon taxpayer should pay a slightly higher rate at the facilities. It really isn't fair that they pay the same rate but contribute nothing through their tax dollars.

I would buy a leisure pass, but the decline in price really wasn't a bargain. I would go to shaw center, but it really doesn't seem to be built the greatest. I'm 50/50 on what I want with this area.

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What are your top priorities for Recreation & Culture? What change(s) would you suggest?

More funding for smaller festivals and events that make Saskatoon special. Less emphasis on super projects such as Remai Modern. That project needs to source more of its own funding, if indeed people really want it.

I am worried that the City will look at the total amount set aside for this, rather than the individual "asks". While I support the new art gallery, I am concerned that it will eat up all of this budget category at the expense of a lot of smaller things. This will be disastrous for a lot of useful endeavours. It will also look like the City is maintaining its support for this category when it really isn't - it would actually be decreasing its support for all the smaller groups, in order to fund the art gallery. That is deceiving, and isn't very fair.

Cut back on all the events, like expensive unnecessary Fireworks Festivals, etc. Have one or two summertime big events, but not something every single week! Impossible for everyone to get to all of them and the novelty wears off after a year or so. Then it becomes a groaning chore to have kids and others trying to encourage you to go to these ridiculous events. Even have the Jazz Festival, Canada Day Celebrations, The Ex, and The FolkFest. - Enough for summer....no more needed. Fall, have 2 Events, Winter - have 2 events, spring have 2 events. More than enough!

Grants to arts and culture organizations. The city has overcommitted to the gallery and should not assume that money spent building it and running it counts. The city has gone too far on the Gallery and I worry that over commitment on it will suck up the arts and culture money for other orgs that are not being supported enough

The leisure pass rates should be reduced even further to improve demand and then make more money.

More cost effective sports for underprivileged children. To high fees for rec centres.

Top priorities for Recreation and Culture is to support local performing arts organizations. I am concerned that the City's investment into the art gallery (formerly the Mendel) will detract from support to other arts and cultural organizations, particularly performing arts. The City should not allow that to happen. It is crucial that the City provide healthy support to a range of arts organizations as they contribute greatly to quality of life and ability of businesses to attract good people.

city should worry about streets not pools

Get out of the business can't compete with the private system in both cost and service

A large, civic run complex of ice rinks (similar in nature to the Legends Centre in Warman) would go a long way towards making participating in a sport such as hockey much more enjoyable.

Skiing trails and longer skating rink....protected by trees.

Reduce funding for new art gallery to zero - sell the property. Devote all money to swimming pools, ball diamonds, etc

New rinks, convert ball diamonds to soccer pitches, need criquet fields.

Focus on city owned leisure centres along with non-profit centres that the city does not provide the same service (i.e. curling or hockey clubs) to assist in their community engagement.

more affordability for leisure centers and a focus on more activities for families such as a science center or IMAX. Right now we are seriously lacking in affordable, fun things for children and families.

YES - I have visited a leisure centre recently. Decline in utilization levels of leisure centres signals changing demand. RECONSIDER additional investment very carefully. I do not support tax increases for leisure centres, nor for outdoor recreation and sport facilities unless they are integrated into school playgrounds.

Arenas!! The city needs to build a new facility and it needs to happen sooner rather than later. To provide appropriate times to kids to obtain ice time and keep them engaged so the sport continues to grow.

This should be funded by those using it or by donations,,or organizations using the facilities...alot of citizens are paying and using any of them,,,never have.....

More swimming classes for kids, I haven't been able to register kids in lessons for two years at Lakeview Civic centre, have had to travel to other neighbourhoods and the system is horrible for registrations

Currently not using any.

Appreciate reduce facility pass rates

I appreciate our leisure centres and have used them a lot over the years. But if it were less expensive to have them run by private operators I would support that.

REcreation facilliteis are way too expensive. If you could do like montreal and make them all free or all residents l<d pay more tax

Seniors are the growing population. If they use the facility in the down times, could they not get a better rate? How can they be better engaged to live a healthier lifestyle? The walk to the moon program is one way. There must be others.

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make the centre's more affordable for everyone, to encourage casual usage. Also develop strategic partnerships with businesses that will allow companies to buy bulk passes, or leisure cards, at a discounted rate for their employees much as is already available through private fitness facilities.

Give up on some services that the private sector is now providing, cooperate with private sector in some cases. Do not need to provide these services to everyone, but need to focus on young people with impoverished family situations.

Ludicrous to lower the fees for access as has been pointed out in recent days this has done nothing to increase revenue or use rather it resulted in nothing of substance - this was to be expected and I wonder where you get your brain thrust from?! Let the private sector deal with major recreation and put rinks back into school yards and let the community associations take responsibility for recreation and parents! NOT one single penny of public money to go to the art gallery of Saskatchewan.. The Centre of the Arts in Regina sat as monkey bars for years on the lake because of no funds - the same can happen with this facility!!!

I haven't used the leisure centre in years, I find it very expensive. Have fewer centres, which will cost less. I don't agree with spending on the art gallery, at all. Not sure why we are spending so much of the budget on this.....add the extra money to services, and reduce the leisure activities, as they are apparently losing money anyway.

No interest

We pay an extremely high price in order to utilize these facilities. The city did lower rates if you purchase passes but only due to a decrease in patronage. The one time use prices are still quite high. The programs run through these facilities are very hit or miss. It feels that we are not getting our monies worth. Training for the leaders of these programs needs to be increased.

Again, without more detail I have to pick an arbitrary number. Low income families should be issued passes, everyone else should pay the true cost of service. You actively and maliciously persecute smokers on absurd grounds (the risk of actual harm from second hand smoke in an outdoor environment is smaller, much, much smaller, than the risk of being struck by lightning), yet you use the threat of violence (police, courts, property confiscation) to give recreation and leisure to those who can afford to pay for their own "leisure." The word should give you a clue that this is non-essential. If those who can pay don't want the service then we probably don't need the service and we can subsidize the poor to have access to private recreational facilities that are able to produce the service at a cost willing buyers will pay.

Your changes to the Field House Lockers, do you think it's kindergarten kids using these locker in the change room, i just can't understand who looks after making those decisions, not someone with any brains that for sure???

Leisure centres should have a very low user fee to encourage people to use them. This would pay off in better fitness and health for the general population.

More accessible/affordable for leisure passes

Let's get some business expertise to figure out how to run these.

Reducing fees was an excellent first step. Again, I believe opening up leisure centers to youth will help curb crime in the long run.

Build some more rinks

I would be for an increase to allow for everyone to have full access to leisure centers as part of their civic taxes. Outsiders from surrounding communities could still be charged a fee. This would encourage our city to get healthy and fit.

Saskatoon needs its own civic holiday, perhaps to coincide with the August long weekend. We should be celebrating the city in an active manner during the summer rather than letting CTV pick their citizen of the year and that's all anyone thinks about the city. More celebrations centred on city hall and the downtown instead of always just the one Canada Day bash at Diefenbaker Park.

Leisure centres should not be subsidized through the property tax

I believe the city could use arts/culture/recreation dollars to stimulate Creative Placemaking in the city-- using programs and projects to address community needs, health, and stimulate economic development.

more support for culture (grants to organizations) and culture programs (the City should include arts activities as well as sports activities in the leisure centres - i.e. makerspaces, studios)

move fitness programming and standards of instruction of the Leisure Centres to core neighborhoods in afternoons for safety for adults with chronic health issues, focusing on social determinants of health, and suicide risks of the area.

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What are your top priorities for Recreation & Culture? What change(s) would you suggest?

Community-focused initiatives that are the innovative and accessible to all
Art budgets should not be used for abstract art. Arts money should be for statues to honour individuals who make a difference in the community.
Start charging people living in surrounding areas more money for classes. We cannot budget an annual pass.
We need more programs and new facilities
Ensure that these facilities remain accessible.
Too many facilities. Private enterprise will do a better job.
focus on cultural events and opportunities for adults
Keep reducing the rates at the leisure centres. They are so great, but it got so expensive. Also more public recreation facilities like the workout machines on the edge of river landing. They are great.
should be self sufficient.
Increase fees for none tax payers
Golf course pricing is quite high as well as rec centers, Quit subsidizing user`s that would probably never use if the subsidies were not there
Outdoor pools should be free or cheaper in the summer. Arts and Culture are extremely important - Saskatoon needs to make arts and culture more accessible and a priority. Arts and culture BRING people to a city and encourage them to STAY in a city.
Funding to arts organization - not just TCU place and the gallery.
More arts funding.
Why does this only reference recreation facilities? The arts funding in this city is less than other cities our size.
culture should be a bigger priority for the city.
focus more on user=pay and reduce financial support from tax base
Lower this as a tax category and use these centers as "found income" for citizens to rent for family gatherings, large group meetings, etc.
enjoying the lessen monthly fee and not having to buy a yearly pass
I don't think these are fully utilized.
Support community associations - they provide great bang for our buck. Leisure centres should be transitioned to be more than they are now - there are so many opportunities for innovation and efficiencies there. Remai is a huge waste of taxpayers money. The art gallery is being closed for almost 2 years - maybe more. I haven't heard anyone say that they missed having an art gallery open this summer - very very few people would even have noticed. We do not need that big white elephant and taxpayer funding should be absolutely minimized. I've reduced funding in this area because I want to see funding cut to the Remai. They are asking for more staff and they are not even going to be open. No more money to the Remai.
Use better facilities management systems to ensure long term sustainability.
City Leisure Centres already cannot compete with the quality of equipment and services provided by the private sector. there is little point in investing further into a "white elephant". More research needs to be undertaken to identify how to improve the quality of equipment and services in order to make these facilities viable.
I'm happy with the reduced rate for a monthly leisure pass. Making these facilities more accessible to those who can't afford a monthly pass would also do wonders for the younger community (more healthy activities = less gang relations)
Arts Organizations rare not funded by the city. Since TCU place is, perhaps they need to give consideration to Arts Organizations using the facility.
I don't use them.
Making more accessible and affordable
We personally only use the swimming facilities for our young child. The pools generally seem clean and well maintained. Though the water slide was down for a few months for maintenance,

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so that's probably a sign that they are also having budget constraints?
Charge more for lockers and daycare
Can't anything be self-supporting in the city.!
Art, culture, recreation are the heartbeat of a city. A city that invests in these activities creates desirability, attracts head offices and values its citizens. Invest in artSpace. Continue to support the organizations that you do, and continue to purchase and lease public art.
Do not use.
Stop pouring money into the Remai Art Gallery.
Partner with a big corporation to build another rink or add on to Jemini - like the Co-op Centre in Regina. The city can't meet the demand of ringette and hockey teams.
All citizens, regardless of income, should be able to enjoy our libraries, sports facilities and cultural facilities.
Book festival please.
Passes for the leisure centers are still too expensive.
reducing access rates to help increase accessibility, and increased facility maintenance.
No preferences
Need to continue to invest in healthy communities, active lifestyles and community building areas.
decrease spending on this period. when a person goes then pay accordingly. this city has spent millions on the new remai art gallery that could have been used for building the new bridge, and increasing basic services to all residents of saskatoon.
Build a leisure center for people in Riversdale, Pleasant Hill, Holiday Park and Forest Grove. Don't have it associated with White Buffalo.
The admission price decrease has encouraged my family to use the leisure centre more often.
Cut the programs offered significantly, or go to more of a user pay model.
Where to start? Stop building monuments-RAGS, for instance.
I should be able to register by postal code and be given preference/first spot available for the facility that is in my community for Red Cross swimming lessons. It is a disgrace that I live in Lakewood and have yet to take my son to a class there as they are always booked.
increase user fees and allow a low income fee, everyone else could pay a little more at the door.
Privatize all leisure centres.
expanded hours of operation ie 24 hr availability on fitness centers.
Make users pay more
Keeping the prices of the leisure centers low is good.
I don't think I would add more money to the budget. The Leisure Centres are fine. I like that the city put money into the outdoor pools. I have used them for many years. I want to see more things to do in the city. I am not excited for the art gallery, it sounds so expensive, may not be worth it. More cultural activities, that different. For example, take parts of the folk festival and put it into smaller things though the year. Include the new Canadians in putting it together share their culture and food with us. I love the different food. Have more cultural/snow days.
Keep improving leisure services. Outdoor gym along Meewasin was great idea, keep up the great work and expand upon it. Improved recreation and culture (and parks) is associated with lower crime; cheaper than increasing policing. Important employee recruitment tool. Users from outside the tax assessment area should pay full cost (if they don't already), e.g. Warman/Martensville.
I do not believe municipal government should be involved in recreation and culture. This should be privately funded.

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I am willing to pay higher taxes if the taxes improve the quality of life in Saskatoon, particularly for those living in poverty.

The decision to build the new art gallery should have gone to a vote as I have talked to many people about this and none are supportive of this very expensive decision that impacts our taxes, even though city administration blames the tax increase on road work and snow removal etc. If the gallery were not built we could have the increase focus on roads and snow removal without the tax increases.

We need to stop pushing sprawl and work on building dense mixed-use communities. Quality transit and a lack of big roads will help.

In setting Municipal taxes rate you need to look at average wage rate increases and inflation rates as a guide to what amount you should increase local taxes. I feel the city rate increases is way out of touch with these stats the last number of years.

lower wages for city administration, councilors and mayor

Oil prices are down, the economy is near recession and the city wants an extra 4%? Wow i wish i lived in your world!!

My family's concern about this tax hike is that its to much. We are not rich and living paycheck to paycheck like the majority of people in the city. I just wish that we would have councilor sit up and say no to this tax hike. We would pay our fair share but every year the city asks for more money. easy for the city administrators to put this forward when they make a 6 figure salary. Just frustrating for the majority of ppl that don't make a 6 figure salary. I would wish that this tax hike at least goes lower or I would have to think about moving my family out of and area we feel safe in.

The dollar figures here don't mean much as a citizen, beyond that the police take a huge chunk of the overall budget. I'd have rather seen a poll that just asked for your overall priorities, not tied to money.

lower wages for city administrators and especially the city solicitor. Get rid of the Community liasion officer; and get rid of the Marketing director that the mayor and councillors use to try and spin their stupid decisions

Fire any City manager that can't cut at least 5% from last year's budget. Pay incentives for real savings.

If we cut every dept. in half, more widows could afford to stay in their homes and not in the streets! The citizens suggest we cut the 300 people that have been hired in the past few years, or maybe merge departments! Another possibility.

Cap the funding on the New gallery. Why has someone not being fired over this? Is this normal for every civic building? Good general contractor knows every change costs a lot of extra money. Why after all this time are there so many changes being freely instituted? X amount was budgeted. They need to meet that amount. They have been allowed to return too many times as it is.

Let's create something akin to a wonder of the world here. Let's reinvigorate our relationship with Shijiazhuang and find some other significantly sized cities to establish relationships with, cities like Manila or Saigon. Let's have Mandarin and Tagalog signage in Riversdale as well as English signage. Let's try and give the city a more cosmopolitan, international flavour.

It is time this city started spending ONLY on items that should be considered important to ALL citizens. NO MORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SPENDING! NO MORE ARTS & CULTURE SPENDING! Let the people that want these things pay for it themselves. Cities should be funding roads, police, intergovernmental affairs, etc. You know, the stuff that individuals can't do themselves.

The City Comptroller should have more control. Engineers like to build services and will do so if money is provided.

Any increase in salary for City manager and senior administrators should be paid for by a reduction in their employees. The City managers office has grown with special advisers and public communicators. The cost of these people should be cut by 50%.

How can we ask taxpayers to continually increase property taxes at rates near or greater than 4% when inflation and wage increases are closer to 2%.

The power rates of SL&P are too high. The tax payers within SL&P are paying more for power and the excess profits being used for services in outlying new subdivisions served by SaskPower. Lower the rates of SL&P customers so the Return on Investment is at an industrial average of 8.5% like SaskPower.

The water and wastewater rate increases over the past nine years have totaled 73.5%. (8.2% per year).

This amount is very large. Water treatment and Sewage plant costs could be privatized. In addition, there seems to be very little control of the costs of water distribution lines and sewage collection lines. Perhaps the water distribution and wastewater collections systems should set the rates after purchasing treated water and paying sewage treatment plant for their services. Rate increases should be limited to 2-4%, and new subdivisions should provide capital for the need for expansion of the water and treatment plants.

People on fixed income have to adjust their budgets to live in the face of higher prices. I think the City of

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Saskatoon should too. Please provide this information to the Mayor and Councillors.

Capital spending is to large overall.

This council has to remember we are not living in Toronto or Vancouver!!! Bike lanes indeed. Totally useless & dangerous as well.

A state of the art gallery for the few who can afford it! A waste of tax money. Maybe we will grow into these things some day but money can be better spent now.

Get your heads out of the clouds council. The extravagant spending has to stop. We just cannot afford it. Sometimes less is better. Focus on the basics.

Otherwise, I think you are doing a pretty good job.

STOP RAISING TAXES! Work within your budget. Stop giving yourselves raises. Earn your money

KEEP TAX INCREASES TO NO HIGHER THAN INFLATION

The new bike lanes downtown are one of the stupidest things I have seen the city do in a long time. I am downtown daily and have seen very limited use of these lanes. We live in a city that has winter for half the year. I witnessed very little bicycle traffic in these lanes during the summer months so I doubt they will be used at all during the winter. I understand the concept of trying to encourage more environmentally friendly transportation methods, but city administration totally missed the mark on this one. What a horrific waste of funding. Get rid of them.

This tax hike will put undo hardship onto my family, My husband and I have worked hard for many year and still are to be in the neighborhood that we are in. if this tax hike goes through we will have to sell out house and look for a cheaper area to live in....how is this fair!

Lets start up a safe injection site for junkies and show people how progressive we are. Also gender neutral bathrooms (XX)

I am very happy that the city is producing surveys like this. It is a big step in the right direction. I do hope, however, that these do not simply serve as tools to pacify a stifled culture of vehicle-dependence and lazy behaviour. A city should make the tough decisions to enrich the lives of its populous even if it is an uncomfortable change in the meantime. The city is starting to take steps towards a more responsible leadership roll instead of simply pandering to its (relatively spoiled) electorate - the bike lane tests for instance - but I think it needs to continue to challenge its inhabitants to live a more healthy, active, informed, participatory and communal life by making hard decisions based on the experience of more mature cities around the globe and relevant studies instead of simply maintaining status quo and continuing to execute the same mistakes other major centres (such as Calgary) made a decade ago.

Great tool!

In general, I think our city is far too focused on growth. We need to value what we have and not jeopardize it in the name of "progress". Examples that come to mind are our built heritage (The Farnam Block, the Traffic Bridge, the original Kinsmen Park, the Mendel and many others), our natural landscapes (Chief Whitecap Offleash Park, North East Swale, the natural river bank -- ie NOT River Landing), etc

It would be nice to see city counsel have some common sense and start holding the tax increases to 0. More people in the city = more tax dollars, not an excuse to raise taxes every year

No more tax dollars for the new Art Gallery.

love the street flower program; love the public golf courses.

The easiest way for the city to grow it's budget without increasing the mill rate is to add to the taxable assessment inside our existing city limits in a way that doesn't require an expansion of our infrastructure. Encouraging infill development and densification grows our tax base and revenue stream without requiring any investment from city hall, which means improved services can come to citizens without an increased mill rate. Win win.

We hate the new Art Gallery, (Money house) this city can't afford something like this. We will be in debit because of someones big dream!!

Very poor management & supervision on behalf of the city. Stop & consider all areas before jumping into a situation such as this. Bridges are a necessary project, but do it with a good planner.

Police and Fire are important but very expensive. Saskatoon needs to have more to do and have more places to go especially in winter.

Over expenses should be minimized by cutting managerial level jobs.

1. I am fine with paying more taxes so long as I receive better service. The City of Saskatoon has very low taxes. I do not see this as a positive thing. Short sighted politicians will stand on their soap box and declare this an achievement but they will not receive my support. Our low taxes result in a pretty low level of service in many aspects. 2. Throughout the budget consultation process I have not seen any discussion

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of finding more efficient ways to do business within the administration. Overhead expenses associated with civic staff should be on the table as another option to reduce spending.

Why so much on the librarys ? Its 2015 i dont think that many people actually use them. Have one large one instead of operating a bunch of different ones.

I would consider myself a middle class taxpayer. Tax increases every year are affecting my quality of life in Saskatoon. each year I have less of my money. My wage increases do not offset the increases taken by the city - therefore each year I lose more and more of my personal income. the income I earn to make the necessary purchases while TRYING to enjoy a quality of life away from my employment. It can't continue. Canadians / Saskatoonians are increasingly going into debt by having to take lines of credit or max credit cards etc to get by while trying to live a reasonable life. when your city continually takes more and more from you while promoting "quality of life", it's laughable and makes for an increasingly cynical public which is the opposite of a quality of life

It is nice to see the city thinking about the future now lets really think about it. We are not a big city, even at 500,000 so our traffic moves fine and timely. Try living in Toronto or Vancouver. we need to lead all growing cities by attacking traffic problems with mass transit not roads and bridges. How much mass transit could we provide for the tune of one bridge at 33 street. That project is a narrow minded an backwards view to a spoiled commuter base that needs to be forced to change and our city leaders need to stand up and deliver.

I love this idea of having a voice, thanks.

Our city is great and we should be proud of it. However, often times I feel there is a lack of innovation and forward-thinking within our city. We are the last to adopt environmental initiatives and rarely come forward with ideas that can create a greener and healthier place to live.

I would challenge the city to take on at least one completely different idea that hasn't been implemented to prove to me and all the other citizens that Saskatoon is innovative. What that idea is up for debate, but off the top of my head perhaps we should have community-based composting stations, city-wide bikes lanes, city run bikes, etc. I want our city to be more proactive in general as opposed to adopting change late and having a reactive style. We can watch other cities try new things or we can try new things for ourselves. Of course, I don't necessarily understand the intricacies of running a city and maybe someone is rolling their eyes at what I am saying - fair enough. I get frustrated when people don't understand what I do completely and attempt to tell me how to do it. However, let's become leaders for once. Let's embrace what is here and help to nurture the people and environments we can create.

I value a city that is forward-thinking, clean, beautiful, and innovative. We can be the city of everyone's dreams, but we need to want it.

Focus on the core needs of the city: Police, Fire, Snow Removal, Roads and Bridges, Parks, Development, Recycling and tell the public sector to step up for the rest.

Proprty maintenance bylaws are important and should be enforced! There must be consequences for folks who fail to comply with the most basic home maintenance (collecting junk and trash, allowing houses to deteriorate from neglect).

We have a beautiful city but are behind in sustainable practices related to transportation and growth.

I am on a fixed income .how can you raise my taxes year after year.dont you care about senior citizens.

More outsourcing and privatization, library reevaluation

Impressed with the streets this summer and the work done. City parks are beautiful.

Sewer and infrastructure charges,flood protection, storm water management, recycling should not be part of my water bill. My water bill dated Sept. 8, 2015 totaled \$332.81. Of that \$151.42 was for actual water usage. The remaining \$181.39 should be considered as part of the mill rate. This \$181.39 is a pretty steep tax for one month. When I get my water bill, it should be for water used only. Put all these other items on the mill rate, as they are in fact hidden taxes to deceive the people re: actual mill rate.Without doubt the mill rate would rise;but we would also know what our actual tax rate is. Also, people that keep their garden; lawn; shrubs looking good would not pay more than those that don't. Abolish this hidden tax; make it part of the mill rate; even with an upcoming civic election.

This mayor and council have been irresponsible with the past few budgets - a tax hike of 13% over 2 years is unacceptable. At this rate more affordable housing units will be needed as some people simply will not be able to afford to stay in their homes.

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I'm more angry with the proposed hike again. The budget needs to be figured out for a year before raising again. We've already had taxes raised for the past 2 years. Wanting to raise because of utilities not being able to keep up with the wide spread of neighbourhoods being built? Then why was so much approved!! Only approve what you can keep up with us and don't make us pay for it. Was smart to have half a overpass prepped by blairemore, but now new kensington screwed up the other half space wise. Need four lanes there from the truck traffic from 11th st. Really need to look ahead at things instead of allowing housing companies to do what they want. Also infill everything!, common, we need some green space and space between areas; looks nicer and gives more breathing room. Stop saying we want to be like other cites, we never will get there. The city is poorly designed and already screwed itself over multiple times. Don't want to be negative, but seem like nothing is ever thought ahead (roadways, neighbourhoods, large areas for the future). When I've driven around I see multiple things that could've been changed slightly to have made life easier for down the road but wasn't (ie westside circle drive for south bridge can't handle the traffic coming over now, such as confed intersection). Little thinks go along with was planning

Fix roads! Don't just patch them. Get the ridiculous black rubber Boulevards out of the middle of the road.

In my dealings with the City, I consistently find that there is little or no communications between departments or even within departments. As well, there does not appear to be a service standard on replying to public inquiries. Where I work, if there is a public inquiry, the time to reply to it is "right now" - even if it is just a call or email confirming receipt and letting them know what the course of action will be. It is very rude to not even reply. You need to set some time apart to create service standards where they don't exist, and to train staff to properly deal with their clients, the citizens.

I think that Saskatoon City Council and Management, as well as Police Chief, officers, City Employees, should all be realistic and roll back their salaries/pension to be comparable to the average incomes of their residents. City Council & the Mayor should roll back their salaries at least to what they earned 3 increases previous, same with Management, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and employees as well. The poor decisions making skills they have portrayed and lack of serious engagement or consideration they give residents should reflect in their salaries, and a roll back in the salaries/pensions/benefits is what would do that! All these positions should be based on resident's satisfaction with performance and implementation, not just because they are unionized. Some pretty slack work going on out there and poor planning and decision making!

The money saved on over compensated salaries/benefits/pensions, would more than pay for growth, roads building/maintenance, ridiculous charges for recycling(manufacturer's should be penalized), now to pick up composting? SASKATOON SHINES OF FILTHY DIRTY, Garbage due to ridiculously small bins, garbage truck misses 90% of the time and garbage is always strewn all over the streets, forcing residents to pick it all back up, over and over, and then when the container is too full of stuff we add, plus all the stuff we have to pick up from last time, they won't take it. GET (XX)OUT OF THE TRUCK AND MAKE SURE THE GARBAGE MAKES INTO THE BACK OF THE TRUCK, NOT THE STREET!

Get rid of these theoretical planners and transit route planners. They may be engineers, but the fact remains, engineers have NO LOGIC!

Property taxes should not have to be raised every year. The city should generate revenue from other sources. There are many people that inhabit this city who do not contribute to property taxes yet reap the benefits. I think the city needs to get more creative and find more ways to increase profits besides from the home owners pockets!

too many city trucks driving around like they are looking for a job,,7 men took all day plus overtime to repair storm drain in terrace,most of day spent waiting for a single dump truck,so they sat in trailer and smoked throwing over 30 butts on my lawn ,watch football game to pass the time,,sidewalks are much like mexico,pavement is worse

Reign in library costs,,, much to high and needs a serious review going forward in a digital age.

Stop using the water utility as a revenue source to fund city operating costs. What is the rational for a regressive rate structure on residential water? It's an added tax on cleanliness and young families. Put a freeze and reduce the number of city staff their wages and benefits which far exceed those of most employers in the city

The 'temporary' storm water levy, first introduced nearly ten years ago, is anything but temporary. It has to go...it should be up to the property owner, not city hall, to maintain their properties now that the initial crisis is long over.

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Secondly, the constant rise in water rates is rapidly becoming over-the-top. Added to taxes going up year-in, year-out, you end up with a taxpayer that is exhausted and discouraged by getting less and less for what is paid especially when their wage is going up correspondingly.

Finally, dumping more money into the art gallery...now in the order of millions, just to make sure it is done is flawed. Who really believes that this facility will pay for itself once complete especially since the city focuses so much upon the final product but not the ongoing operating expenses that will be huge. P.S. is the landmark parcel downtown on the riverbank, that we are millions in the hole for improving, ever be developed???? It has been years now and nothing is happening outside of weeds growing and a source of tax revenue absent.

The education portion of my property tax is far too high. I support everyone contributing to the education system, but we have no children in school and should not have to pay as much as people with 5 or 6 kids in the system. This tax element should be a minimum general amount with more being paid for every child one sends through the school system.

Given time, I could write many pages of suggestions.

Council needs to go back to once a week.

This city needs to look at all the inefficiencies and eliminate them before constantly looking to home owners to foot the bill for the spending that is necessary for this city. We do not need a lot of administration. We need workers actually doing things to keep the city going. The transit right now is a huge "eye sore" for this city. It is inefficient and poorly run. It is also frustrating to also feel that a strike could be looming as nothing has been solved over the last year with the bus drivers. We need all 3 hospitals cleaned up and working at full capacity 24-7. While I know that isn't city money necessarily, the city needs to be lobbying for those services with the province.

Take a breath, focus on getting societal basics taken care of - health, safety, education - and encourage citizens to take personal ownership as part of a participatory community (with less reliance on the City). Shovel a neighbour's sidewalk in addition to your own; pluck dandelion blooms in the park; organize interest groups to collect compostables within the neighbourhood; etc., etc., etc. "Rather than look to the city for a helping hand, look at the end of your sleeve."

Our property taxes have increases 28.49% since 2010. Most of us working for a pay cheque have not been blessed with these kind of increases. While I believe the City often has the best of intentions, the delivery of services seems to be at a cost none of us can afford. I believe the City should take part in a "lean program". A much higher level of service could be delivered with no increases - in many cases all that needs to be done is remove the "fluff" from programs and let the actual workers do their jobs. They will be happier and the citizens will be happier and able to pay a more realistic rate of property taxes.

The city needs to stop,,and reassess what it is doing...the mistakes that I see are horrific...Rubber barricades,,are useless,,they make it hard to make corners,,especially the way SGI manual says to make them,,is no longer possible.....NO more money for the RAGS....this is money pit,,,and i'm totally against it...I didn't get a vote to decide for or against it....no more new neighborhoods,,until the existing ones are up to par....

I appreciate the opportunity to provide opinions.

Saskatoon's a great place for me and my family to live. My Saskatoon takes offer great value (especially compared with the amount of tax dollars that I send to the province and feds.). Getting some of that money back from senior gov't 's is important to me.

Poverty reduction and eliminating racism in Saskatoon are biggest priorities.

This was very interesting. Thank you for opportunity to see my taxes broken down this way.

The fire halls should be encouraged to have their own veggi gardens,or public fruit trees,or maybe even have community gardens on their sites. Not just grass. Get rid of the plastic bags in the grocery stores. When the kids are learning to sew in the schools, maybe grocery bags could be their first project. Recycle old jeans this way.

Listen to the people. What percentage of our population will actually frequent the art gallery? It feels like this project has been stuffed down our throats with a never ending budget. We have X amount of dollars to spend, end of story! Finish a project within the budget set for it!!! Our essential services are far more important i.e. Policing, a service beneficial to all.

Creating a city that does not rely as heavily on individual use of cars is crucial - increased spending on transit and bike lanes can help keep more traffic off roads - increasing lifespan - and also promote good health and community among Saskatoon citizens.

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What a waste of taxpayer dollars to create this tool! All of things are not "choices" of a City - they are REQUIREMENTS. It is your job to efficiently and effectively budget to run the city. This is THE MOST inefficient City I have lived in - high taxes (both Provincial and City - don't give me nonsense about lack of transfers) and absolute appalling upkeep and service. If you can't put an effective budget together without looking at your contemporary peer cities, then perhaps you shouldn't be in your position. Take a look around - you will see the waste in \$\$ to make the city run better.

Salaries and staffing levels need to be taken seriously by the city. There is no need to pay high six figures for senior admin - capable people will work for less. additionally the city has chosen not to follow the provincial mandate for salaries. The province has access to more sources of revenue than the city but the city insists on paying more than the province and this is not acceptable - the concept of just raise the taxes to pay for this is finished and I will support any potential councillor who will run on fiscal responsibility - something that is lacking presently.

Less money on things like the art gallery... When people don't have affordable housing and can't feed their children, we are building art galleries for the privileged few that will use it. Come on City council lets get our cities priorities straight!!!

All the new traffic cameras have generated close to 6 million dollars, is that money going to the police budget or to road maintenance... If poverty was better tackled, via housing, education, social programs you wouldn't need to spend as much on the police...

I was surprised that the base City budget was decreased by approximately half a percent. Given inflation, I think any decrease in funding to existing services is irresponsible. We should have learned our lesson from the 90s when infrastructure spending was neglected and now we are left with a huge infrastructure deficit. I am pleased we are catching up on some of that deficit through additional road expenditure. The City continues to grow. I am in favour of continued funding of fundamental services and need City Council to be cognizant of the risks of not keeping up with inflation related to funding the operation of those fundamental services, especially in periods of growth. Policing is not the only area affected by growth, as an example.

I used to like Saskatoon much more before trying to be hip and big city. The push to keep up to big cities is causing way too much debt and causing traffic congestion. There's no reason a booming city should be going into debt so fast

I think the city as too many people at city hall making large salaries. For the most part we see very little improvements for all the extra tax money we are forced to give. It would benefit the city to have those in city hall, councillors and the mayor have a wage freeze for a couple of years to give a tax break to the residents.

This exercise is a political stunt, albeit a pretty good stunt. It omits major categories of spending, does not provide the real choices in enough detail for informed tax payer decisions and is clearly skewed to discourage people from wanting to take any action to control a city administration's appetite to spend other people's money. We should be undergoing some restraint measures at a time when key economic drivers are under pressure including oil and natural resources. Instead any modest reduction is met with a warning. When I see the bottom line result of a reduction of \$71.00 I know there are major expenditures that are not being presented because that number is simply not enough of a reduction and it is not all police and fire as the politicians and perhaps the administration seem to want us to believe.

You people at city hall keep coming up with stupid ideas when your supposed to try and save some money, is that just to justify your job, maybe your job should be eliminated ???

I wonder if this input will even be read, let alone seriously taken into consideration. Are we running this city for us or for you?

This might be the first positive reinforcement you ever get, but I think the Mayor and councilors are doing a fantastic job in this city. I have no idea why they would subject themselves to the abuse I see in various comments on social media, but I'm glad they do. I would not have such thick skin.

These are all random thoughts. Happy to discuss further

Why do you bother with public consultation when City Council can and will overrule decisions made based on these consultations? I think the decision to reopen the 9th street access to Idylwyld has damaged the trust people have in your processes. Do me a favour and stop asking for my input. You obviously don't care!

Library Budget Hold on! Maybe the reason library utilization has declined is because of changing needs. The internet has changed the way we do many things. My use of the library has dropped because I am using the internet to get information. You can't trust a Librarian to determine whether they are needed or not. Be careful here but if we really need more, so be it.

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I don't think the city should be focused on growth. I pay closer to 4500 dollars a year in property tax and honestly if it goes up any more I'm selling this house and moving back to a small town. My tax and water bill doubled just so I could live in the city. I wasn't told exactly what my taxes would be when I moved in. Only an estimate and it was a 1000 dollars more then I thought it was going to be. Instead of us paying to build new streets, let's just focus on maintaining what we have.

Calgary under Nenshi started a campaign about respecting the city and encouraging citizens to pick up after themselves and others. Would it be so hard for the city to encourage that here? More beat cops. More garbage cans where they're needed. More and better (obvious) public information delivery by city hall about service improvements, changes, etc. And who on earth was responsible for the new and godawful city website? As I understand the initial proposal was for something much more functional but too many people had to have their say at city hall and most of the original recommendations were ditched. It's an abomination and it reflects poorly on the city for the amount of money that was spent on it and what it does now. Totally useless from a functional perspective, esp. if using a smart phone.

I am most disturbed by the increase in our City taxes in the last few years. I give some context as follows. In 1996 ,two years after my wife and I moved to Saskatoon, our City portion of property taxes was \$1148. In 2015 (twenty years later) the City taxes are \$3060. The same two people live in the same home and receive the same level of City services. There has been inflation. The CPP payment has increased from \$727/mo (1996) to \$1065/mo (2015). This is an increase of about 47%. If my property taxes had increased in the same way I would now be paying about \$1750. So how can the City explain the difference between the current tax of over \$3000 with the inflation adjusted \$1750. On top of this the City's population and therefore tax base has increased by about 25% over the 20 years. This growth should not only be paying for itself but also economies of scale would lead to lower individual tax payments. Almost every week I read about a new program for this and that. Each costing more tax dollars. Why cannot some consideration be given to reducing or eliminating programs so that our property taxes can get closer to what we enjoyed twenty years ago.

I strongly believe in the power of art and culture to transform cities, address social issues, stimulate economic development. Cities around the world charge a "Percent for Art" tax to developers to help stimulate Creative Placemaking. Whereas the City of Saskatoon has a Culture Plan and has done nothing to move it forward or fulfill the vision it proposes.

Good job City of Saskatoon! Lots of great services; like this opportunity to provide input. Still lots of focus on car culture though - what can be done so that life in Saskatoon is about more than the roads? Also, more programs and affordable housing would lead to less crime. And - I could only do so many things with that slider tool on my computer - I would have preferred the increase to rec and culture was \$10 but could only get the slider to stop at \$8 or \$12 so I went with \$12. The City needs a new main library.

asking for property tax at the beginning is too intimidating. appears very much that this tool values voice of property owners over the actual citizens voice, Needs to include the voice of lower income users in more accessible format. Need a Poverty Perspective Committee to address issues of increasing inequities of Saskatoon.

When putting in new areas with boulevards the city should plant trees on the boulevards and supply grass and sprinklers. As it is the homeowner decides if they want a tree and the species. It does not work as many have cemented in the boulevards Addison Rd. , some do not maintain the grass(Stensrud) in Willow Grove and they are an eyesore. The city should just go ahead and plant a tree on every boulevard and we would have some street beautification. My suggestion is to have city take responsibility for grass and trees as the city made no provision to run sprinklers to water the grass. Plant trees In front of each home on boulevard space.

Look at that savings! I even significantly increased monies to road and snow removal! Please think outside of the box this year. Another ridiculous rate raise leaves families vulnerable. We have had 2 years of huge increases with not to much to show in terms of better service.

Why wasn't the library included in this tool? That is another great organization in Saskatoon that requires ongoing funding and support.

I hope you learn to do more with less. We do.... every time taxes are raised at any level of government. Thanks for this opportunity. You have increased your tax dollars by \$19.27/year or 1.13%. This could result in a service level enhancement. Interestingly I would not raise taxes.... There has to be some other way.... creative thinking.... yearly our crossways are painted in fall... right below the snow... this is the creative and taxing saving way of being creative and spending wisely

Why wasn't library included? OUR libraries are dreadful, closed at the time when they are most needed and with inadequate new stock and ebooks.

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Taxes in this city is out of control. The increases beyond the cost of living is criminal. How about controlling spending and provide the services the city is responsible for. You don't mention how much we are paying for our debt - including payments for P3 projects?

The City has talked lots about sustainability and infill, but it seems the zoning bylaw doesn't yet reflect that, nor does the transit system and cycling network. More funding and real action is needed on transit and cycling infrastructure. There needs to be zoning policy's that allow and encourage mixed use development along transit routes (and right up to the street, not across a big parking lot). Infill guidelines need to allow more infill, not create more barriers to exciting developments like garage and garden suites. It seems like the city is excited to talk about the really great new vision for how Saskatoon will develop, but city policies are not changing fast enough and are not flexible enough to allow proposals that fit with the city's vision to begin being built now. There are so many missed opportunities (i.e. the safeway/boston pizza at 8th and cumberland, the many rejected garage suite applications, and the randomly changing interpretations of the garage suite regulations). Until policies reflect the city's vision, why not be more flexible with bylaw interpretation if something meets the city's long term vision?

Existing infrastructure maintenance needs to be reassessed and maintained before considering how the city should be planning to expand. The downtown core and historic areas should receive focus in order to revitalize already established areas and bring residents back toward the city center where amenities are already in place.

Why cutdown one lane from 2 to 1 on 33rd street between 2nd ave N. and 7th ave. N. going east done so many years ago. Now you want to build a bridge across 33rd and university. This would result with wideing that lane again on 33rd street. Can you please make up your mind. I cannot afford the money or the insanity of this. Another Bridge should be built where Victoria bridge is. Forget the 33rd street bridge. Build a ring road like the City of Edmonton has around it if you really want to move traffic. I cannot afford the Remail Art building and all its cost overruns. I am not an artsy fartsy type of person. Would you mind keeping my taxes down so I can afford to rebuild my fence and paint it and house. Let the bigshots of Saskatoon who want an remai art gallery or a downtown presence subsidize it but not me. Thank-you.

As I have mentioned in my comments in different sections: Saskatoon must become more progressive and forward thinking. By becoming a city who provides affordable housing, transportation, community and cultural services, creating new jobs- and much more for low income and unemployed- we as a city will flourish. We cannot continue to focus only on those in the middle or upper class if we want to become a better and more inviting city. Arts and Culture are extremely important and more money and focus needs to be put to improving this- arts and culture are what can attract people coming from bigger centres that already give them this aspect- they do not want to move to a center with LESS. We also need to focus on environment and climate change- solar panels, etc. This makes us MORE appealing to those who are deciding to move here- or NOT.

I believe we over pay for what we receive. I mentioned the police budget above - it's too high and the increases in pay they've negotiated recently are far above pay increases for other public servants. Also, city management staff routinely make more than \$100,000 and some make as much as \$200,000. Again, these wages are far too high. City Council must take control of spending and must be much more vigilant in doling out tax payers' money.

Better and more strategic management of employee time. I was very disappointed in the time employees spent on some of the Nutana traffic ideas that citizens (a small handful) put forward that were not substantiated by research and traffic counts. This is a super tax waster and should be reviewed.

What about our underfunded educational system. Some of our elementary schools look like jail they are so lacking in all the extra classes/electives/sports. Way More money is required for better resources...

We need fresh eyes and ideas. I hope there is a worthy opponent for Atch next election. It's time to move on. Good ideas need to come from the top.

Infrastructure should be considered before more condos, apartments, etc. are built. We need parking and increased access. Stonebridge was not designed to be a high density area, and now traffic congestion and these grotesque apartment/condo villages are bringing down home values. Crime is also a concern when multiple high density buildings are put in close proximity to one another.

Too many City workers earn over \$100,000 and annual increases to wages that is over and above inflation cannot be sustained by the many people who are often on fixed incomes/retired. The major part of the budget is wages and that is why we have tax increases of 5% a year (and the fact that growth does NOT pay for growth) - compare the level of basic services that people really care about in Warman versus Saskatoon.

For decades there has been a significant inconsistency in the level services provided depending on which side of the river one lives on. Why do cattails grow in Anita Langford park with no effort to fix the problem

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(besides removing trees & lamp posts) in a park that was not designed for them while, Foster park is completely re-landscaped? Why do architectural controls for new neighbourhoods allow for a lesser build quality in west side developments that in east side developments? Why does it take 3+years for Claypool Rd to be widened but McOrmond Rd is built with 2 lanes each direction before Evergreen development is established?

Force your web site developers to sit and navigate their own creations 8 hours per day, on a 5 year old cell phone, at a bus stop, without a shelter, in the rain until they learn the error of their ways. Function over form obviously was not a part of their graphic arts training. Example: the really great real time bus tracking feature is a wonderful tool, if you can navigate to it.

More focus on people and less on mall / commercial development that based on needing a vehicle to get to! All planning incorporate environmental considerations that will reduce damage and focus on sustainability.

Municipal Mayors and councilors need to be more accountable with taxpayers money. Travel allowances should be slashed by at least half. Travel outside of province on city business should be very limited to almost nil. and travel out of country should never ever be allowed on the taxpayers dime when skype, e-mail, phone, fax is available. Technology is so available for meetings and exchanging ideas these days. Also, spending on admin. at city hall level needs to be rolled back. And a new pension plan for 10 year service and under employees needs to be implemented. The old guaranteed pension for employees is unsustainable for our city. Freeze overtime on all city workers unless emergency like heavy snowfall, watermain breaks. Thank-you for taking your time to read this.

Not sure where cycling fits in here but I think Saskatoon has so much work to do in making this city attractive to the next generation - cycling, transit, infrastructure, and waste management all leave a lot to be desired especially when compared to most Canadian cities. We need to step it up!!

In Summary:

You know our motto is "Saskatoon Shines". Right now, I'm pretty disenfranchised with the City and it's current management / planning and development practices (per my comments above). To be grossly blunt. Right now I feel that the City (xx) may Shine on the outside, but underneath... Hopefully you get where I'm going with this.

I think it's time that we, the City, and it's tax payers make capital expenditures to repair and resolve the rotting infrastructure, lack of efficient (adequate & timely) planning, and actually move forward with making the City better (Small side example. Was it 6 or 7 years for the garage suites plan?).

Something that was not mentioned is Saskatoon Light and Power, and such related services. My strong recommendation would be to move out of the dark ages and incentivize residents to setup solar panels on their homes and business, and to set a reasonable threshold for power requirements to sell back to the grid. I don't understand why this has to be so complicated. Aren't we a "Green" City?

In closing:

I strongly believe that; if the current council and mayor are not capable of choosing positive solutions that contribute both to the coffers, and to future of our City as a whole, I think they should all just step down, because we voted them in do just that, to make this City a better place. Not to argue and debate for years and years on issues and non-issues. Innovate, communicate, streamline processes, and make Saskatoon really Shine.

Thank you kindly for reading all of my comments. I apologize if any excess frustration is taken in these comments; I sometimes find it difficult to adequately explain my thoughts and rationals in this medium (email/text) without coming off as a(XX).

If any further details are required in regards to my comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

What a clever move by the Saskatoon Library Board to forgive the fines that have accumulated over(?) number of years. The \$1 million in reported fines involved at the \$10 average represents 100 000 of our residents who would have been blacklisted from borrowing books. To me this looks like a proactive move to increase the use metric going forward so as to increase further our tax contribution to what already is an out of control and poorly managed service.

What needs to happen is correction on city hall and its overhead .

\$100,000 a year income 10% of Canadians are in this bracket , \$140,000 a year income 5%of Canadians

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\$200,000 a year income 1% of Canadians .
 Civic salaries over 707 works made over \$100,000.
 I can't believe the gross waste of taxpayers dollars .
 firefighters making more Per hour than People working in Fortmac Murray or under ground at mine .
 Those jobs have employers who generate a profit in the billions .
 Firefighths , Police should not be making \$120,000 a year with OT .
 You must remember supply and demand there will always be line up people wanting to server in those roles .
 Salary wages no OT wages are high next to private sector

Personally the 5.39% increase that I have allocated in this questionnaire are very minor costs towards things that I believe would make our city a better and happier place to live. Increased number of bike lanes in/to downtown, University, Sask Polytechnic means less cars on the roads, which means less maintenance for deterioration issues. Our city is not cycle or pedestrian friendly and needs to move that way. Our new neighborhoods are not cost sustainable and more investment should be made to improve our density and core neighborhoods. It costs the city far too much to provide services and roads further and further into the sprawl that is new Saskatoon development. Yes, we have space to move outwards, but that comes with a big environmental cost as well as the infrastructure costs. Improvements need to be made.

In tough times can we not lead the way and show some restraint? The advocates for increased spending is usually people who work for the City or don't pay taxes or very little.

This survey is based on the assumption first, that you are a home owner, and two, that the budget itself is based on a 'fixed' set of policies. However, this is not quite true as we know...as policies can change and this can change the basis of the budget. I.e.,the budget is based on the strategic directions set by the leadership. What if, though, for instance, a person wanted to challenge the way the budget is developed - and instead - the key drivers, challenges and directions were prioritized, or, all together was different. For instance, what if the key focus was to have sustainable development with a focus on anti-poverty being the first priority. There is no room in the way this budget is set up - to take this into account as it assumes a fixed way the buget has to be. Such exercises as this have the potential to greatly skew the overall learnings.

Saskatoon has a lot of garbage and cigarette butts on its sidewalks downtown. I've heard friends from out of town comment on this, and I've definitely noticed that [as far as I can think of, all] other cities I've visited do a better job of garbage pick up. I love this city, but it literally does have the worst sidewalk garbage problem I've ever seen in a developed nation.

Let's plan for a Saskatoon that is people friendly - I'm happy to pay taxes toward that.

Time to scratch Atch and some of the city council along with some of the stupid ideas they put forward.

Why should our budget care more about cars than it does about people?

What's to stop an engineering consulting firm with a vested interest in the City building more roads from hiring a full-time intern to sit and fill out this survey repeatedly, all day long, giving the illusion that citizens want more roads built?

Management at City Hall must undergo a salary cut as well as a reduction in number.

We should cut the new employees tHat the city hired, I believe 300 new employees! Also, look at anyone whose salary is more than the mayors, we should leave no stone unturned. We list tax dollars to people moving outside the city. If we keep taxes affordable we could attract more citizens and more tax dollars!

I am definitely happy with where our city is, but we definitely have to do something better with our police. The people need to have more say on where we use our resources and we definitely need to give less to our Police. They have overstepped there boundaries and wasted an excess amount of money on useless things well many of our people are dying from exposure to fentanyl and many prescription pills.

Police , fire, public transit need more money.

We would like to see the elimination of the so called "Temporary Flood Protection Levy" on our Utility Statement. Also we are not impressed with the additional "Storm Water Management Levy" that was snuck into the Utility Statement in the recent past. We truly hope that this Public Feedback Program is actually taken seriously and is not just a ploy to give Saskatoon citizens the impression that Council is listening to their concerns.

I have not specified particular changes in tax allocations, but have suggested increases for most topics. Investments for roads, bridges and interchanges should be seriously reduced instead and would not be needed as people could choose transit instead of sitting in gridlock. It should be noted that private motor vehicle traffic has been heavily subsidized by the taxpayer for the last 60 years.

I cannot stress enough the important of community development. The quality of life of our city depends

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wholly on our communities.
Get rid of Atcheson. He's too long in the tooth.
We have a great library system and I value it. I hope others recognize how great it is!
Please raise taxes and improve services.
Instead of simply raising taxes and utility costs every single year, try actually finding and implementing some efficiencies in your processes. Unfortunately, I can tell you from experience, that some of the stereotypes about "city workers" are true. Put the best interests of the citizens ahead of fear over making tough decisions/changes just because you might be unpopular with workers or unions.
Look, my only comment is that I ask you to if a job has to be done, raise my taxes and do the job. I just do not want to see my Saskatoon scrimp saskatoon increasing tax increases to "save face" and look good for election. Saskatoon is growing, if we need tax increase to maintain this growth -- DO IT. Saskatoon is a first class city -- lets keep it that way. Best of luck in your deliberation.
I am undercharged for the services the City provides and would be happy to see improvements in service levels for slightly more money.
What about municipal operations??? Why has the city manager received a 40% salary increase over 5 years????????? And that was up to 2013 I am scared to see 2014 and 2015. If raises are supposed to be based on performance, I look at metrics such as transit ridership, illegal transit lockout, huge increase in GHG's, artless city, MMIW, poverty etc and strongly question this huge raise. Next time include a slider on how the citizens of Saskatoon feel the city manager is performing and how as a person who pays their salary feels. Also I want to see the city manager and the mayor see their expenses publicly displayed.
GHG emissions needs to be taken seriously, the 2013 corporate city of Saskatoon GHG emissions are 13% higher than what they should have been if no action at all was taken to reduce emissions. Ditch the perverse incentives of relying on increased energy and water consumption to meet the budget. I want to see real action on GHG reductions, real action on energy and water reductions, real action on waste reduction, greater action on poverty and inequality.
the city needs to reset their priority . growing up in saskatoon in the 60s 70s and 80s we had basic services.parks were weedless pest control was controlled by fogging once a week in all areas of the city(gee we lived). and we had basic services.... snow removal weekly garbage collection pothole repair. now the city seems to have forgotten the residents basic needs while increasing services for business areas and spending millions on unwanted art galleries. the saying roads before monuments comes to mind. here is another thought. i have a pine tree planted by the city on my front lawn. it has grown to the point it has cracked and heaved my sidewalk. I cannot cut down this tree and yet I have asked the city to repair the sidewalk and even contacted the councillor in the area about this.Nothing has been done but I am expected to keep it free of snow and ice or now i can be fined. I clean my sidewalk because i take pride in the appearance and dont want anyone to fall.this is made tougher when the sidewalk is a tripping hazard even in the summer.
Focus budget on priority needs... Emergency services, garbage collection and roads. Items like the art gallery should be secondary and not beyond existing resources.
Stop being so ridiculous with parking enforcement.
No need to spend money on the developing of the Chief White Cap; it is great as it is. However, City's property including sidewalks owned by the City are to be cleaned by the City. We also need a better job fixing the roads.
Just as in our hume budget, we must clearly differentiate between needs and wants. We must fund the needs first, and fund the wants as we can afford them. I feel that there are infrastructure needs that were/are overdue, and some are being addressed (e.g. North bridge, overpasses, etc.). But there are some areas (New art gallery, new steel bridge) that are not Needs, but are Wants that have been lobbied for by a minority.
This is absolutely disgusting. All this does is make it seem like people have no choice but to keep paying more taxes. Give us a snapshot of the big picture and let people choose what they would get rid of, in order to maintain or decrease City spending. Does anyone at the City of Saskatoon actually even care about keeping taxes affordable and living within our means? You have done nothing to address the larger problem of constantly increasing city budgets. this was almost more of a tool to make people feel bad for wanting lower taxes. The irresponsibility at both City Administration and on council is stupendous and truly

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alarming! when will any of you grow up and understand that governments should be examples for the people - living within your means. No wonder Canada has such a staggering amount of household debt; our own governments do not understand that there is more to balanced budgets than simply increasing taxes to make it balance. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. This is not leadership.

I am really fed up with the City constantly asking for more and more money and adding surcharges for everything. The tax increases, new charges and surcharges I have been hit with over the years have been far in excess of inflation and are far in excess of any increases in my pay cheque. I can not understand how people on fixed incomes or limited means are expected to continue paying more and more. Am I just expected to sign my entire pay cheque over to the City??

The COS seems to be getting more abstract and less practical all the time. We need plans that are thoroughly thought out and carried out practically, on time and with as little fuss as possible. I know the city can't control council, but I wonder if some Councillors need a reality check.

Tax increases have been too too excessive. We also don't need new libraries. Everything is on the internet these days so building and maintaining library buildings is archiac.

The funding of personal projects such as the Remi Art Gallery should stop. This is a project wanted by a select few. I have found no one that has supported this project. Friends, family, neighbors and those I work with have not wanted nor supported this project.

art gallery, we had a perfectly good one

I pay more taxes for a smaller property in Saskatoon than a larger property in Edmonton. Our snow removal is superior, our LRT is to the University, and I think that Saskatoon has to become competitive with other cities if they want to attract the growth. The amount the City has paid out on vehicle damage due to potholes could/should be put into roadway improvement to eliminate the issues. Eventual paving of back alleys would also be a long term savings. Neighborhood improvements as we have in Edmonton for sidewalks, roads, lighting paid partially by the homeowner may be an alternate way to upgrade these neighborhoods. Taxes have to be in line with other cities to attract new homeowners. With a younger generation they are time restricted and I find as an older person that as I drive around Saskatoon it is continual stopping and starting unless on the freeway.

For the most part I agree with the proposed budget.

Cut all spending across the board, except for essential services.

I have had the privilege of traveling to many cities and although it has its quirks, Saskatoon is a beautiful city and a wonderful place to live. We should not settle for another run of the mill suburban mess as we continue to grow but rather aspire to retain the things that make Saskatoon great while still progressing to an advanced 21st century city. We do not have to reinvent the wheel but rather be open to progressive ideas. You need to present the case that municipal taxes provide the greatest benefit as they are spent directly in the area in which you live opposed to provincial/federal taxes which are subjected to greater bureaucracy and distribution.

Get rid of that horrible art centre down town and give us our Mendel back. Further have you ever thought you should catch up with everything before you continue.

You have made a lot of mistakes shame on all of you. Not enough room to make a list

I had a property budget of \$325,000.00 I don't think anytime in my life will own that much of a property to add to in terms of taxes to the overall city budget. I have increased the taxed by \$4.99 per year or 0.29%. Sincerely I had fun playing around with and thinking about it the budget. I am not sure my ideas are that awesome. I was happy to have a chance to participate in a sense.

Great idea to create the interactive budget tool and give people more concrete info about the budget. Good execution.

However the ranges on the tools don't allow me to fully articulate ideas. I do not seek to reduce my overall taxes, I reduced several large items (police, fire) by the maximum amount, but wanted to reallocate all of those resources to other areas. Happy to pay tax, taxes buy civilization.

We must be fiscally responsible; growth should pay for growth. Stop any perverse subsidies. Follow best practices in urban design. This will require education campaigns for councillors and ratepayers, as not everyone understands that they might be getting subsidized services, or that some urban forms are more efficient and cost-effective than others.

Increase density; we have -lost- density; 1,000 people per square kilometre, down from more than 1,300 in 2001. This is shocking, negligence on the part of planners. There should be a concrete plan to correct this loss in density, and increase it.

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Are single-family home builders pressuring council and planners to support that lowest-cost/highest-profit (for developers) style of development? All lobbying should be reported in as transparent a fashion as this planning tool.

New North Downtown and Downtown plans are excellent. Carry them out. Expedite them, and stop perverse subsidies that distort the most efficient urban forms. Learn from all the other jurisdictions that are now doing it right. Why are we still building 1990's Calgary suburbs?

The current groups working on North Downtown and Downtown seem to 'get it' and know all the well established/well known current best practices. What is the problem getting these implemented? Council afraid of suburban pothole-hating voters? Lobbying by developers?

Need to ensure a transparent and evidence-based planning process; this might require work on educating council and ratepayers, and will definitely require changes to the status quo.

Roads are NOT the most important item, just the one that the average ratepayer complains about the most loudly. It is important to educate council and ratepayers. Roads don't help recruit employees or bring in tourist dollars, and roads are extremely expensive, and are much less efficient than other urban design and services (dense, mixed-use development, services in closer proximity, shift to transit and active transport).

I believe we need to focus on core services such as infrastructure, fire protection and policing. It is my belief that we are currently spending too much on areas such as parks, recreation, culture, etc that I believe do not need as much, if any government involvement. I believe we need reduce our municipal taxes to reduce the burden on homeowners.

SHAPING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: CITIZEN BUDGET REMARKS

(Raw Comments Received at City Hall Information Desk

October 19th to November 13th, 2015)

OTHER COMMENTS

Please consider taking the fluoride out of our city water system please. Regina has never had it. Calgary voted it out most of BC and Ontario have outlawed it. 97% of Europe has banned it. Yes fluoride is good for our teeth and yes sunscreen is good for our skin, but should we be forced to drink sunscreen?
Concerned City of Saskatoon Employee

Make Buildings more accessible for people with disability.

Money for development of low income rent geared to income apartment buildings in core neighborhoods and new hospitals that are universal design as in SK Disability Strategy.

Put towards social agencies for inner city children.

1. Reduce Taxes – enough is enough already

2. Cut back on expenses: Staff – Wages – Waste” No need to rebuild back alley twice (1/1/2 month later did the same block (Alley) again. No explanation from (xx).

3(a). Forget fall street sweeping. 1 week after done more leaves blowing and 2 weeks after that you are spreading sand. Sand + Gravel what’s the point.

3(b). In connection with street. Sweeping, staff, trucks, signs, another waste of tax payers’ dollars so can enrich sign companies, tow companies & ticket revenue. Also note the magnetic sticker gets vanished & show no date. Signs show wrong times on some i.e 8pm when other in same block show 9am to 7pm & some show 5am (confusion). It’s a big joke.

4. Rubber barricades sputtered all over and yield signs like weed. These are a traffic hazard and costly to put up and replace as they get service (some 3 times in a week and a half) Somebody have shares in rubber company & construction company to install. The yield sign merely confuse normal rules of the road re right of way. Confusion causes accidents and put city on hook for liability. It’s time to get realistic and cost saving not spent thrift. (xx) has years of management a lot more could be said that time space may not permit.

Stop wasting money on by law that can’t be enforced – no smoking in parks etc. Waste all that money on signage. Stop throwing money at White Elephant Art Gallery only 10% of Citizens will ever use. Soliciting is a money pit proper management could save tax payer dollars. Unreasonable tax increases last 3 years.

We don’t need another Mendel Gallery.

Plan a budget so as to plan a study and research project to prepare and present a pre grade 8,9,10 & 11, 12 study package for all students who don’t meet the academic standards in Saskatchewan.(xx)

Affordable housing please take of the homeless.

My greatest concern is bussing. I am not wealthy person and rely on this service to go everywhere as I do not have a vehicle. I pray that we will not have a transit strike. I think that the price of an adult monthly pass is quite expensive. We pay the full price, where other people + interest groups get freebies. Also, it is amazing how many people get on the buses and don’t pay any or full fare. The bus drivers are far too lenient I think. I will be a senior in 1 ½ years and I am praying that the seniors fare buss pass will continue. One counsellor a few months ago said that the subsidy for seniors’ passes should be discontinued because seniors are a financially well off group. I wonder what planet he is from. If need be, I would support a means test for seniors passes.

The pot holes are an embarrassment to us in this good city when tourists come here, as well as damaging to our vehicles. Is there no better pot hole repair mix that can be used that will last longer?

More infiling and less sprawling suburbs ! Let’s build up, instead of out. That is more progressive & practical. Look at the other urban centres in the world. Sprawl is a bad thing for so many reasons!

Fresh air intake in all transit buses, as you, whether you know it or not, are using in your car for every minute you are driving. The dilution of all stinky breathe from 100 people is a must. When are you going to listen?

As long as no amount goes into black hole known as remain Art Gallery. If all road and other important services are taken care of and there are money left over only then.

City tree leaves fall on my lawn (lots and I am expected to clean it up. Can I hire someone to clean up the leaves and send the bill to city to deduct that amount off my taxes? Can city remove that tree and put spruce tree instead

Use green recycle bin lately the pickups have started to late in the spring and discontinued too early in the fall.

Chief white cap park and fencing the area. Where would be? Could the trail be on the east side of the park area. Access to the water/ river is essential. What will the trails be made of?