

Winnipeg Better is an election-focused resource run by student journalists at RRC. We shape our coverage around what voters tell us they want you to be talking about as they decide who to vote for on Oct. 28.

1. What would you do to make transit service in Winnipeg more functional, reliable and safe for its users?

Response:

I understand what it means to live in a city with efficient, safe, and reliable public transit that serves residents around the clock. I lived in Berlin, Germany, for over eight years while pursuing my graduate studies. During that time, my family did not need a car because the city had well-connected, flexible, reliable, safe, and adequate public transit options. However, within less than three months of relocating to Winnipeg, we had to buy a car because it became a necessity. Reliable, safe, efficient, and affordable public transit, along with better road network connectivity, is essential for a rapidly growing city like Winnipeg.

Around June 2025, the City of Winnipeg introduced the Primary Transit Network (PTN), a major change intended to improve the transit system by increasing service frequency, simplifying routes, improving reliability, making journeys more direct, and accommodating population growth.

However, policy changes can have unintended consequences, particularly when the people affected are not adequately consulted or involved in decision-making. I do not know how extensively the City consulted affected stakeholders or assessed the potential consequences before implementing the PTN. Nevertheless, my family's experience and feedback from other Waverley West residents suggest that the changes have produced mixed outcomes.

Residents have raised concerns about additional costs, connectivity challenges, longer travel times and walking distances, and the need to learn new routes and adapt to service changes. These issues can create financial and non-financial burdens for families. Safety concerns have also been raised by passengers and transit drivers. Recently, I spoke with a Richmond West resident whose husband works as a bus driver. She told me that drivers were considering strike action over safety concerns. This highlights the importance of listening to transit employees as well as passengers. Public transit should be straightforward to use, reliable, and safe.

If elected, I would review the PTN based on feedback from passengers, families, and transit drivers. I would examine whether all affected stakeholders were adequately consulted when the plan was developed and identify changes needed to address the concerns that have emerged. The review should consider route connectivity, travel and walking times, service frequency, affordability, and the safety of both passengers and drivers.

I would also engage in broader consultation with relevant organizations, including the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, experts from public institutions with transportation departments, and current and retired Winnipeg Transit staff. I will also consult student leadership whose members use public transit, to learn some of the challenges they face. Their knowledge and experience would help provide a balanced assessment of the PTN and identify practical ways to improve the system.

My goal is to help make Winnipeg Transit more functional, reliable, safe, and accessible so that residents can travel conveniently to work, school, healthcare services, and other destinations without being unnecessarily dependent on private vehicles. I will also work to ensure that bus drivers have a safe working environment and the support they need to carry out their daily duties safely.

2. What plans do you have, if any, to reduce car dependency in the city?

Response

I envision a city that embraces long-term planning in all aspects of infrastructure development rather than relying on short-term, reactive decisions. Winnipeg has a rich history of transportation innovation. About 120 years ago, it was one of the fastest-growing cities of its size in North America. Its leaders envisioned Winnipeg as the “Chicago of North America,” and the city later became the third-largest in Canada. Winnipeg introduced its first electric streetcar in 1891, with electric streetcar service operating by 1892. Railways also connected Winnipeg with communities such as Selkirk.

Based on conversations with residents while door-knocking, I believe Winnipeg should seriously explore additional public transit options, including light rail and other forms of rail-based passenger transportation. Existing rail corridors could potentially offer opportunities for passenger services, subject to feasibility studies, infrastructure requirements, safety considerations, and agreements with the relevant rail operators. Electric rail transit could also support more sustainable transportation while creating opportunities for economic development.

The need for reliable alternatives is particularly evident around Pembina Highway and the area surrounding Princess Auto Stadium during football games, when traffic congestion can cause significant delays. Efficient, reliable, safe, and affordable public transit options could help reduce dependence on private vehicles and improve access to major destinations and events.

My vision is for Winnipeg to look beyond immediate transit challenges and develop a comprehensive, long-term transportation plan that considers population growth, connectivity, affordability, economic development, and the needs of residents across the city. I also believe the City should explore the feasibility of passenger rail connections between Winnipeg and other Manitoba communities, including nearby satellite cities and regional centres. Better regional connections could support commuting, tourism, business activity, and economic growth while giving residents more transportation choices.

What do you think the city should be doing to ease the housing and homelessness crisis?

What specifically would you change about the city’s current approaches?

Response

While I support ensuring that no one is left sleeping on the streets in any weather conditions, and I commend initiatives and programs that support people experiencing homelessness, I strongly believe that Winnipeg needs a more concrete, deliberate, and long-term approach to addressing the growing homelessness crisis.

I have maintained that many current approaches are largely reactive, providing temporary relief—like a bandage—without adequately addressing the underlying causes of homelessness. This is not sustainable. Through broader consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous leadership, people experiencing homelessness, and those who have previously experienced homelessness, I will work to identify and support programs and projects that help people move off the streets, rebuild their self-worth, and live with dignity.

I will also learn from other cities' experiences and examine approaches that may be suitable for Winnipeg. I do not presume to have all the answers or prescribe solutions before understanding the issues. My approach is to consult, listen, learn, carefully consider the available options, and take action based on community needs, the priorities identified by those affected, and the resources available, while trying to avoid unintended consequences.

3. Public disorder has become a major concern among surveyed voters. How should the city best deal with it?

Response

Public disorder and safety concerns in downtown Winnipeg can affect neighbourhoods across the city, including Waverley West. I have witnessed these challenges firsthand in public spaces, shops, and residential areas. I have often maintained that if we do not address these issues intentionally and proactively, we may continue to have a city, but not necessarily one in which we are proud to live or feel comfortable raising our children.

Many households now rely on security cameras and other measures to protect their homes, adding to their expenses. I will advocate for adequate resources and appropriate technology for neighbourhood policing, alongside social programs that address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour.

I recognize the staffing and resource challenges facing the Winnipeg Police Service. Nevertheless, public safety must remain an important priority. I would consult the Winnipeg Police Service and security professionals to review existing safety measures and explore technologies that could improve neighbourhood security and emergency response. The University of Manitoba has adopted various safety and security measures on its campuses. I would learn from its experience and examine which approaches could be adapted to improve safety across Winnipeg's neighbourhoods.

I would also work with the Winnipeg Police Service to understand the causes of delays in responding to business panic alarms and other urgent safety concerns. This would include identifying gaps in current response procedures and determining what additional resources, improved protocols, or stronger collaboration among police, businesses, and security providers could support more timely and appropriate responses.

4. The police budget is a major expense for the city, are people getting value for money?

Response

In 2018, I co-organized a community event at the University of Winnipeg titled “Importance of Involving Community in Policing.” Topics included policing in multicultural communities and the importance of community involvement in public safety. I have also participated in meetings of the Police Accountability Coalition (PAC), a coalition of approximately 90 community-based organizations, including the Social Planning Council. The coalition’s work includes advocating for police reform, community-driven responses to public safety, and reconsideration of how municipal resources are allocated. Some members support reducing police funding and directing resources to other areas.

Through door-knocking, I have also spoken with current and retired police officers and residents about the challenges facing Winnipeg, including public safety, criminal activity, drug-related crime, and concerns about how repeat offences are handled, among others. These conversations have reinforced my understanding that public safety is complex and that residents have differing expectations of police services. Police performance must also be considered in the context of the legal responsibilities and limits established by federal and provincial laws and the Canadian Constitution.

If elected as Waverley West City Councillor, I would review existing police services, protocols, and spending to assess how effectively public funds are being used. I would examine whether there are gaps, inefficiencies, or areas where resources could be redirected without undermining essential policing functions. I would also consult the Winnipeg Police Service, community organizations, advocacy groups, and residents to understand their concerns and identify practical improvements.

Policy changes can have unintended consequences when they are not properly evaluated or when affected stakeholders are not adequately consulted. It is therefore important to recognize that value for money means more than simply reducing the police budget. It means ensuring that public resources are used responsibly, police services are accountable, and available resources contribute to safer communities.

Before recommending changes, I would carefully assess the potential benefits, costs, and unintended consequences of any proposed options. Through evidence-based and informed decision-making and meaningful stakeholder engagement, I would seek practical improvements without worsening the safety and security challenges already experienced in downtown Winnipeg and other neighbourhoods.

5. While poverty and addictions are largely another government’s responsibility, are there ways that you see that the City of Winnipeg could be doing more to solve these issues?

Response

Although the City of Winnipeg is working to address poverty and addictions, with support from the federal and provincial governments, much more needs to be done. These challenges require sustained attention, stronger collaboration, and practical solutions that respond to the needs of affected individuals, families, and communities.

There is room to strengthen existing initiatives and build on approaches that are already making a difference. If elected, I would work collaboratively with federal and provincial governments, Indigenous leadership, community organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to identify gaps in existing services and develop more effective, practical, and coordinated responses.

I am an action-oriented individual who believes in turning ideas into practical initiatives. For the past three years, I have distributed free vegetable seedlings to more than 1,500 community members to promote urban gardening and improve urban food security. This experience reflects my commitment to taking practical steps to address community needs. I would bring the same approach to tackling poverty and addiction by working with affected communities and relevant partners to identify needs, develop practical responses, and build on existing initiatives.

Some other Canadian cities face similar challenges and have made progress in addressing them. I would learn from their experiences and consider approaches that could be adapted to Winnipeg's circumstances.

I would pay particular attention to the factors that contribute to poverty among individuals and households, as well as the circumstances that can increase the risk of addiction. Young people experiencing poverty or addiction need access to appropriate support, prevention initiatives, and opportunities to build stable and fulfilling lives. I would advocate for social programs and resources that address these challenges, help prevent addiction, and expand opportunities for young people.

My approach would be to listen to affected communities, identify priorities, and work with all levels of government and community partners to develop practical, evidence-informed solutions that reflect the City's responsibilities and available resources.

6. Voters are concerned about the rising cost of living and affordability. What do you see are ways the City of Winnipeg could make life less expensive for residents?

Response

The rising cost of living in Winnipeg is also influenced by external factors, including inflation, international trade tensions between Canada and US, and fluctuations in global energy prices. However, the City can still take practical steps to ease the financial pressures on residents.

Water bills and property taxes increases are significant concerns for households. The costs of sporting and recreational activities for children, youth, and families have also become a concern, while recent public transit changes have created additional challenges for some residents. Through conversations with seniors, I have also heard concerns about managing rising living costs while relying on pension income. Some seniors have expressed concern about the continued rise in property taxes while living on fixed pension incomes. In some Canadian municipalities, eligible seniors receive property-tax relief through rebates, reductions, or deferral programs. If I am elected, I would review how other cities in Canada are handling such issues and determine how it can be adapted after consultations with stakeholders and community engagements

There are several ways the City can help make life more affordable. These include reviewing the costs of accessing essential municipal services, improving connectivity between neighbourhoods, and making public transit more affordable, reliable, safe, and efficient so residents have more options beyond private vehicles and rising fuel costs. The City can also support local economic development by helping create conditions in which small businesses can establish themselves, grow, and create employment opportunities. I have also been discussing how some of our public infrastructure can support outdoor recreation activities, small business, employment, and revenue generation, like what is obtainable in some

other cities. Responsible and accountable municipal spending is equally important to ensuring that public funds deliver value to residents.

The City can also support local economic development by creating conditions that help small businesses establish themselves, grow, and create employment opportunities. I have also been discussing ways to make better use of public infrastructure to support outdoor recreation, small businesses, job creation, and revenue generation, drawing on examples from other cities. With thoughtful planning, these initiatives could create economic opportunities while making public spaces more useful and attractive to residents and visitors. Responsible and accountable municipal spending is equally important to ensuring prudence and using public funds to address residents' priorities.

I often do not usually prescribe solutions to problems without active engagement and involvement of those affected. This ensures that meaningful solutions reflect the actual needs and priorities of the people affected. If elected, I will organize community engagement sessions across Waverley West to hear directly from residents, understand their affordability challenges, and identify which issues require the most urgent attention. This will help guide practical, needs-based decisions that take available resources and the City's responsibilities into account.