

**Let's make
elections work**



**A guide to municipal elections
for CUPE members in Manitoba**

CUPE
MANITOBA



Municipal and School Board Elections Matter!

Overview

Local elections for municipal officials or school trustees often don't get the news coverage or public attention that federal or provincial elections do. But the policies and budgets set by these locally-elected officials affect our everyday quality of life.

Decisions made by municipal politicians can determine the quality of our drinking water or the cleanliness and safety of our streets and parks.

CUPE members have all seen or experienced the problems of negotiating or dealing with elected officials who are unsympathetic to our goals. As public employees, we are employed by politicians. Their decisions affect our working lives every day of the year thereby affecting the lives of our families.

Some elected officials treat their employees with dignity and respect. Some even consult workers before making major decisions. Others disregard our experience, our families and our future in their decision making.

Municipal and school board politicians must be held accountable to the community for the choices they make. The public must know how tax dollars are being spent.

As CUPE members, we are responsible for delivering public services to the people who need them. CUPE members serve the community and are part of the community. That's why it is very important that our voices are heard too.

Election Day is October 22, 2014

**Contact us today to volunteer
on a local election campaign!**

www.cupe.mb.ca – (204) 942-3017

Top 5 Reasons to Vote for your Mayor & Councillor

Accountability

In cities like Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal the public has been subjected to serious breaches in public trust. Mayors and councillors are making decisions in closed-door meetings that the public doesn't have access to.

We need to make sure that our rural municipalities, towns, and cities have politicians we can trust, and who have clear ideas on how to improve accountability in municipal government.

Vote for the council and mayoral candidate that you trust, and who are committed to open, transparent, and accountable governance. Support candidates that put working families first.

Fix our Infrastructure Right

Many towns, cities, and municipalities in Manitoba have fallen into a dangerous trap when financing and building infrastructure like roads and bridges.

Private-Public Partnerships (P3s) are being forced onto many decision-makers as the best way to improve infrastructure. But this is far from the case.

P3s cost more, and remove accountability from our elected officials.

In many cases, cities have had to buy that infrastructure back at many times the original cost! It is OK for a city to borrow funds from lenders to rebuild infrastructure - in fact it's the most common way to fund improving cities!

Vote for the council and mayoral candidates that promise to reject P3s, and improve our infrastructure publicly!

Support Good Jobs

Municipal employees keep our cities, towns, and rural municipalities working 24/7, 365 days a year. Many municipal workers are also CUPE members, including in Winnipeg, Brandon, Selkirk, The Pas, Neepawa, and Portage la Prairie.

These workers provide the services you rely on. But many decision makers want to cut their wages, contract out their jobs, privatize services, and roll back benefits.

Vote for the council and mayoral candidates that promise to keep good jobs.

Protect Public Services

Our communities rely on quality public services. These services include water and sewer, infrastructure, traffic signals, garbage collection, mosquito fogging, tree pruning, community recreation facilities like parks, swimming pools, and more.

But some decision makers want to sell off our public services to private companies. We know that privatization means higher costs, service cuts, and no accountability.

We deserve strong public services, so be sure to vote for the council and mayoral candidates who promise to keep your services 100% public.

Strengthen our Communities

Manitobans are progressive, caring, and thoughtful people.

We need to support community programming and initiatives that help the most vulnerable in our society. We also need to support free and affordable services like public recreation centres, libraries, parks, and support services.

Vote for the council and mayoral candidates who will support community services.

Top 5 Reasons to Vote for your School Trustees

Protect Public Education

We often take it for granted that Manitoba's K-12 public education system is one of the best in the world. But everything from classroom sizes, salaries, course materials, food programs, and school policies are decided by publically elected school trustees.

If a school trustee supports privatization of food services, school buses, or other services, they need to be stopped.

Make sure to support a school trustee who is one hundred percent in support of publicly delivered education.

Support Good Jobs

Teachers, teaching assistants, librarians, counsellors, bus drivers, administrative support staff, and custodians all work for our children. These school employees work hard each and every day to provide a safe, healthy, and exciting environment for our children to achieve their best.

But in order to do so, we need to ensure that employees in our schools receive fair wages, decent benefits, defined benefit pension plans, and respect in the workplace. Supporting school staff ensures that they are able to support our children in turn. Talk to your school trustee candidate about how they will support teaching and non-teaching staff in our schools.

Have a Say in Education

Your voice matters. But far too often the public is not engaged in what happens at school boards.

Did you know that school taxes are determined at the school board level? This means if school taxes are reduced or eliminated for political reasons, our schools would be starved of important resources to support our children's education.

Additionally, we need to make sure that those tax dollars are spent where they need to be spent: supporting our kids, supporting decent jobs for staff, and improving our schools.

Even if you don't have children of your own, supporting the public education system means that our economy will grow.

Support Safe Schools

Our schools are diverse, exciting places for our children to learn. Students and staff from every race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation are learning together about how to build a better world for everyone.

But in some cases, school trustees bring their own political ideologies to the table – ideologies that seek to divide students, and take away their right to learn in a safe environment.

We need to make sure that our school trustees support positive and safe schools for all our children.

Support Strong Policy

School Trustees set policies that impact not only our children and youth, but our communities as a whole. For example, school trustees determine whether or not there will be in-school suspension programs and healthy classrooms to keep youth engaged in learning and off the streets. Policies also determine whether or not schools will offer nutrition programs, and additional supports for special education. In short, school trustees help shape how our schools work.

CUPE's October 22nd Election Scorecard

Support Labour Friendly Candidates

Many candidates have been endorsed by, or have been identified as labour-friendly/NDP affiliated candidates through regional district labour councils, including the Brandon & District Labour Council, Winnipeg Labour Council, and local union activists.

Each of these candidates has presented their views to locally elected labour leaders and has met the criteria set by the labour bodies. Each candidate is committed to supporting the values of working families, have opposed privatization, have supported fair wages and benefits, and will stand up for working families, rather than personal business interests.

Please vote for these candidates, and support them in their campaigns, whether through donations, or volunteering. Let's elect decision-makers who will work for us! If your community is not on the list, we have created a checklist on the previous page for you to ask candidates at the doorstep when they come knocking!

Before giving your support to candidates in the school board and municipal elections, ask candidates where they stand on the following issues of concern to CUPE members.

Election Scorecard

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support quality public services delivered by public employees?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you believe that elected officials should be accountable for their decisions in open meetings so that the public knows how our tax dollars are being spent?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you opt for constructive alternatives when deciding on budgets, like greater efficiency in the delivery of public services, rather than privatization or contracting out?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you oppose spending and policies which promote questionable management and procurement programs? For example, Alternate Service Delivery, which is often used to justify downsizing and cutbacks, or P3s which will cost us more, and remove transparency?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you believe in democratizing the workplace by giving workers an equal voice on decisions regarding public services?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you respect free collective bargaining, fair wages and working conditions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support retirement security for public employees through guaranteed, adequate pension plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support reasonable tax increases to ensure public delivery of important public services?

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