



Jennifer Wyness, Ward 2 Councillor

2023 Property Tax Share

What did Council vote on, and how did I vote?

On November 25, 2022 ([item 9.2.1](#)), Council voted on the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets. I voted **against** this budget. (Please visit my Voting Rationale webpage to read why.) At this meeting, Council also directed Administration to come back in early 2023 with the property tax share decision.

The tax share decision returned to Council on February 14, 2023 ([item 9.2.1](#)). I voted **in favour** of maintaining the current residential/non-residential tax share at 52% and 48%. While I empathize with the struggles that businesses are experiencing, I recognize that business revenues are adaptable during inflationary times. Meanwhile, individual homeowners' incomes are constrained and rising slower than inflation.

Businesses have more ways to offset cost increases than homeowners do. For example, businesses can claim property taxes as an expense against their income taxes. Many businesses are also increasing their prices as their costs rise.

Companies and consumers in Calgary and Alberta already have the most competitive overall tax rates in Canada.

Finally, the City's recent budget includes many investments responding specifically to business' needs – particularly in the downtown. This includes spending on health and social services to address social disorder, and office to residential conversions to help downtown property owners. Council also approved \$104 million to revitalize downtown infrastructure, and \$25 million for the TELUS Convention Centre.

Therefore, shifting the tax burden to the residential homeowner when non-residential properties are benefiting from a downtown-focused budget is not something I can support.

Jennifer Wyness