

thescope's

2013 ST. JOHN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Danny Breen, Ward 1 (Incumbent)

Please describe yourself in a few words.

Danny was born and raised in St. John's, the youngest of seven children of Peter and Katherine (Kitty) Breen, now deceased.

Danny attended St. Bonaventure's College, Brother Rice High School and Memorial University. He is a Certified Health Specialist and has worked in the Financial Services industry, specializing in employee benefits, for the past twenty-five years.

Danny and his wife Ann (Sacrey) reside in Ward 1. They have two children, Erika and Katie. Danny was first elected to represent Ward 1 on City Council in the 2009 municipal election. Since then he has been very active on City Council chairing several committees and participating on all standing committees.

What is your present occupation?

Vice President with Jenkins Anthony Inc., a locally owned and operated employee benefit consulting firm located in St. John's.

Why are you running in this election?

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term as a City Councillor representing the residents of Ward 1. I believe my past community involvement and business experience allow me to contribute greatly to City Council.

What should be the city's top three priorities?

Financial management, well-planned and balanced development, and investment in infrastructure are the top priorities in my opinion. Another top priority for me would to develop a new fiscal relationship with the province.

What has been the present council's biggest blunder?

Although I have not supported all the decisions of Council, I respect the majority wishes of Council and support those decisions.

What has been the present council's biggest achievement?

There have been many achievements over the past four years, including the introduction of curbside recycling, the blending of business property and occupancy tax, the implementation of three year budgets, the largest capital spending in history and the review of the Municipal Plan.

What other candidates running in this election do you think you would work best with?

To be successful in municipal government it is important to work collaboratively with all members of council as chosen by the public.

Opinions & Issues

Please rate the importance of each subject on a scale of 0 to 10, and then add your comments.

Heritage building regulations

10
It is important that we protect our heritage and balance this with the development of our City

City support for the arts

8
The arts is an important and vibrant part of our City. This Council has increased funding for arts organizations over the past four years. We need to seek partnerships to develop a new arts centre in the City.

Downtown parking

10
This Council has invested in the creation of 500 new public parking spaces in the downtown. Additionally, a proposal has been received from a private developer for a new parking garage. However, this will only deal with the current demand. We need to

pursue further public private partnerships to address the further need for additional parking, as well as improved public transit.

Public transit

9
The City cannot address public transit alone. A regional public transit system is required. The provincial government and all neighboring municipalities have a role to play in this issue.

Urban density

10
City needs to encourage increased density, particularly in the downtown. More residential developments are being planned in the downtown but it's important that the necessary amenities are available.

Full-time council positions

0
I don't feel this is necessary. I work full time and carry out my Council duties. Although it can be challenging, I make a full time commitment to Council, but the cost of making these positions full time is unnecessary in my opinion.

Amalgamation

0
I believe we need to look at further areas for regional cooperation, such as recreation and transportation. Although I believe amalgamation is positive and inevitable, it is not something that should be a focus of Council at this time.

Height restriction for buildings

8
This is an area that becomes quite controversial. I agree with a height restriction of four or five stories next to the sidewalk however additional height should be allowed, provided it is set back by 15 or 20 metres from the sidewalk.

Sidewalk snow clearing

8
Over the past three years, additional funds have been invested in sidewalk snow clearing. The physical characteristics of the city makes this very challenging, but council needs to continually look for ways to improve this function.

Affordable housing

This Council has invested significantly in affordable housing initiatives and should continue to seek partnerships with all levels of government, the community and the private sector to address the dire need of affordable housing.