

Questions for Candidates: Wellbeing in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan provincial general election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2020 and municipal elections on November 9, 2020. [Elections Saskatchewan](#) provides information on where and how you can vote.

[Budgeting for Saskatchewan's wellbeing](#) is critical, especially in the current climate. The pandemic brought on by COVID-19 has distorted more than just our economy. It has undermined living standards and our sense of belonging; it has impacted our mental health; and, discriminated against our most vulnerable populations. To address those outcomes, policy makers and decision makers need to broaden their perspectives and consider all the domains that make up community wellbeing beyond economics.

Internationally, many jurisdictions have taken steps to incorporate quality-of-life and wellbeing measurements into their political, socio-environmental, and economic decision-making ([New Zealand Wellbeing Budget](#); [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#); [WE ALL Iceland](#); [WE ALL Scotland](#)). By incorporating these measures and implementing cross-sectoral approaches to improve wellbeing for their citizens, these countries are equally assessing the economic, social, cultural, and environmental contexts in which they make their political decisions.

The [Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing](#) has helped provide insight into how Saskatchewan people are doing. Based on those insights, governments at all levels can begin to develop a wellbeing framework, which they can then utilize in their policy direction, budgets and fiscal reports.

Wellbeing is achieved when people are physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy; economically secure; have a strong sense of identity, belonging and place; and have the confidence and capacity to engage as citizens. Wellbeing needs to be at the heart of decision and policy making. If you believe wellbeing should inform policy and budget decisions, include wellbeing in conversations with candidates.

Questions for Candidates:

Are you aware of the wellbeing frameworks and budgets adopted in other countries such as New Zealand and Iceland?

Would you support the development of a wellbeing framework, moving towards a wellbeing budget in Saskatchewan or in your municipality that prioritizes quality of life and collective wellbeing? What priorities would you recommend for inclusion in a wellbeing budget?