

November 2022

# CALGARY CITY COUNCIL 1-YEAR REPORT CARD

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Calgary City Council 1-Year Report Card

(CALGARY) Now one-year into a four-year term, Calgary's City Council continues to struggle to gain ground with electors according to a recent ThinkHQ Public Affairs survey. Indeed, both mayor and councillors, having received soft approval ratings in the spring have seen further erosion since.

### Mayor Jyoti Gondek

Mayor Gondek has dropped to an unprecedentedly low rating, currently sitting at 35% approval compared to 55% who now disapprove of the freshman mayor's performance. This represents a nominal 3 percentage-point drop in approval for Gondek since the spring of this year. The intensity of voter sentiment is also a concern for the mayor, with strong negativity leading strong support on a 3:1 basis (35% strongly disapprove vs. 11% strongly approve).

- Residents of Northwest Calgary and those living in the inner city offer slightly more positive ratings of Gondek, as do women
- Disapproval for the mayor is disproportionately higher among men, those over 55, and those living in the South
- Gondek's disapproval climbs with age and distance from the City centre

# Calgary City Council 1-Year Report Card

## Calgary City Councillors

Calgarians were asked to rate the performance of their ward councillor's performance over the past year. Aggregately, councillors receive tepid ratings from voters, with 39% saying they approve of their councillor compared to 35% saying they disapprove. Although modestly positive overall and tracking ahead of Mayor Gondek, these findings represent a "new low" for ratings of councillors in Calgary, with positive sentiment down 6 percentage-points since March 2022.

Councillor performance ratings are reasonably consistent across demographic strata, with a few variations:

- Men tend to offer more negative ratings of their councillors, as do those living in the inner city

## Commentary

Commenting on the new survey results, ThinkHQ President Marc Henry notes:

“These ratings of City Council are not good. In fact, we’ve never seen public sentiment towards mayor and councillors at these levels in Calgary before.

It’s been a bumpy year for Council. They’ve had some challenging issues to contend with, and don’t seem to really have their ‘sea legs’ yet as far as most Calgarians are concerned. There were a host of issues early on which set a sour tone with many voters – last year’s surprise tax increase, the arena deal going sideways, the Climate Emergency, along with sundry ‘scandals’ since. At this stage we have a majority of voters who feel Council is not focusing on the issues that most matter to them – issues like public safety, cost of living and taxes, community development and so on ... there’s definitely a disconnect between many voters and this Council.

## Commentary ... continued

This is particularly notable as they are about to begin debate on the City's 4-year budget, setting service levels, infrastructure investments and tax rates over the rest of their term. It's an opportunity for Council to perhaps 'reset' public views on their priorities and performance, although it is equally possible for Council to re-enforce existing negative sentiments with a 'bad' budget or budget process.

One might have expected Council's ratings to be a bit 'wobbly' given the circumstances – mostly new councillors and a new mayor. There are going to be bumps, and they've only been on the job for a little more than a year. But the next civic election is only a little more than 1,000 days away, and Mayor Gondek and councillors will want to try to turn these ratings around – re-election would be very challenging if public sentiment continues to be this negative.”

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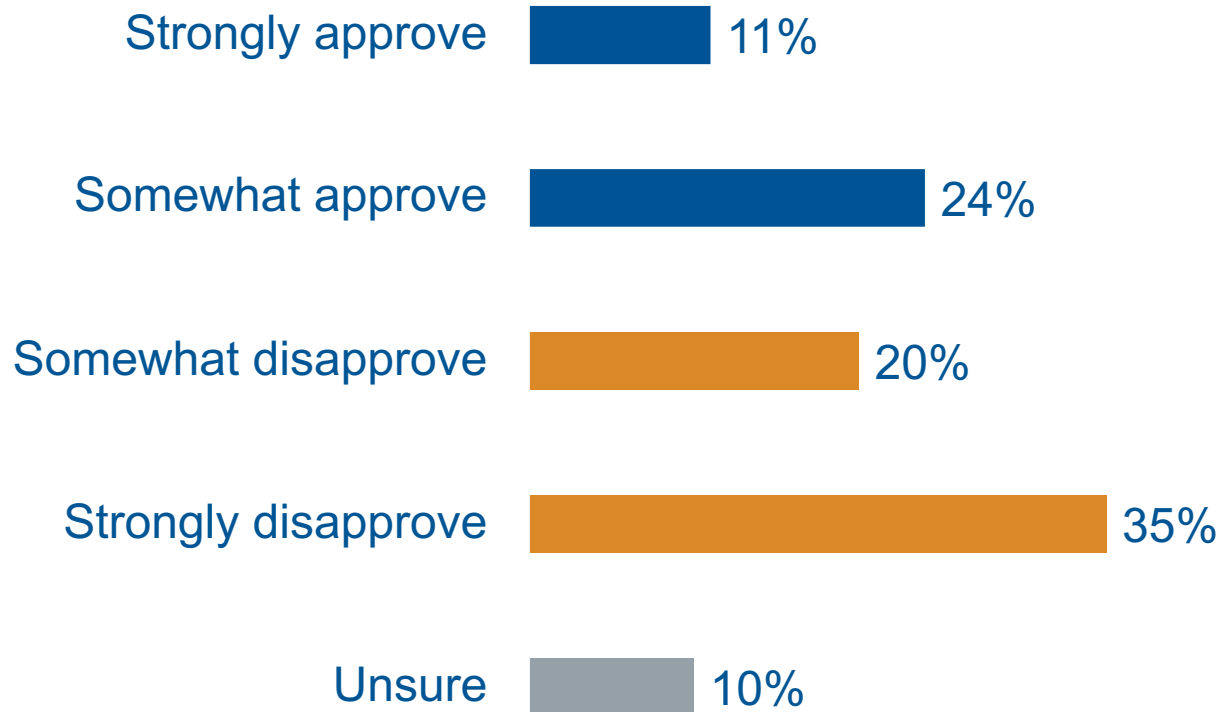


# ASSESSING MAYOR GONDEK

# Assessing Mayor Gondek



*The current Mayor & City Council were elected in October 2021. How would you personally rate Mayor Jyoti Gondek's performance since then?*



## Summary

Approve 35%

Disapprove 55%

NET\* -20

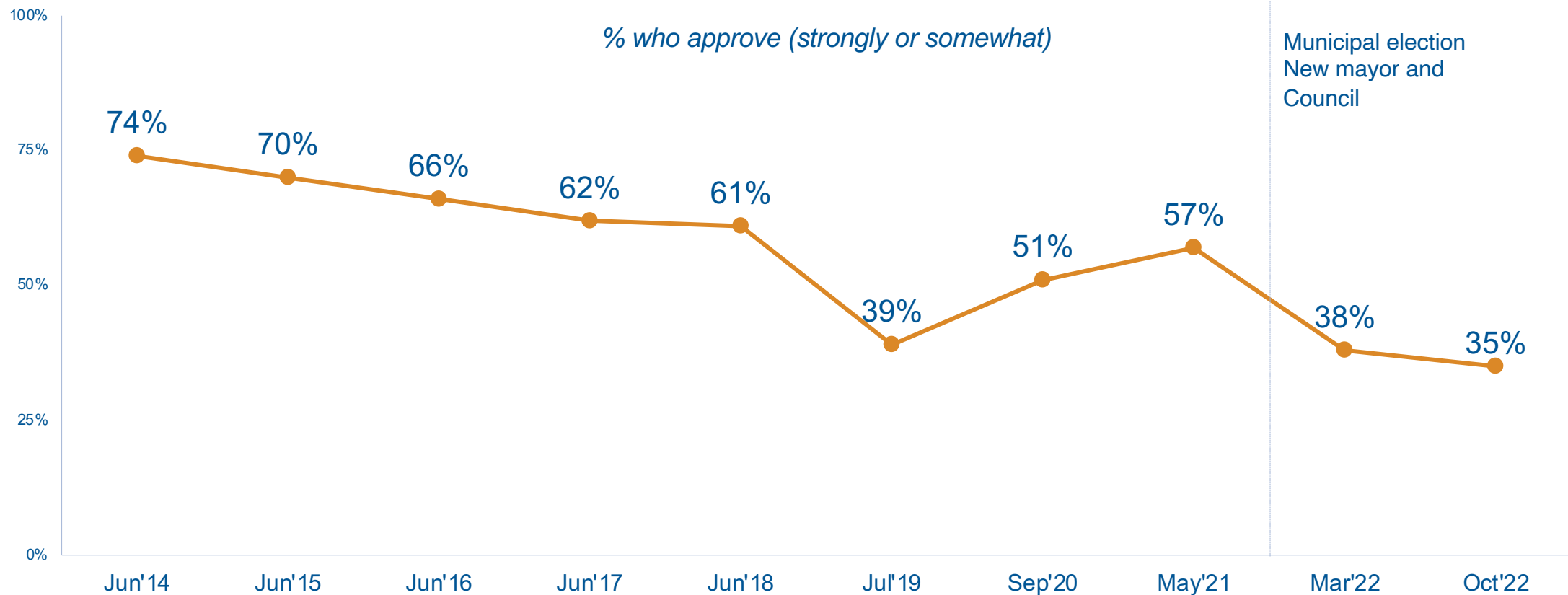
Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper (n=1,172) | \*NET: Approve minus disapprove

# Calgarians Assess The Mayor's Performance

## Tracking

The current Mayor & City Council were elected in (date). How would you personally rate their performance since then?

—●— Mayor\*



Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper | \*Note: Jun'14 to May'21 - Mayor Nenshi ratings; Mar'22 to Current - Mayor Gondek ratings



# Assessing Mayor Gondek

## By Key Demographics



The current Mayor & City Council were elected in Oct 2021. How would you personally rate their performance since then?

		Gender			Age (yrs)			Household Income		
		TOTAL	Male	Female	<35	35-54	55+	<\$75K	\$75-124K	\$125K+
Base Size:		(n=1,172)	(n=582)	(n=584)	(n=388)	(n=449)	(n=335)	(n=327)	(n=281)	(n=375)
Mayor Gondek	Approve	35%	30%	41%	37%	39%	29%	35%	39%	35%
	Disapprove	55%	62%	47%	45%	54%	66%	50%	53%	60%
	Unsure	10%	7%	12%	18%	7%	5%	15%	8%	5%

		City Quadrant				Community Type			
		TOTAL	NW	SW	SE	NE	New	Estab.	Inner
Base Size:		(n=1,172)	(n=326)	(n=332)	(n=299)	(n=215)	(n=412)	(n=522)	(n=220)
Mayor Gondek	Approve	35%	42%	32%	32%	35%	32%	37%	41%
	Disapprove	55%	49%	60%	59%	49%	59%	54%	48%
	Unsure	10%	9%	8%	9%	16%	9%	9%	11%

Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper

Significantly higher

Significantly lower



# ASSESSING CITY COUNCIL



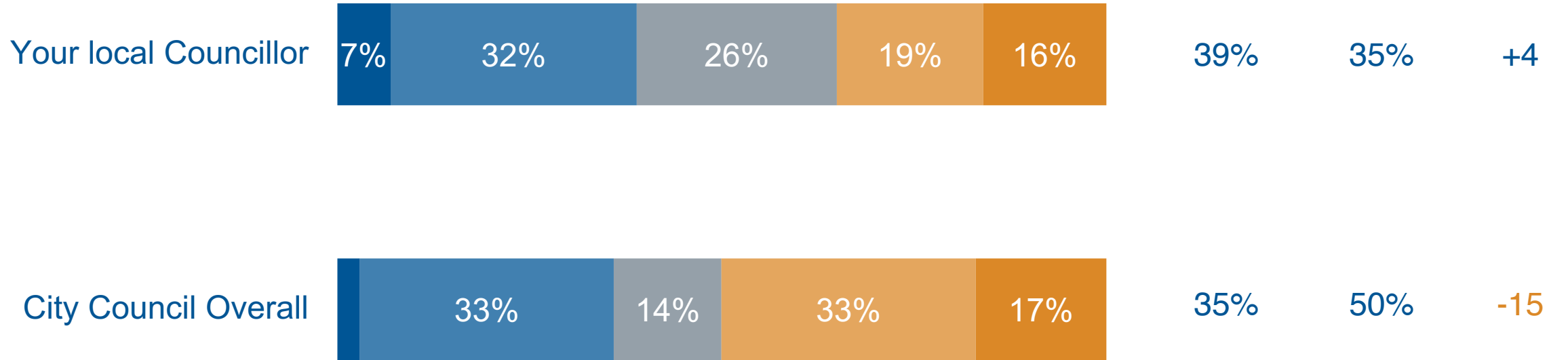
# Assessing Calgary City Council



*The current Mayor & City Council were elected in Oct 2021. How would you personally rate their performance since then?*

■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Unsure ■ Somewhat disapprove ■ Strongly disapprove

**Approve**    **Disapprove**    **NET\***

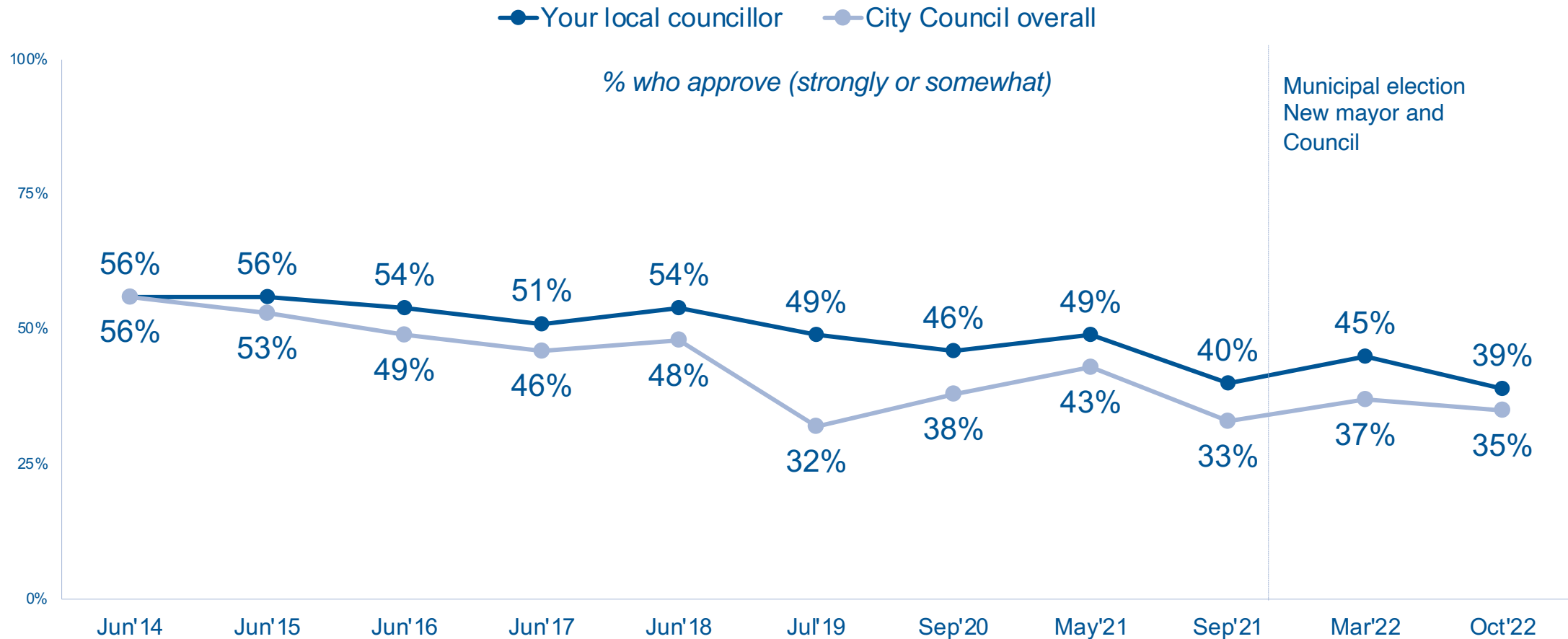


Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper (n=1,172) | \*NET: Approve minus disapprove

# Calgarians Assess City Council

## Tracking

The current Mayor & City Council were elected in (date). How would you personally rate their performance since then?



Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper

# Calgarians Assess New City Council

## By Gender, Age and Household Income



The current Mayor & City Council were elected in Oct 2021. How would you personally rate their performance since then?

		TOTAL	Gender		Age (yrs)			Household Income		
Base Size:			(n=1,172)	Male (n=582)	Female (n=584)	<35 (n=388)	35-54 (n=449)	55+ (n=335)	<\$75K (n=327)	\$75-124K (n=281)
<b>Your local Councillor</b>	Approve	<b>39%</b>	37%	41%	33%	44%	40%	37%	41%	41%
	Disapprove	<b>35%</b>	41%	30%	31%	35%	40%	32%	31%	40%
	Unsure	<b>26%</b>	22%	29%	36%	21%	20%	31%	29%	19%
<b>Council Overall</b>	Approve	<b>35%</b>	31%	39%	34%	37%	34%	40%	37%	33%
	Disapprove	<b>50%</b>	58%	43%	44%	51%	57%	44%	49%	57%
	Unsure	<b>14%</b>	11%	17%	22%	12%	8%	16%	15%	11%

Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper

Significantly higher

Significantly lower

# Calgarians Assess New City Council

## By Calgary City Quadrant and Community Type



The current Mayor & City Council were elected in Oct 2021. How would you personally rate their performance since then?

		City Quadrant					Community Type		
		TOTAL	NW	SW	SE	NE	New	Estab.	Inner
Base Size:		(n=1,172)	(n=326)	(n=332)	(n=299)	(n=215)	(n=412)	(n=522)	(n=220)
<b>Your local Councillor</b>	Approve	<b>39%</b>	41%	41%	37%	35%	41%	40%	33%
	Disapprove	<b>35%</b>	34%	34%	37%	36%	33%	34%	<b>42%</b>
	Unsure	<b>26%</b>	24%	25%	26%	29%	25%	25%	25%
<b>Council Overall</b>	Approve	<b>35%</b>	39%	31%	32%	40%	33%	37%	38%
	Disapprove	<b>50%</b>	46%	56%	53%	45%	53%	49%	50%
	Unsure	<b>14%</b>	14%	13%	15%	14%	14%	14%	12%

Base: All respondents - Calgary Proper

Significantly higher

Significantly lower

# STUDY APPROACH



# Research methodology

## Approach

- Online survey of Adult Calgarians
- Region: Calgary proper
- **Field dates:** October 17 - 20, 2022
- **Sample size:** 2022 n=1,172
- **Panel source:** Angus Reid Forum
- Weighted to reflect gender, age and region of Calgary population according to Stats Canada
- A random stratified sample of panelists was invited to complete the survey from the Angus Reid Forum panel. The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of this size is **+/- 2.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20**
- Accuracy of sub-samples of the data decline based on sample sizes

Regional sample sizes: 2022	Total interviews		Margin of error*
	Unweighted	Weighted	
<b>Calgary total</b>	<b>n=1,172</b>	<b>n=1,172</b>	<b>+/- 2.8</b>
Northwest	n=324	n=326	+/- 5.4
Southwest	n=357	n=332	+/- 5.2
Southeast	n=272	n=299	+/- 5.9
Northeast	n=219	n=215	+/- 6.6
New/suburb	n=400	n=412	+/- 4.9
Established community	n=529	n=522	+/- 4.2
Inner city	n=228	n=220	+/- 6.5

\*Note: Percentage points. The margin of error is associated with a probability sample of this size





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