



# Calgary Municipal Government Approval

JUNE 2019

## Research Methodology

- Study fielded via online research panel
  - Field dates: June 20 – 25, 2019
  - Panel source: ThinkHQ Connect & MARU
- n=1,253
- Weighted to reflect gender, age and region of Calgary population according to Stats Canada
- This online survey utilizes a representative but non-random sample, therefore margin of error is not applicable. However, a probability sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval
- Accuracy of sub-samples of the data decline based on sample sizes

## Regional Sample Sizes and Margins of Error

	Total Interviews (Unweighted) (n)	Total Interviews (Weighted) (n)	Margin of Error (Associated with a probability sample of this size)
<b>CALGARY TOTAL</b>	1,253	1,253	+/- 2.8
<b>Northwest</b>	361	351	+/- 5.1
<b>Northeast</b>	166	241	+/- 7.6
<b>Southwest</b>	413	346	+/- 4.8
<b>Southeast</b>	313	315	+/- 5.5
<b>New / Suburb</b>	400	449	+/- 4.9
<b>Established Community</b>	644	577	+/- 3.9
<b>Inner City</b>	194	201	+/- 7.0

## Calgarians Sour on City Council

The past year has been a difficult one for Calgary City Council. With a failed Olympic plebiscite, serious budget challenges, a small business tax revolt and senior business leaders calling into question the financial viability of the current Green Line LRT expansion, to name just some of the trouble spots over the past 12 months. City Hall's trials and tribulations over the past year are not lost on Calgary voters, who are growing increasingly disillusioned with this Council, and in particular Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

Currently just under four-in-ten (39%) Calgarians say they approve of the performance of Nenshi, compared to 55% who disapprove (37% strongly), which represents a precipitous 22 percentage-point drop in the mayor's approval, year over year.

- Mayor Nenshi's approval tends to be slightly higher among women, those living in the Northeast and inner city, and those under the age of 35 (declining sharply with age)

Ratings for Calgary City Council overall are slightly more negative than the mayor's. Fewer than one-third (32%) of those interviewed approve of Council, as a whole, while 60% disapprove. This represents a 16 percentage-point drop in approval for Council since June 2018.

## Calgarians Sour on City Council, *continued*

Calgary voters are less negative about the individuals representing their wards on Council, with almost one-half (49%) saying they approve of “their Councillor” vs. 34% who disapprove and 17% who are unsure. These approval ratings have softened slightly since last year (down 5 percentage points) but the decline is far less drastic than those for the mayor and council overall.

- Councillor ratings are reasonably consistent across the city, but slightly higher in inner city wards than elsewhere

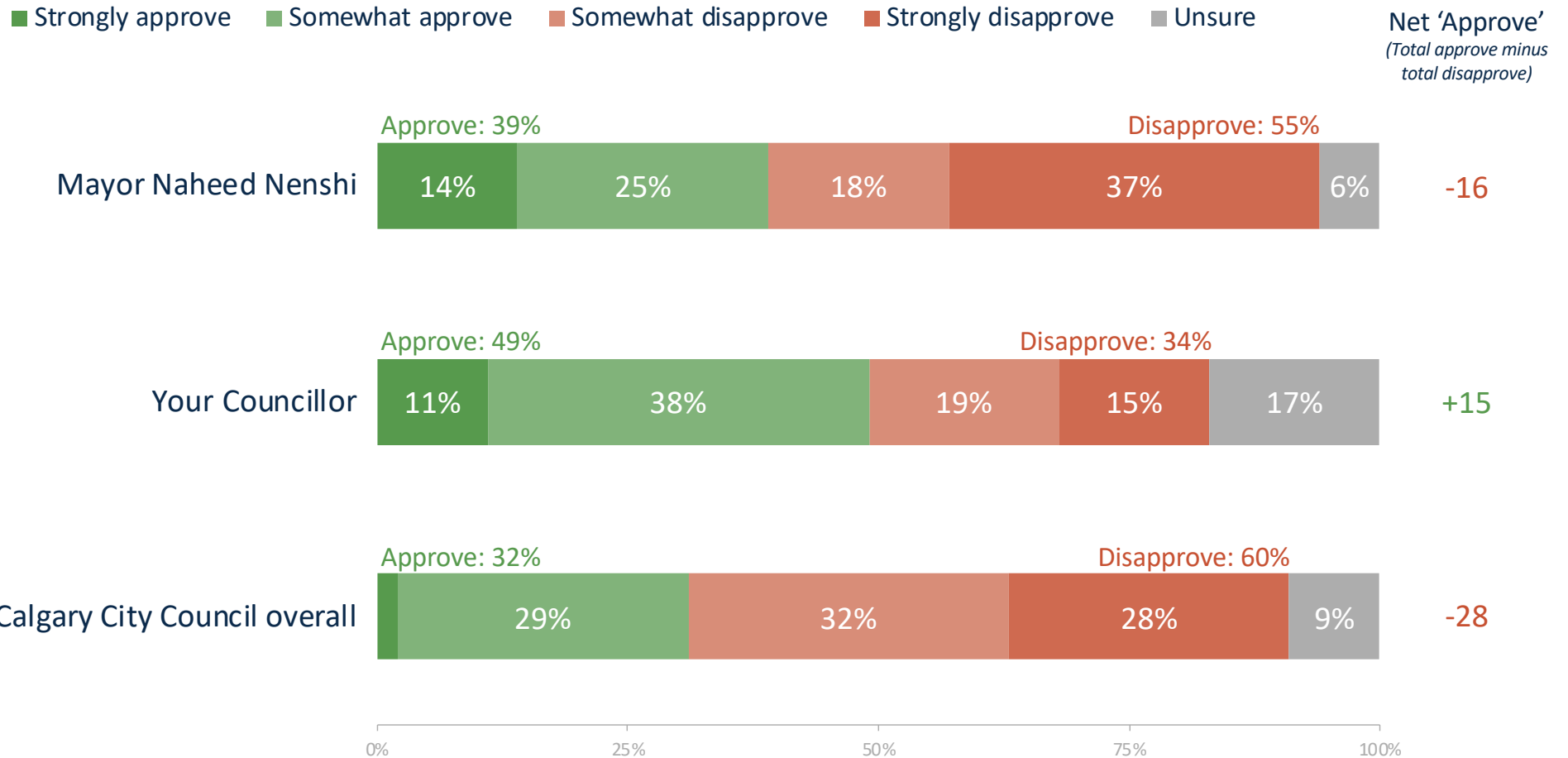
Calgarians clearly are not happy with how City Hall is operating today, but most of their ire seems directed at Mayor Nenshi. You would likely need to go back almost forty years to find a sitting Calgary mayor with approval this low, and the year-over-year drop in his approval is staggering. And yet, almost half of Calgarians are happy with the performance of their Councillor.

The next municipal election is October 2021, so a little over 2 years away. The irony is that if these numbers were to hold, most members of Council could likely be re-elected, but that’s not the case for Mayor Nenshi. It would be very unlikely for the mayor to contest and win re-election with approval this low.

# Public Approval of Local Municipal Government



The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2017. How would you personally rate their performance since then?  
Would you say you generally approve or disapprove of...?



Base: All respondents (n=1,253)

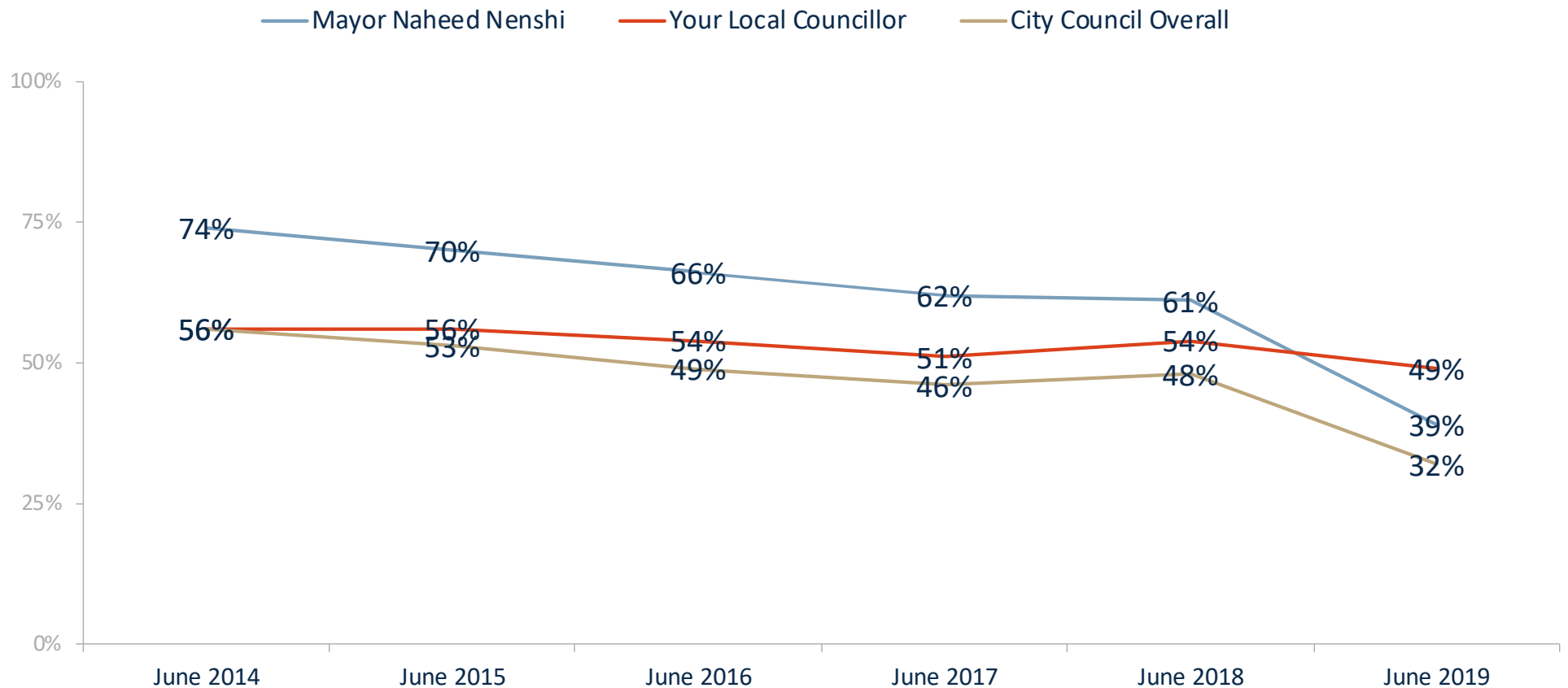


# Public Approval of Local Municipal Government -Tracking



*The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2017. How would you personally rate their performance since then?  
Would you say you generally approve or disapprove of...?*

## % Strongly / Somewhat Approve



Base: All respondents

# Public Approval of Local Municipal Government

## -By Age and Gender



*The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2017. How would you personally rate their performance since then?  
Would you say you generally approve or disapprove of...?*

		Total	Gender		Age (Years)		
		Calgary (n=1,253)	Male (n=626)	Female (n=627)	<35 (n=393)	35-54 (n=486)	55+ (n=374)
<b>Mayor Naheed Nenshi</b>	Approve	39%	34%	44%	51%	39%	26%
	Disapprove	55%	61%	50%	40%	55%	72%
	Unsure	6%	5%	7%	10%	6%	2%
<b>Your Local Councillor</b>	Approve	49%	49%	50%	53%	47%	49%
	Disapprove	34%	38%	30%	25%	36%	42%
	Unsure	17%	14%	20%	22%	18%	10%
<b>Calgary City Council Overall</b>	Approve	32%	28%	36%	43%	31%	21%
	Disapprove	60%	66%	53%	45%	60%	74%
	Unsure	9%	6%	12%	12%	9%	5%

□ Significantly higher    ○ Significantly lower

Base: All respondents



# Public Approval of Local Municipal Government

## -By Current Quadrant and Community Type



*The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2017. How would you personally rate their performance since then?  
Would you say you generally approve or disapprove of...?*

		Total	Reside in					Community Type		
		Calgary (n=1,253)	NW (n=351)	SW (n=346)	SE (n=315)	NE (n=241)	New/ Suburb (n=449)	Established (n=577)	Inner City (n=201)	
<b>Mayor Naheed Nenshi</b>	Approve	<b>39%</b>	40%	37%	34%	47%	34%	37%	55%	
	Disapprove	<b>55%</b>	55%	57%	58%	49%	59%	58%	41%	
	Unsure	<b>6%</b>	5%	7%	8%	5%	7%	5%	4%	
<b>Your Local Councillor</b>	Approve	<b>49%</b>	48%	49%	50%	50%	46%	51%	56%	
	Disapprove	<b>34%</b>	40%	35%	33%	26%	39%	32%	31%	
	Unsure	<b>17%</b>	12%	16%	17%	24%	15%	17%	13%	
<b>Calgary City Council Overall</b>	Approve	<b>32%</b>	32%	26%	29%	43%	32%	30%	37%	
	Disapprove	<b>60%</b>	60%	65%	60%	50%	61%	62%	54%	
	Unsure	<b>9%</b>	8%	10%	10%	6%	7%	8%	9%	

□ Significantly higher    ○ Significantly lower

Base: All respondents

A large, stylized graphic of an eye, composed of concentric, curved bands in shades of blue and grey, set against a dark blue background. The eye is oriented horizontally and occupies the right two-thirds of the page.

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