



MEDIA RELEASE
JUNE 25, 2024

CALGARY MAYOR & COUNCIL APPROVAL CONTINUES TO SLIDE

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KEY FINDINGS

Calgary Mayor & Council Approval Continues to Slide



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 25, 2024

(CALGARY) Public approval for Calgary Mayor and Council has declined since December, breaking record lows set at the end of last year, according to a new ThinkHQ survey.

Mayor Jyoti Gondek

Jyoti Gondek's political woes with Calgary voters continue this spring unabated. The mayor presently has 26% approval compared to 64% disapproval, a four-point slip in popularity over the past six months. Almost one-half (48%) of voters say they "strongly disapprove" of the mayor, compared to only 7% reporting "strong" approval. This is the lowest approval rating for any sitting Calgary mayor.

- Men tend to offer considerably harsher ratings of the mayor than women
- Appraisals of Gondek tend to decline with age, with those in the 55+ cohort offering the most negative assessments of the mayor, along with those in the highest household income bracket
- Disapproval for the mayor is less concentrated in the inner city

Calgary Mayor & Council Approval Continues to Slide

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Calgary City Councillors

Calgarians were asked to rate their ward councillor's performance since they were elected in 2021. On average, councillors receive increasingly negative ratings from constituents, with 33% saying they approve of their councillor compared to 47% saying they disapprove. This represents a decline in councillor approval over the past six months, down 4 points since our last survey in December. This is a new all-time low in Councillor ratings in Calgary.

Councillor performance ratings are reasonably consistent across demographic strata, with some variation, particularly in negative evaluations.

- Residents in new and suburban communities offer fewer negative ratings of their councillors
- Men tend to be more negative about their councillor than women

Calgary Mayor & Council Approval Continues to Slide

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City Council Overall

Council's overall approval with citizens tends to track in line (though generally behind) that of the mayor. This June, one-quarter (25%) of Calgarians say they approve of the performance of their municipal council overall, compared to 66% who disapprove. Again, negative ratings tend to be more intense than positive ones. 25% is a record low for Council overall.

- As with previous measures, age and gender influence performance ratings, with men and older voters decidedly more negative in their appraisals

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

“These ratings are unprecedentedly low. They’ve managed to break their own record for low approval ratings set in December of last year, and it seems driven primarily by negative public reactions to policies like the single-use bag bylaw and blanket rezoning.

It’s interesting. Calgary is currently in a state of local emergency due to the failure of a critical water feeder main. In times like these, there’s a tendency for the public to ‘rally to the leader’; often, politicians who capably lead during a crisis are rewarded with public support. No such boost for Mayor Gondek, or if there is, it’s masked by unmeasured lower ratings driven by other issues (or perhaps she’s not seen as competently leading on the water main issue?).

With numbers like this, Gondek’s re-election prospects are pretty grim. There are 482 days until the next election. It’s taken her almost 3-years to get to this point, so turning things around is pretty tough. Barring a significant vote split in the next election, if she runs, Gondek has to be considered a long shot for re-election with numbers like this.

Commentary

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Councillors must also be doing some soul-searching at this stage, with their record-low December approval numbers dropping again. It should be noted that the average reported for Councillor ratings is not uniform—some fare better than others. Interestingly, those who have seen the most negative turn in their ratings also backed blanket rezoning. I guess not surprising, given public sentiment on the issue and that this lightning-rod was front and centre in the public domain for almost a month of Public Hearing.”

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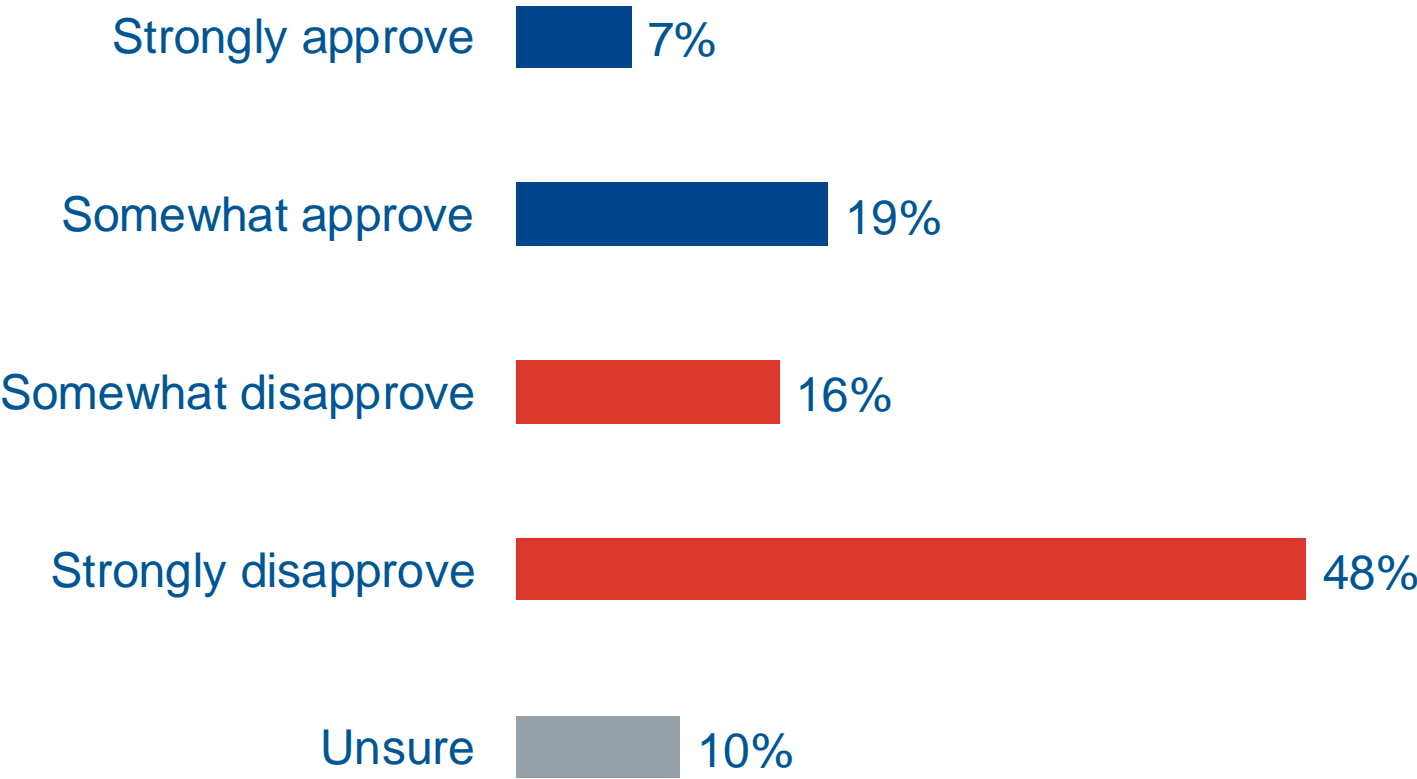
ASSESSING MAYOR GONDEK



Mayor Gondek Approval



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



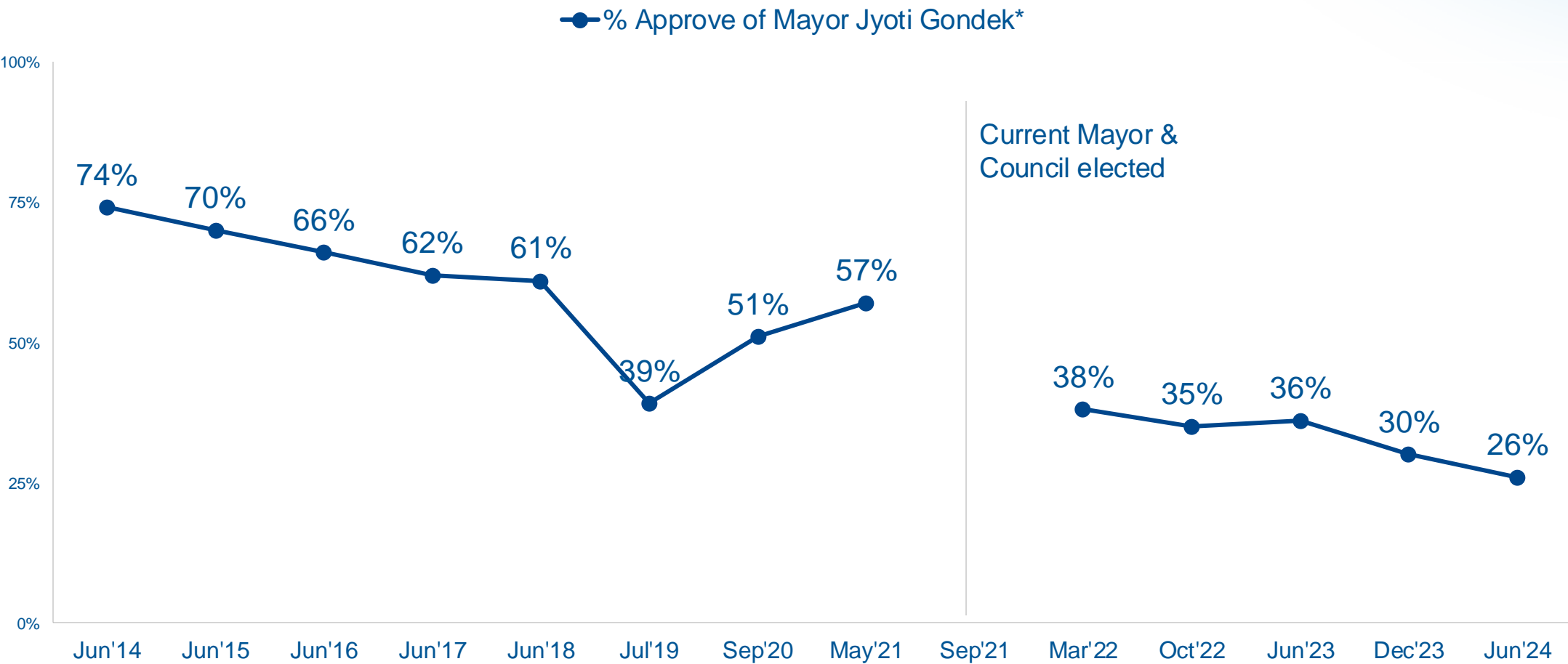
Summary	
Approve	26%
Disapprove	64%
NET "Approve"	-38

Base: All respondents (n=1,114) | NET: Approve minus disapprove

Mayor Gondek Approval Tracking



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



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

Mayor Gondek Approval

By Key Demographics



The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2021. How would you rate their performance since then?

	Gender			Age (years)			Household Income		
	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$75K	\$75-124	\$125K+
Base: All respondents	(n=1,114)	(n=551)	(n=553)	(n=348)	(n=433)	(n=333)	(n=283)	(n=292)	(n=362)
Approve	26%	24%	30%	34%	27%	20%	25%	35%	25%
Disapprove	64%	72%	58%	52%	64%	78%	60%	58%	70%
Unsure	10%	4%	13%	14%	9%	2%	15%	7%	5%

Note: Shading [blue] denotes significant differences among sub-samples

	City Quadrant					Community Type		
	Total	NW	SW	SE	NE	New/Sub	Estab.	Inner
Base: All respondents	(n=1,114)	(n=313)	(n=310)	(n=284)	(n=207)	(n=384)	(n=479)	(n=228)
Approve	26%	29%	26%	24%	29%	27%	24%	34%
Disapprove	64%	60%	66%	69%	63%	65%	67%	58%
Unsure	10%	11%	8%	6%	8%	8%	9%	8%

Note: Shading [blue] denotes significant differences among sub-samples

Base: All respondents



ASSESSING CITY COUNCIL



Calgary City Council Approval

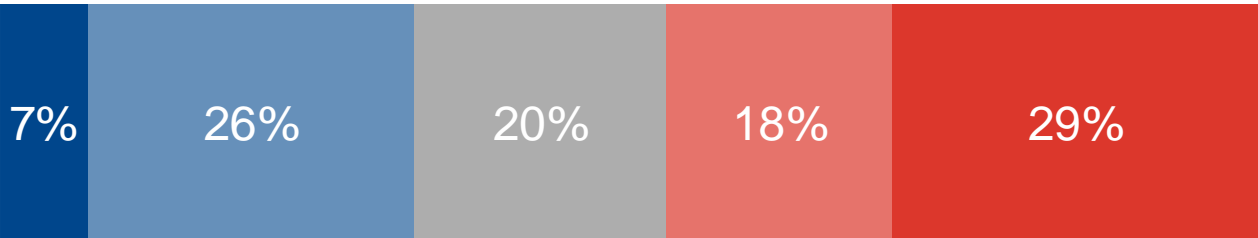


The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2021. How would you personally rate their performance since then?

Strongly approve Somewhat approve Unsure Somewhat disapprove Strongly disapprove

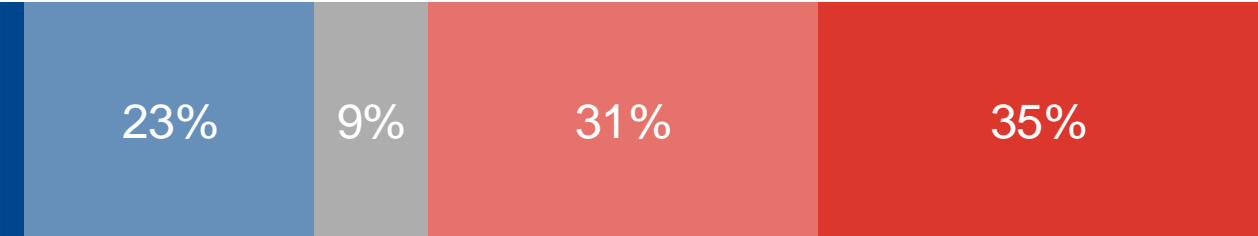
Approve Disapprove NET

Your councillor



33% 47% -14

Council overall



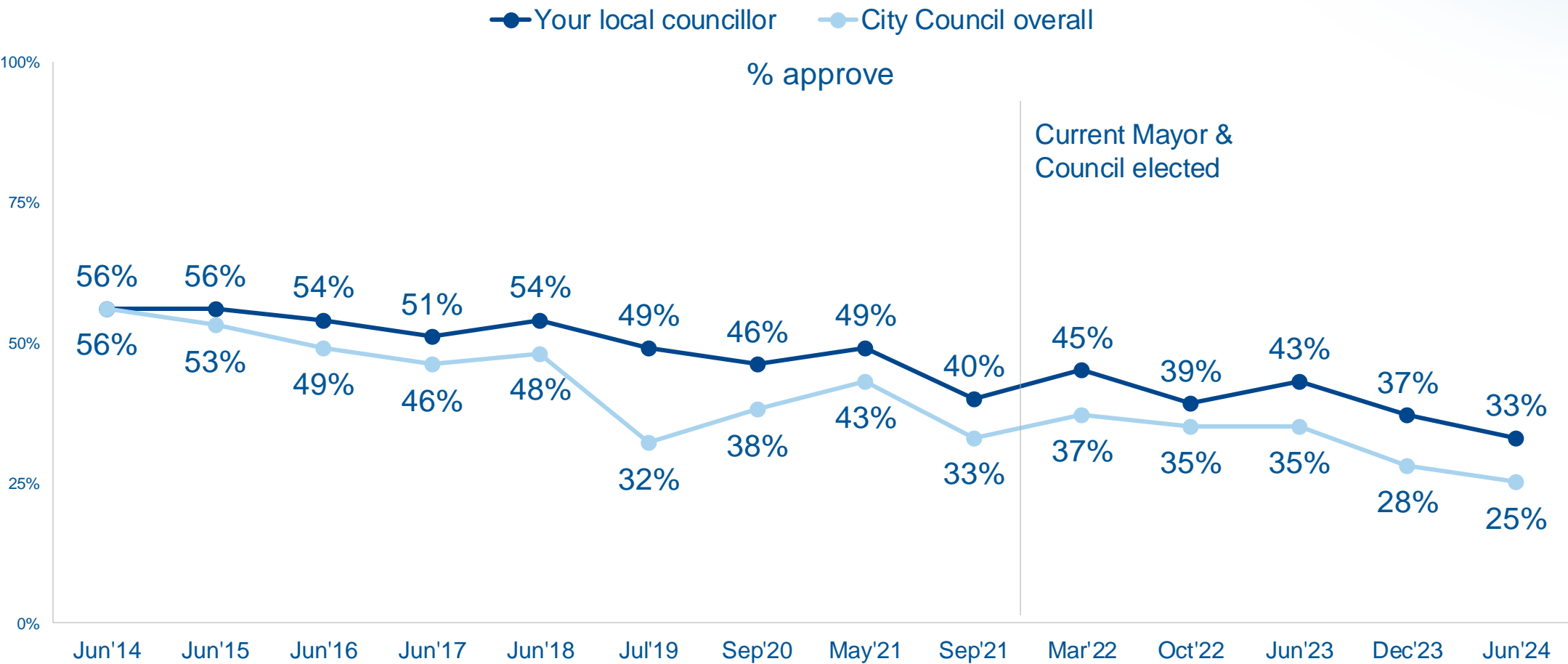
25% 66% -41

Base: All respondents (n=1,114) | NET: Approve minus disapprove

Calgary City Council Approval Tracking



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



Base: All respondents

Calgary City Council Approval

By Gender, Age and Household Income



The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2021. How would you rate their performance since then?

		Gender		Age (years)			Household Income		
	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$75K	\$75-124	\$125K+
Base: All respondents (n=1,114)		(n=551)	(n=553)	(n=348)	(n=433)	(n=333)	(n=283)	(n=292)	(n=362)
Your local Councillor									
Approve	33%	33%	32%	28%	36%	33%	30%	31%	36%
Disapprove	47%	55%	40%	40%	46%	56%	42%	52%	49%
Unsure	20%	13%	27%	32%	18%	11%	28%	17%	15%
City Council overall									
Approve	25%	23%	26%	27%	26%	20%	25%	28%	24%
Disapprove	66%	75%	59%	58%	65%	76%	61%	65%	69%
Unsure	10%	2%	16%	16%	8%	4%	14%	7%	7%

Note: Shading [blue] denotes significant differences among sub-samples

Calgary City Council Approval

By Calgary City Quadrant and Community Type



The current Mayor and City Council were elected in October 2021. How would you rate their performance since then?

City Quadrant

Community Type

	Total	NW	SW	SE	NE	New/Sub	Estab.	Inner
Base: All respondents	(n=1,114)	(n=313)	(n=310)	(n=284)	(n=207)	(n=384)	(n=479)	(n=228)
Your local Councillor								
Approve	33%	36%	29%	33%	33%	34%	33%	30%
Disapprove	47%	44%	48%	49%	49%	44%	49%	51%
Unsure	20%	20%	24%	18%	18%	21%	18%	19%
City Council overall								
Approve	25%	28%	24%	20%	26%	23%	24%	27%
Disapprove	66%	59%	65%	75%	67%	67%	67%	65%
Unsure	10%	13%	11%	5%	7%	10%	8%	8%

Note: Shading [blue] denotes significant differences among sub-samples



APPROACH



Research Methodology



- **Approach:** Online survey of adult Calgarians
- **Region:** Calgary Proper
- **Field dates:** June 13 - 19, 2024
- **Sample size:** n=1,114
- **Sampling:** A random stratified sample of panelists was invited to complete the survey from panel partners
- **Weighting:** Weighted to reflect gender, age and region of the Calgary population according to Stats Canada
- **Margin of error:** The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of this size is **+/- 2.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20**

Sample sizes:	Unweighted	Weighted	MOE*
Calgary total	n=1,114	n=1,114	+/- 2.9
Northwest	n=321	n=313	+/- 5.5
Southwest	n=359	n=310	+/- 5.2
Southeast	n=265	n=284	+/- 6.0
Northeast	n=169	n=207	+/- 7.5
New/Suburb	n=362	n=384	+/- 5.1
Established	n=512	n=479	+/- 4.3
Inner city	n=221	n=228	+/- 6.6

*Margin of error: Percentage points 19 times out of 20.
The margin of error is associated with a probability sample of this size.
Accuracy of sub-samples of the data decline based on sample sizes



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