

# Assessment of Calgary's Mayor and Council

May 2026

PROBE Research



# Key Findings

**New Calgary Mayor Jeromy Farkas and the recently elected members of city council are getting high ratings from residents.** Eight in 10 Calgarians strongly or somewhat approve of Farkas' performance with nearly three-quarters giving high marks to their local councillor and nearly seven in 10 praising the work of city council as a whole. Farkas' approval is high throughout Calgary but is especially high in the northwest and among older voters. Despite the partisan division within Calgary and across Alberta, both United Conservative Party (UCP) and Alberta NDP supporters give the new mayor high marks for his performance so far.

**Nearly six in 10 Calgarians think their city is heading in the right direction.** Calgarians' views on the direction of their city is more optimistic than how they feel about the direction of the province, the country or the broader world. UCP and NDP supporters are also generally positive about the direction Calgary is heading.

**Pocketbook and public safety concerns dominate the issue agenda.** More than one-quarter of Calgarians express concerns over the cost of living, with 13 per cent specifically concerned about housing costs in their city. The same proportion identify crime and public safety as their biggest concern, with poverty and homelessness mentioned by 12 per cent of Calgarians. Infrastructure, unemployment and taxation round out some of the major concerns on the minds of Calgarians.

# Methodology

Probe Research conducted an online survey with a representative sample of 595 Calgary adults between April 27 and May 6, 2026.

All respondents were recruited from a national online panel (LEO). The sample has been weighted slightly by age, gender, region, and educational attainment so it properly reflects Calgary's population, based on Census data. The totals calculated in this report are based on weighting back oversampled groups to the correct proportions within the overall population.

Because an online survey is a sample of convenience, no margin of error can be ascribed. For the purposes of comparison, a probabilistic sample of 595 would have a margin of error of  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error would be higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups.

Data analysis was performed using SPSS, with coding/analysis of open-ended responses completed with MQO A.I. Hub, a Canadian-hosted AI platform. All coding was tested and verified with experienced human coders.

## About Probe Research

Probe Research is one of Canada's leading public opinion and market research firms, serving as an indispensable insights partner to clients and communities throughout the country.

The Probe team blends the traditions of social science and journalism to help clients better understand the world around them – asking the most insightful questions and using storytelling skills to make data come to life and drive strategic decision-making.

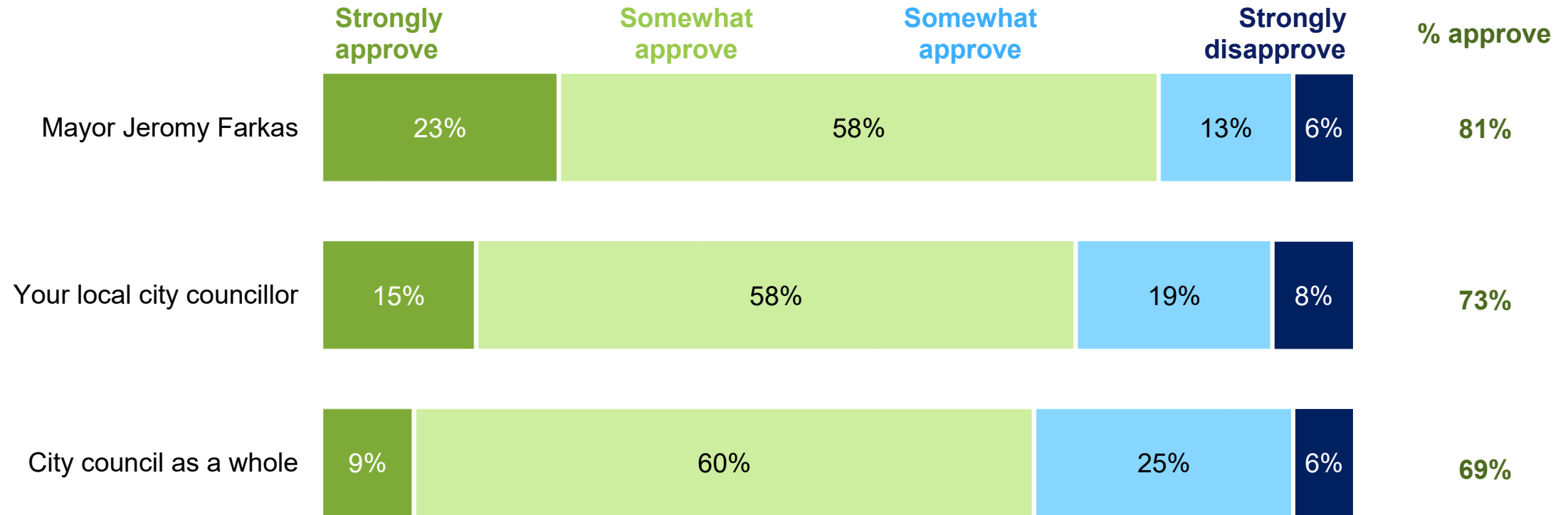
All research conducted by Probe Research is based on responses from real human respondents. Probe Research is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and complies with its Public Opinion Research Standards.

The survey instrument was designed and paid for by Probe Research.

## Notes on this Report

Totals in this report may not add to exactly 100% due to rounding. We may not show results of 2% or less in the graphs.

# More than eight in 10 Calgarians approve of their new mayor and council's performance



CC1. Focusing on municipal politics now... do you approve or disapprove of the performance of ...?  
(Base: Calgary respondents, N=595)

# Farkas' approval rating is highest in northwest Calgary

## Northwest (n=178)

- Mayor Farkas: 88% approve
- Local councillor: 78% approve
- Council, as a whole: 71% approve

## Southwest (n=170)

- Mayor Farkas: 81% approve
- Local councillor: 71% approve
- Council, as a whole: 66% approve



## Northeast (n=108)

- Mayor Farkas: 77% approve
- Local councillor: 75% approve
- Council, as a whole: 77% approve

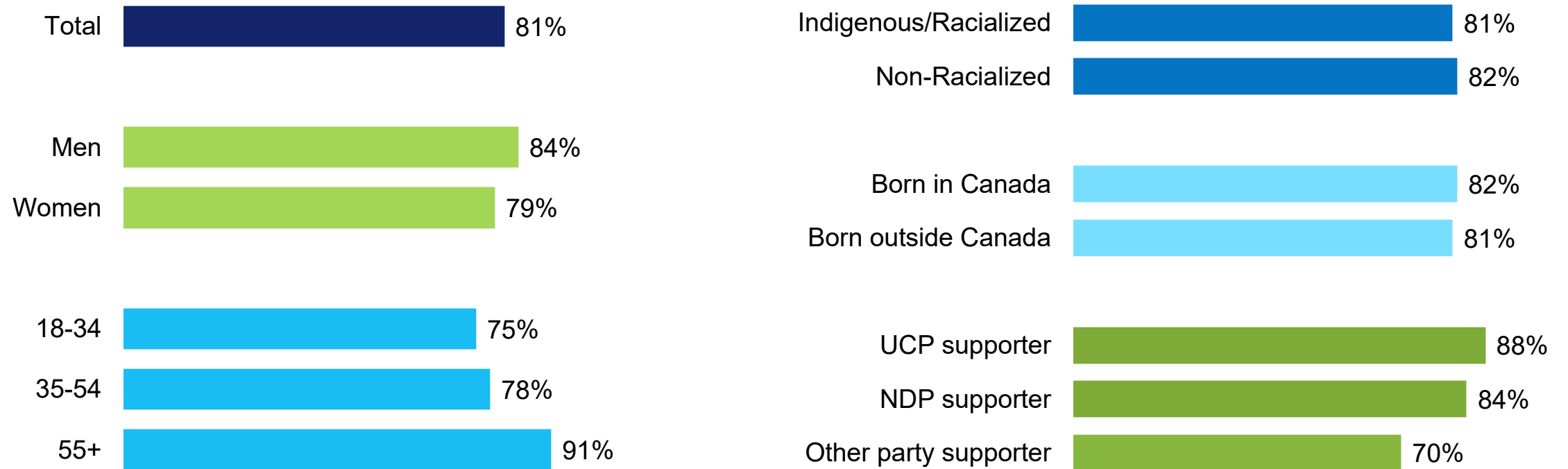
## Southeast (n=139)

- Mayor Farkas: 76% approve
- Local councillor: 67% approve
- Council, as a whole: 63% approve

CC1. Focusing on municipal politics now... do you approve or disapprove of the performance of...? (Base: Calgary respondents, N=595)

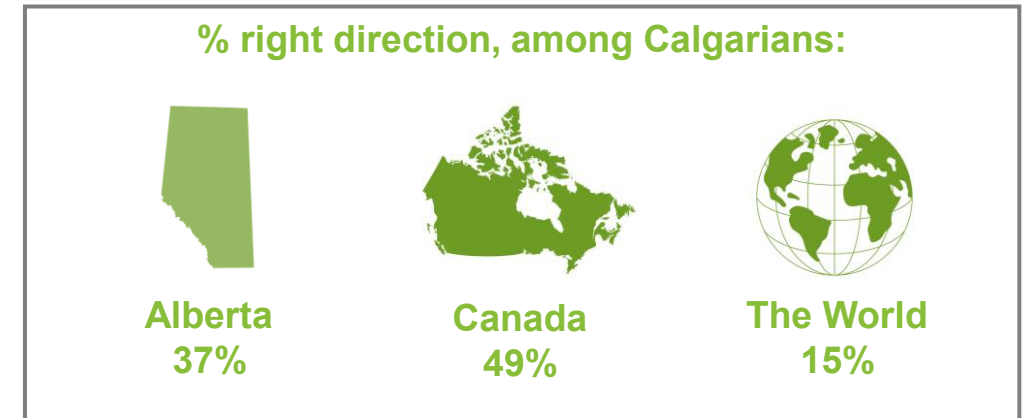
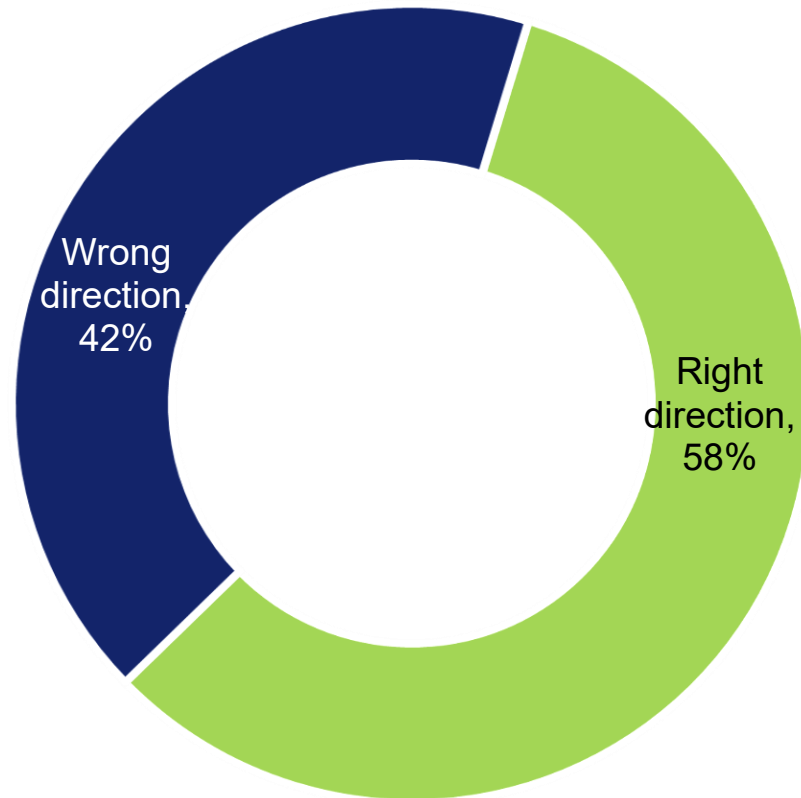
# Farkas' popularity extends across demographic and partisan lines

% who strongly/somewhat approve of Mayor Farkas' performance



CC1. Focusing on municipal politics now... do you approve or disapprove of the performance of Mayor Jeromy Farkas? (Base: Calgary respondents, N=595)

# Nearly six in 10 Calgarians think their city is heading in the right direction



Those most likely to believe Calgary is going in the **right direction** include:

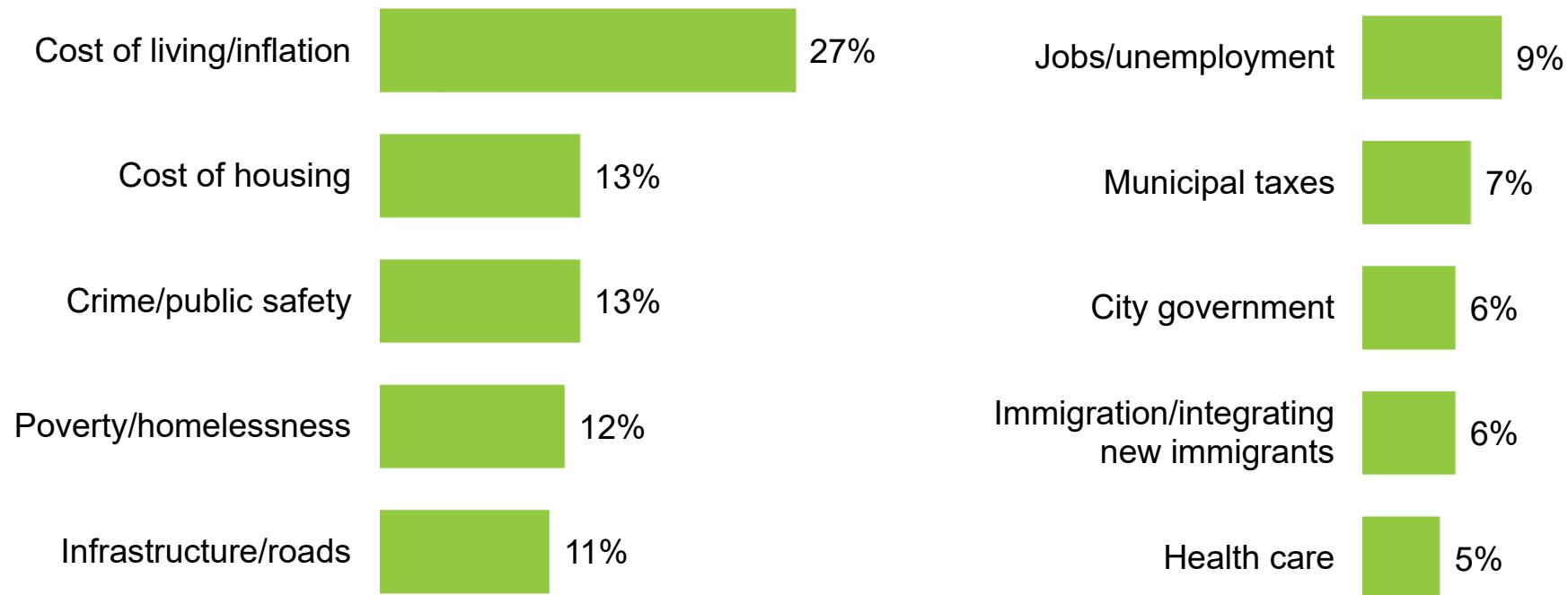
- Men (62% vs. 54% among women).
- Older adults (64% 55+ vs. 51% 35-54).

UCP and NDP supporters are equally as likely to think Calgary is going in the right direction (62% and 63%, respectively).

CG2a. Overall, would you say things are going in the right direction or the wrong direction in Calgary? (Base: All respondents, N=595)

# Calgarians are most likely to share cost of living concerns, including housing affordability

Top-10 issues raised (multiple mentions accepted)



CG1. What do you consider to be the most important issue or concern facing Calgary today?  
(Base: Calgary respondents, N=595)

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