



• • **20 CANDIDATES** • •
• • **26 GUIDE** STATEWIDE, FEDERAL • •
• • *and* GUBERNATORIAL • •
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ABOUT THE AFN CANDIDATES GUIDE

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is committed to providing Alaska Native voters with the information they need to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

As part of that commitment, AFN invited all candidates appearing on the November 2026 General Election ballot to respond to a questionnaire addressing issues important to Alaska Native people and communities, as well as key statewide issues facing Alaska.

This Candidates Guide provides voters with an opportunity to learn more about the candidates, their priorities, and their positions on issues that matter to Alaska.

We encourage voters to review the responses, consider the candidates' perspectives, and participate fully in the 2026 General Election.

AFN is a nonpartisan organization. This guide is intended solely as a voter education resource and does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of any candidate.

To ensure that voters hear directly from the candidates, AFN has not edited, altered, or proofread questionnaire responses. Responses are presented as submitted by each candidate. Candidates for each office all had the same opportunity to participate and received the same questions.

We hope this guide serves as a useful resource as Alaska Native voters prepare to make their voices heard in the 2026 General Election.

2026 CANDIDATES GUIDE

FEDERAL + GUBERNATORIAL

GOVERNOR

Dave Bronson / Josh Church (*no response*)

Jonathan S. “JKT” Kreiss-Tomkins / Zac Johnson (page 8)

Treg Taylor / Candi English (*no response*)

Bernadette M. Wilson / Michael K. Shower (*no response*)

U.S. SENATE

Gerald L. Heikes (*no response*)

Mary Peltola (page 16)

Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. (*no response*)

Dan S. Sullivan (page 24)

U.S. HOUSE

Nick Begich (page 37)

Eric Hafner (*no response*)

Bill Hill (page 49)

James C. “Jim” McDermott (page 57)

2026 CANDIDATES GUIDE

STATEWIDE OFFICE

STATE SENATE

SD A Bert K. Stedman (*no response*)

SD C Louise B. Stutes (*no response*)

SD C Heath Smith (*no response*)

SD C Carrie L. Harris (*no response*)

SD E Cathy Giessel (page 64)

SD E Jason “Jace” White (*no response*)

SD E Gretchen W. Stoddard (*no response*)

SD G Nicholas Danger (*no response*)

SD G Elvi Gray-Jackson (*no response*)

SD I Löki Gale Tobin (*no response*)

SD K Bill Wielechowski (*no response*)

SD M Cathy L. Tilton (*no response*)

SD M Patricia R. Chesbro (*no response*)

SD M Ryan Berry (*no response*)

SD M Zane Vrvilo (*no response*)

SD O George Rauscher (*no response*)

SD O Ryan W. Sheldon (*no response*)

SD O Peter Bauer (*no response*)

SD O Marshall T. Blankenship (*no response*)

SD Q Frank Tomaszewski (*no response*)

SD Q William Hunt (*no response*)

SD S Bryce Edgmon (*no response*)

SD S Darren Morgan Deacon (*no response*)

SD S Wassilie P. “WG” Guy (page 68)

SD S Richard “Rick” Robb (page 72)

STATE HOUSE

HD1 Jeremy T. Bynum (*no response*)

HD1 Grant EchoHawk (page 79)

HD2 Rebecca Himschoot (page 85)

HD2 Alston C. Evans (*no response*)

HD2 Kenny “Karl” Skaflestad (*no response*)

HD3 Andrea “Andi” Story (page 92)

HD3 Annette Kreitzer (*no response*)

HD4 Sara Hannan (*no response*)

HD5 Kathy C. Simpler (page 100)

HD5 Sheldon R.J. Prout (*no response*)

HD6 Brent Johnson (page 105)

HD6 Sarah L. Vance (*no response*)

HD7 Justin M. Ruffridge (*no response*)

HD7 Kate Veh (page 110)

HD8 William H. “Bill” Elam (*no response*)

HD8 Frank Quinn (*no response*)

HD8 Nissa Savage (*no response*)

HD9 Ky Holland (page 119)

HD9 John C. Boyle (*no response*)

HD10 Charles M. "Chuck" Kopp (<i>no response</i>)	HD23 Lee E. Hammermeister (<i>no response</i>)
HD11 Julie Coulombe (<i>no response</i>)	HD24 Ken McCarty (<i>no response</i>)
HD11 Danni M. Hall (page 128)	HD24 Gina T. Wall (<i>no response</i>)
HD12 Calvin R. Schrage (page 133)	HD24 Sharon Jackson (<i>no response</i>)
HD12 Jieun C. "Jini" McDonald (<i>no response</i>)	HD25 DeLena M. Johnson (<i>no response</i>)
HD13 Lisa M. Keller (page 139)	HD25 Michael Bowles (<i>no response</i>)
HD14 Alyse S. Galvin (page 148)	HD25 Steven L. Merritt (<i>no response</i>)
HD14 Russell O. Wyatt (<i>no response</i>)	HD26 Steve J. St. Clair (<i>no response</i>)
HD15 Mia Costello (<i>no response</i>)	HD26 Jeanne Troshynski (page 181)
HD15 Denny Wells (<i>no response</i>)	HD27 Jubilee L. Underwood (<i>no response</i>)
HD16 Carolyn Hall (page 154)	HD27 David Eastman (<i>no response</i>)
HD16 Liz Vazquez (<i>no response</i>)	HD28 Elexie B. Moore (<i>no response</i>)
HD16 Phil Isley (<i>no response</i>)	HD28 Kathleen M. "Kit" Kennedy (<i>no response</i>)
HD17 Matthew H. Salisbury (<i>no response</i>)	HD28 Evan M. Bordenkircher (<i>no response</i>)
HD17 William Z. "Zack" Fields (page 162)	HD28 Stephen Wright (<i>no response</i>)
HD17 Daniel L. Bradley (<i>no response</i>)	HD29 Steve Menard (<i>no response</i>)
HD18 Cliff Groh (page 166)	HD29 Gerald "Garret" Nelson (<i>no response</i>)
HD18 Dan Sager (<i>no response</i>)	HD29 Kimberly Slone (<i>no response</i>)
HD19 Genevieve G. Mina (<i>no response</i>)	HD29 Jessica I. Kusner-Kalarchik (<i>no response</i>)
HD20 Andrew T. Gray (page 172)	HD30 Kevin J. McCabe (<i>no response</i>)
HD20 Paul A. Bauer Jr. (<i>no response</i>)	HD30 Sandra D. Loomis (page 186)
HD21 Donna Mears (<i>no response</i>)	HD30 Doug Massie (<i>no response</i>)
HD21 Aimeé Sims (<i>no response</i>)	HD30 Doyle E. Holmes (<i>no response</i>)
HD22 Ted J. Eischeid (page 177)	HD31 Maxine L. Dibert (page 190)
HD22 Jose Roel Tagle (<i>no response</i>)	HD31 Jonathan Powell-Mark (<i>no response</i>)
HD23 Ruby Jones (<i>no response</i>)	HD31 Aimée Moore (<i>no response</i>)
HD23 Jamie Allard (<i>no response</i>)	HD32 Will Stapp (<i>no response</i>)
HD23 Jim Arlington (<i>no response</i>)	

HD33 Glenn M. "Mike" Prax (*no response*)

HD33 Barbara Haney (page 196)

HD33 Pepper McFarland (page 204)

HD34 Joy E. "Joy Beth" Cottle (page 208)

HD34 Harmony Tomaszewski (page 214)

HD35 Ashley E. Carrick (page 220)

HD35 Jeffrey L. "Jeff" Rentzel (*no response*)

HD36 Rebecca A. Schwanke (*no response*)

HD36 Crystal Jones (page 227)

HD37 Brenda L. Wilson (*no response*)

HD37 Evelyn M. Trefon (*no response*)

HD37 Mark Smith (*no response*)

HD37 Dennis Robinson (*no response*)

HD38 Joseph R. Amik (page 232)

HD38 Nellie "Unangiq" Jimmie (page 237)

HD38 CJ McCormick (page 245)

HD38 Willy Keppel (*no response*)

HD39 Neal W. "Quannaq" Foster (page 254)

HD39 Reynold D. "Papa Joe" Okitkun (*no response*)

HD39 Tyler Ivanoff (*no response*)

HD40 Robyn Niayuq Burke Frier (page 259)

HD40 Saima Chase (*no response*)

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GOVERNOR

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

JONATHAN KREISS-TOMKINS

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins & Zac Johnson / Governor & Lt. Governor / Democrat & Independent /
info@jktforak.com / jktforak.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes, I support balance on the Board of Fish and the Board of Game where all user groups have fair representation.

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes, I want to elevate rural and tribal voices on the Board of Fish and Board of Game.

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes.

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes.

Short Answer:

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Protecting subsistence and Title VIII of ANILCA are critical priorities for me. I would end state litigation against Title VIII, defend the rural preference, and invest in robust, scientific management of our fish, wildlife, and state lands agencies so that our subsistence resource stocks are thriving and sustainable for generations to come. I also want to make sure that the Division of Subsistence is fully funded and its work respected.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. As governor, I would honor the government-to-government relationship with tribes. I will look for ways to increase cooperation between the State of Alaska and tribal governments, especially with compacts to share management responsibilities where it makes sense.

I would look to the work of organizations like the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission as one model for partnership with the State of Alaska.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I would maintain the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council established by Governor Walker and maintained by Governor Dunleavy. If elected, I will appoint a Senior Advisor for Alaska Native and Rural Affairs to work directly in the governor's office.

I also want to restore balance to the Boards of Fish and Game. That means regional balance and balance between user groups. I am open to structural and process changes for both boards that result in prudent management of Alaska's resources based on science and traditional knowledge.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes.

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes.

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes. I would also veto any budget action that would "raid" the \$1B PCE endowment.

Short Answer:

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? I want to advance an energy bond package on the 2028 ballot that includes investment in new energy generation and storage across Alaska, including renewable energy projects in rural Alaska and reducing reliance on costly diesel. I want to increase support for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund in the state's capital budget. These investments have been needed for a long time, but the spike in diesel prices rural Alaska is experiencing make them more urgent than ever.

The state should also look at promoting operating economies of scale in rural Alaska. There's a great model in AVEC, which centralizes institutional knowledge and creates operating economies of scale to bring energy costs down.

I will protect the Power Cost Equalization program. I will veto any attempt to raid the PCE endowment. I would look for opportunities, working closely with Bush Caucus legislators, to ensure that rural communities do not see their PCE support reduced even if they reduce their reliance on diesel by transitioning to alternative energy generation and storage.

I will consider updates to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska's statutory guidance on rate increases to ensure that rural consumers are protected from unreasonable spikes in energy costs.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Every community in Alaska should have access to safe drinking water, reliable sewer, and high-speed internet. No exceptions.

I will make funding for the Village Safe Water program a priority in my administration's budgeting. I am following the planned Quintillion fiber optic loop from Nome to Homer to build redundancy against fiber breaks. I would support the work of the Alaska Broadband Office to fully support Broadband Access Grants and other investments that the state makes in rural broadband access. I would look for ways to increase access to satellite broadband where it is cheaper and more reliable than fiber optic broadband.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are critical infrastructure. I would include investments in fuel storage maintenance in my capital budgets. I would look for ways to partner with the federal government on this infrastructure maintenance. I am encouraged by recent federal investments in rural fuel storage maintenance and would work to make sure we aren't leaving federal dollars on the table that could help finance fuel storage upgrades and repair.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes. As the sponsor of the legislation that made Alaska's Native languages official languages of the State of Alaska alongside English, supporting Alaska's Native languages and Native language speakers is near and dear to me.

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes. I would also have signed the omnibus elections reform legislation that Gov. Dunleavy vetoed in 2026.

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes.

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes. A legislative process on elections legislation that did not involve consultation with major stakeholders like tribal governments would not be thorough.

Short Answer:

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support SB 64, and would sign similar legislation as governor. When I was in the legislature, I worked across the aisle to develop the bipartisan elections reform legislation that SB 64 is based on. That legislation would have established ballot curing, removed the superfluous witness requirement for mail ballots, and improved voting access in rural Alaska.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I would work with Zac Johnson, who is my lieutenant governor running mate, to fully staff the Division of Elections (DOE). DOE should have proactive plans to anticipate ballot access issues. Mail ballots should be reliable, and should be counted in a central location like Anchorage if they can't be mailed directly to a regional office on time. DOE Division should have the capacity to send staff or paid volunteers to rural Alaska communities where poll workers cannot be found in the community. Zac and I are also interested in a collaboration between DOE and Department of Public Safety where "election SWAT teams" could be flown out to rural Alaska communities that need support in order to facilitate all communities, no matter how rural, having the opportunity to vote.

We would also seek input from organizations like Get Out the Native Vote and AFN on the obstacles facing rural Alaska voters and how to remove them.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes, but this is an important policy and I want to make sure we get it right. As governor, I would make policy based on the results of the five pilot programs and the experience of participating communities. If the evidence shows that compacting is strengthening cultural connections, earning the confidence of families, and improving student outcomes, I would support thoughtful expansion in partnership with tribes and regional nonprofits. Throughout that process, my administration would remain committed to ensuring that every compact school delivers a high-quality public education while protecting Native languages and culture.

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes. Restoring adequate education funding is my first priority.

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes.

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes.

Short Answer:

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I think the BSA needs to be increased to restore purchasing power for school districts, and so that the quality of k-12 education in Alaska is not so severely affected.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I support restoring a defined benefit pension for Alaska's public employees and teachers. My administration would work with school boards and REAAs to find ways to increase teacher compensation to be more competitive with Lower 48 jobs. I want to find ways to increase not just state funding for rural teacher housing, but also to offer state support to maintain rural teacher housing after it is built.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I support increased state support for early childhood education programs in the budget process. I want to work to establish public-private partnerships to subsidize child care programs.

I would like to consider ways to partner with tribal governments to support early childhood education, early learning intervention, and child care programs.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? The labor shortage in the trades, which we see across the economy, is a real problem. Weaving apprenticeships into Alaska high schools is exciting and makes a lot of sense. Vo-tech should be a key part of our K-12 system, extending into post-secondary.

I want to find ways to make the same vo-tech education available to urban high school students available in rural Alaska, through investments in rural school facilities or through state travel assistance for rural Alaska students.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? I want to establish a meaningful government-to-government relationship between state government and tribes. Whether that means a cabinet level position, a governor's office coordinator, or tribal liaisons in every agency, or something else — that is the outcome I want to get to. I don't want to commit to a specific approach until I can better understand the various approaches, including learning from other states that have modeled government-to-government relationships with their tribes, such as New Mexico and Washington.

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? In the legislature, I was proud to sponsor legislation that made Alaska Native languages official languages of Alaska.

As governor, I would expand language immersion programs for Alaska Native languages in our public schools, and put up bilingual Alaska Native language signage in public facilities and on roads. I will also encourage the Department of Education to support programs like Sealaska Heritage Institute's Tlingit Culture, Language and Literacy program.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I will end lawsuits by the state against the federal government on subsistence priority and co-management. As governor, I would seek input and collaboration from tribal governments and Alaska Native corporations on shared priorities. I want to continue the work the Walker Administration started to partner with tribal governments by compacting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes. Increasing public safety in rural Alaska would be a priority for my administration. It is unacceptable that there are Alaska communities that are not adequately served by law enforcement.

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes. The four dedicated MMIP investigators at the Department of Public Safety serve an essential function. This function will be a priority for the Department of Public Safety, and I will work with my commissioner to assess if more investigators are needed.

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

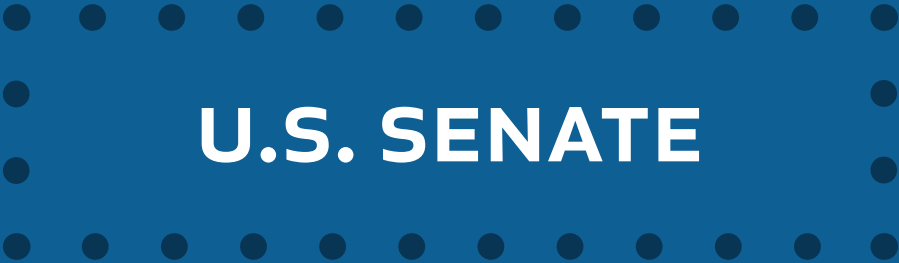
Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? We need to increase the number of VPSOs to provide adequate public safety presence for rural Alaska. I want to increase the funding for VPSO grants, and find creative ways to ensure that every VPSO has access to the health and retirement benefits other public safety officers in Alaska have access to. I support the restoration of a defined benefit pension for Alaska law enforcement and other public employees to increase recruitment and retention. I want to make sure that VPSOs are included in this benefit.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I support steady, sufficient funding for shelters, victim services, behavioral health care, and culturally appropriate programs, especially in rural and Alaska Native communities. I would look for ways to ensure that tribal, local, state, and federal law enforcement coordinate better so cases are investigated quickly and families get clear communication and support.

Prevention should begin early, with education on healthy relationships, consent, and recognizing abuse, alongside efforts to tackle risk factors like housing instability, substance abuse, and limited access to behavioral health care.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? As governor, I would make sure my budgets put real money into shelters, safe housing, and the local and tribal organizations that help victims get to safety and rebuild. I want to increase state support for sexual assault response teams and forensic medical care so survivors can get treatment and have evidence collected without leaving their communities. I would work with my Departments of Public Safety and Law to prioritize arresting and prosecuting perpetrators, and getting law enforcement, prosecutors, and tribal and state courts working together so fewer cases slip away.

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U.S. SENATE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

MARY SATTLER PELTOLA

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Mary Sattler Peltola / U.S. Senate / Democrat / Mary@marypeltola.com / marypeltola.com

SUBSISTENCE & FISHERIES

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful government-to-government Tribal consultation before federal actions affecting Tribal Lands, resources, and communities? Yes

Would you support amending ANCSA to authorize Alaska Native management of fish and wildlife on all Native Corporation-owned lands in Alaska? Yes

Do you support expanding Tribal co-management of fish and wildlife resources? Yes

Do you support prioritizing local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Native communities must have a seat at the table when these decisions are made. I will bring my lived experience as a former employee of a tribal co-management body to Washington to fight for our communities. I will champion legislation to ensure Alaska Native voices are recognized and taken into account in the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council process as well as in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. I will always advocate for Native communities to have a say in management systems to better ensure continued access to subsistence resources now and for our future generations.

2. What is your perspective on the current dual (federal-state) management system for subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska? Do you believe it adequately serves Alaska Native communities? The bifurcated system we have devolved into creates unnecessary confusion for hunters and fishermen. Federal laws protecting rural consumption should be respected by the state of Alaska, particularly since the federal rural preference only goes into effect in times of shortage.

3. Would you advocate for amendments to federal laws such as ANILCA, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to ensure consultation with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and organizations; establish co-management standards; and increase funding to support these efforts? Yes. These federal laws were enacted decades ago and need to be updated to reflect the changes in abundance, availability, invasive species, and allow tribes to have more say so in the eligibility of hunters and fishermen.

4. What actions would you take to limit bycatch by commercial trawlers in federal waters and to improve coordination amongst state and federal agencies on salmon recovery efforts? Out-of-state factory trawlers have exploited Alaska fisheries – creating excessive bycatch, and ravaging the ocean floor while Alaska fishermen and communities suffer the consequences. It's beyond time we ban out-of-state bottom trawlers. I will also continue the fight in the Senate to keep mid-water trawlers off bottom, ensuring that trawlers can't hide behind outdated definitions and harm our fish stocks. I will also demand NOAA crack down on enforcing existing laws protecting a community first approach and limit bycatch. I will keep fighting for a modernized Magnuson-Stevens Act to hold fishery councils accountable for prioritizing sustainable stocks, reducing bycatch, and protecting the communities most impacted by fishery declines.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increased federal funding to improve voting access in rural and Tribal communities? Yes.

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation before advancing federal election legislation?

Yes.

Will you support the Native American Voting Rights Act to establish explicit federal protections for tribal ID acceptance, enhance voter registration sights, and equitable ballot drop off access?

Yes.

Will you oppose the SAVE Act or any federal legislation that imposes voter ID requirements that would disproportionately burden Alaska Native voters in rural and remote communities? Yes.

Short Answer:

1. Please explain your position on the SAVE Act and how you believe it would affect Alaska voters, particularly those in rural and Tribal communities. Election security is key – but election security can't come at the cost of silencing Alaska voices. Bills like the SAVE Act might work for the Lower 48, but it would force costly and time consuming travel for thousands of rural Alaskans to obtain necessary proof of citizenship, ultimately making it much harder to vote. I oppose the SAVE Act. This is not a red or blue issue, this is about ensuring Alaskans are able to vote.

2. A reliable mail service is essential to ensure equal access to voting in Alaska. How will you use your oversight authority to improve the United States Postal Service to ensure that all Alaskans can fully participate in elections? I believe everyone who is eligible to vote should have access to the ballot box, and one-size-fits-all rules from DC rarely work for large rural states like Alaska. Here in Alaska, mail-in voting isn't just about convenience, it's a necessity. For folks living in the 82% of our state that's off the road system, it can be the only way of casting their ballot. It is already a challenge to ensure mail is picked up in a timely manner in these communities. Mail is delivered by plane all over rural Alaska, and our weather can make it hard to fly. This is why I would protect our state law which counts ballots that are postmarked by Election Day and arrive within 10 days. It's a specific solution to Alaska's unique needs. This isn't about partisanship or about winning a particular election. Folks across the political spectrum mail in their ballots. We need reliable mail service for shipping medication, mail orders, and to take care of our finances. It is a critical service and we must do better.

3. How would you describe the importance of voting and civic engagement to our youth and new voters, especially within Alaska Native communities? For the sake of ourselves and our communities, it is our duty to vote. Alaskans deserve a seat at the table in Washington, D.C., and it is critical that we vote to send a Representative who will fight to lower grocery and energy costs, tackle DC corruption and corporate greed, and fight for continued sovereignty and self-determination for our Native communities. Our system only works when the majority of eligible voters participate in elections.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Will you oppose legislation that weakens or rolls back protections under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act? Yes.

Will you support increasing federal appropriations for programs that reduce energy costs in rural Alaska, including LIHEAP and Tribal energy programs? Yes.

Will you oppose legislation that exempts federal infrastructure, mining, oil and gas, or other resource development projects from meaningful Tribal consultation and environmental review? Yes.

Will you support legislation and appropriations that increase funding for climate resilience, erosion prevention, and community relocation for Alaska communities facing climate-related threats? Yes.

Short Answer:

1. What federal investments would you prioritize to reduce energy costs in rural Alaska? Alaskans deserve energy solutions that are designed for our unique needs. I will fight for targeted federal funding for programs like LIHEAP, the Denali Commission's High Energy Cost and Bulk Fuel Loan programs, and USDA Rural Utilities Service energy programs to expand village micro-grids, modernize rural energy distribution, increase reliability, and reduce costs for Alaskans.

2. What specific actions will you take to address environmental and climate-related impacts in Alaska? It's beyond time that Alaska had 21st century energy infrastructure to keep up with 21st century demand. I will fight for targeted investments to modernize aging and deteriorating energy grids across the state – including the Railbelt – so that communities aren't paying higher energy prices for less efficient transmission and less reliable delivery. In Congress, I fought to secure funding to upgrade the Railbelt to be 85% electric by 2040. I will fight to restore those federal tax credits for solar, wind, hydropower projects that were cut by DC's reconciliation bill, and push for federal funding to diversify energy inputs for Alaska's Railbelt. Alaskans need more energy in our portfolio to drive down costs, and I will fight to make it happen.

3. What specific actions will you take to protect LIHEAP from federal budget cuts and ensure stable predictable funding for Alaska's heating assistance program? I believe that no Alaskan should ever have to choose between heating their home and putting food on the table. That's why I will fight to expand and modernize the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help Alaskans afford heat and ensure DC insiders aren't leaving Alaska families out in the cold because of government shutdowns or funding delays.

4. If Congress considers legislation that would weaken environmental protections or reduce Tribal consultation requirements, how would you evaluate and vote on those proposals? I have fought for Alaska Natives across the political spectrum to be heard by DC insiders and I will always fight to make sure our voices are included on decisions that impact our land and our lives. Lower 48 bureaucrats should not be empowered to bypass Alaskans and our elected officials to provide one-size-fits-all solutions. I will fight to ensure Alaska communities are in the driver's seat for decisions impacting our state.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Will you support full funding of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, which provides supplemental support for Alaska Native students in public schools? Yes.

Will you support full funding of Title VI Indian Education grants, which directly support Alaska Native students in public school systems? Yes.

Will you oppose any federal cuts to Impact Aid funding, which supports rural Alaska school districts serving Alaska Native students? Yes.

Short Answer:

1. Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, especially in rural and remote communities, has long been a challenge in Alaska, contributing to gaps in education quality and student outcomes. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address these challenges, improve teacher retention, and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Quality teachers are foundational for successful school outcomes. This is why I cosponsored H.R.4550 to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs. I will continue that fight in the United States Senate.

2. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska Native children? Early education is critical, which is why I fought and secured millions in federal funding for headstart programs in Alaska to help every child reach their full potential. In the U.S. Senate, I will fight to protect the program, secure federal dollars to match Alaska's unique childcare needs, and work for real solutions to our childcare crisis.

3. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Post-secondary education and training for communities is critical to ensuring that Alaska jobs are filled by Alaskans. I have sponsored the Youth Workforce Readiness Act to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-schooltime youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth. I also believe we need to expand and protect federal funding for our job corps programs to support clear pathways with free training into career paths that need workers. I will continue this fight in the United States Senate.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes and No questions:

Will you lead and support efforts to increase sustainable federal funding to support Tribal Justice Programs including Tribal Courts, Tribal Police, and investigative resources? Yes.

Will you work with federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to coordinate in reporting, investigations and sharing data? Yes.

Will you support up to date relevant training, wellness support, pay equity, and benefits to help remedy staffing shortages and high turnover for tribal and village law enforcement? Yes.

Short Answer:

- 1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence?** From my time chairing the bipartisan Bush Caucus in the State Legislature to securing public safety resources for Village Public Safety Officers to securing critical investment in local law enforcement during my time in the U.S. House of Representatives, investing in public safety has always been one of my top priorities. Alaskans have been vocal that more communities, villages, and towns need basic law enforcement. I will continue to advocate for more funding to protect our families, greater authority for our villages and localities in combatting crime when it occurs, and overseeing the provision of public safety across our state.

- 2. In VAWA 2022, Congress recognized the inherent authority of Alaska Native Tribes to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in their Villages. Do you support incorporating the definition of ‘Village’ from VAWA 2022 into all public safety statutes, regulations, policies, and implementation strategies?** Yes. No one should feel unsafe in their community, regardless of where they live. One of the things I appreciated about VAWA 2022 was the authority it granted, albeit in a targeted capacity, to our Tribes as partners in the provision of justice. That approach ought to be expanded. I will continue to fight for proper implementation of the law so that Native communities can have more say in keeping their communities safe.

- 3. The Alaska Federation of Natives has called on the Department of the Interior to provide dedicated annual non-competitive base funding for P.L. 280 Tribes to develop and sustain tribal court systems and support public safety services. Do you support this initiative, and how would you work to ensure that funding meets the budgetary needs of Tribes in Alaska?** Yes, as a former tribal judge, I’m proud to be a previous recipient of AFN’s endorsement based on my record of championing funding for Tribal courts and other programs, such as drug treatment options through the Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act, which I sponsored. I will continue to sponsor and vote for legislation that will directly increase funding for Tribes as well as bills that allow for indirect funding. I will also continue the fight for our landless communities to form corporations and receive the lands and resources they are entitled to.

- 4. Alaska has some of the highest rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. The Not Invisible Act Commission was established in 2020, and their report Not One More was released in November 2023 with many recommendations specific to Alaska. This report has now been deleted from the DOJ website, cases continue to remain unsolved, and Alaska Native people continue to experience high rates of violence and murder. What are your solutions to address the MMIP crisis?** Behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a story. We honor their lives by refusing to look away, standing with families still searching, and demanding action. Alaska has the fourth-highest number of cases of MMIP in the country and we need real investment in local law enforcement and resources to address the crisis. I was proud to lead the floor debate and the ultimate passage of the amendment to the Not Invisible Act to extend and expand funding the Department of Interior and the Department of Justice’s “Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians.” I will work across the aisle to ensure that there is increased communication

and coordination across local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to ensure that we tackle this epidemic and keep our communities safe.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support the 29 recommendations from the Commission on Native Children Report that would improve outcomes for Native children and youth in four main areas, including education and job training, physical, mental and behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice. Yes

Affordable housing is in critically short supply, contributing to various social challenges. Funding under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the main source of federal assistance to provide safe, accessible, and affordable housing to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Do you support reauthorizing and adequately funding NAHASDA? Yes

Will you advocate for inflation-proofing NAHASDA funds to ensure long-term stability for tribal housing programs? Yes

Short Answer:

1. Chronic diseases such as diabetes and respiratory illness disproportionately affect Alaska Native communities, and the Indian Health Service has historically been underfunded. What steps will you take to ensure that IHS receives adequate funding to address these health disparities and meet the healthcare needs of Alaska Natives? I support full funding, advanced appropriations, and mandatory funding for IHS to create the stability and predictability needed to address chronic diseases. I have sponsored bills to protect the healthcare of Alaska Natives such as the bipartisan Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023 to expand affordable care to rural Alaska Natives. I also signed on to a bipartisan letter demanding mandatory funding for IHS in federal budgets to address the disruptions and chronic underfunding of IHS. I will continue this fight for our communities in the United States Senate.

2. What strategies will you employ to increase access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs in rural areas, and how will you ensure that mental health services are integrated into these efforts to support long-term recovery and community wellness? Substance abuse is a problem that has touched practically every family in Alaska. This is why I sponsored the Supporting Families through Addiction Act, a bill which would establish a grant program for family community organizations that provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and their families. Affordable treatment is critical so people can fully complete their treatment programs. This is why I sponsored the Improving Access to Mental Health Act, to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program. I will fight for increased resources for Alaska Native communities and rural areas to ensure that every Alaskan is able to combat addiction and has access to mental health services on a local level. Too often, Alaska Natives are forced to

travel far from their home communities in order to receive the treatment they need. I would fight to fully fund and support our rural health infrastructure and ensure we have more treatment beds in our communities.

3. Alaska Native communities are facing a severe drug crisis, including the impacts of heroin, meth, and fentanyl. How would you advocate for ongoing efforts to protect and enhance Alaska Native communities in combating this crisis? Substance abuse related issues are not limited to major cities, rural communities are increasingly seeing the impacts of drugs and controlled substances in their communities. In the U.S. Senate, I will fight to ensure that public safety is funded at adequate levels so that villages can exercise the self-determined solutions they need to prevent drugs from reaching their communities. All communities deserve access to quality treatment for substance abuse. This is why I sponsored the Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services Act, to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment. In the Senate I will fight to ensure that every Native community has the resources needed to tackle addiction and keep our communities strong.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DAN SULLIVAN

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Dan Sullivan / U.S. Senate / Republican / billy@danforak.com / <https://dansullivanforalaska.com/>

SUBSISTENCE & FISHERIES

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful government-to-government Tribal consultation before federal actions affecting Tribal Lands, resources, and communities? Yes. I support robust consultation and collaboration.

Would you support amending ANCSA to authorize Alaska Native management of fish and wildlife on all Native Corporation-owned lands in Alaska? While I strongly support protecting subsistence access and advancing opportunities for rural users, any proposal to amend ANCSA must be thoughtfully evaluated to avoid creating a third layer of conflicting harvesting rules and enforcement challenges. True, lasting solutions require collaboration and consensus.

Do you support expanding Tribal co-management of fish and wildlife resources? Yes. Co-management entities and co-management agreements are vitally important to ensure Alaska Native peoples' ability to constructively and cooperatively manage species.

Do you support prioritizing local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? My goal as your Senator is to protect access to subsistence resources and advance policies that protect opportunities for subsistence users. I am also focused on passing my Bycatch Reduction Act.

Short Answer:

1. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are critically important for the culture and food security of thousands of Alaskans. As your Senator, my goal is to protect access to resources and advance policies that result in robust opportunities for subsistence users. My role on the federal level will be to find solutions that work for all of Alaska and provide subsistence users with a greater voice in the decisions that directly affect their health and well-being. True, lasting solutions require consensus, not division.

Co-management entities and co-management agreements are vitally important to ensure Alaska Native peoples' ability to constructively and cooperatively manage species. Organizations like the

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council have demonstrated the success of co management regimes for decades.

As your Senator, I have supported Alaska Native co-management organizations in many ways, including funding. As we look for ways to build capacity for co management organizations, I will push for increased funding and capacity for co management to ensure you can better protect subsistence resources and provide greater monitoring, research, and data to better inform management decisions and authority.

2. What is your perspective on the current dual (federal-state) management system for subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska? Do you believe it adequately serves Alaska Native communities? Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are critically important for the culture and food security of thousands of Alaskans. I am privileged to participate annually in subsistence fishing on the middle Yukon with my family, and I have seen firsthand the collapse of Yukon River fisheries over the past few years and the tragic impacts it has caused families. As your Senator, my goal is to protect access to resources and advance policies that result in robust opportunities for subsistence users.

For decades in Alaska, the subsistence issue has been complicated, confusing, and litigious. With the recent conclusion of the State of Alaska vs. U.S. case on the Katie John line of cases, I am hopeful that is coming to an end. Going forward, my role on the federal level will be to find solutions that work for all of Alaska and provide subsistence users with a greater voice in the decisions that directly affect their health and well-being.

3. Would you advocate for amendments to federal laws such as ANILCA, the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to ensure consultation with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and organizations; establish co-management standards; and increase funding to support these efforts? I support co-management entities and co-management agreements, which are vitally important to ensure Alaska Native peoples' ability to constructively and cooperatively manage species of importance. Co-management entities and co-management agreements are vitally important to ensure Alaska Native peoples' ability to constructively and cooperatively manage species.

I have supported Alaska Native co-management organizations in many ways, including funding. For example, I was honored to play a critical role in AEWC's historic victory at the 2018 International Whaling Commission meeting when they secured automatic renewal of the whaling quota. A few years ago, I brokered a compromise regarding the polar bear quota between the Alaska Nanuuq Commission, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Department. When the Alaska Nanuuq Commission ran into trouble, I played a pivotal role in standing up its successor, the Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council.

As we look for ways to build capacity for co-management organizations, I will push for increased funding and capacity for co-management to ensure you can better protect subsistence resources and provide greater monitoring, research, and data to better inform management decisions and authority. My goal is to protect access to resources and advance policies that result in robust opportunities for subsistence users.

4. What actions would you take to limit bycatch by commercial trawlers in federal waters and to improve coordination amongst state and federal agencies on salmon recovery efforts? Salmon are essential to our Indigenous communities' survival and way of life. No one in Congress has taken more concrete actions to address bycatch. In 2022, I passed my Alaska Salmon Task Force Act, which brought together the best minds in the state—especially Alaska Native communities—to identify actions to help address negative influences on Alaska salmon, including bycatch. I then introduced the Bycatch Reduction Act, the most comprehensive approach to reducing bycatch ever introduced in Congress, to enhance transparency and accountability in the NPFMC; establish enforceable monitoring and gear standards for trawl fisheries to reduce seafloor contact impacts and bycatch; require salmon excluders; and expand funding for gear and technologies that reduce bycatch and seafloor contact.

At the NPFMC, I advocated for action to conserve and rebuild Alaska's chum salmon. The Council established a Western Alaska chum salmon bycatch limit. Although this decision was not perfect, it is a meaningful first step.

In 2024, the NPFMC limited halibut bycatch based on recent halibut abundances, which prompted a lawsuit from the trawl fleet. I opposed this lawsuit and filed a brief in federal court in support of Alaska's halibut fishermen. My advocacy helped win the case against the Amendment 80 trawl fleet. My opponent talks about fish. I have a strong record of results.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increased federal funding to improve voting access in rural and Tribal communities? Yes. I support efforts to address the unique challenges to voting access for rural and Tribal communities in Alaska.

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation before advancing federal election legislation? Yes. I support robust consultation and collaboration.

Will you support the Native American Voting Rights Act to establish explicit federal protections for tribal ID acceptance, enhance voter registration sights, and equitable ballot drop off access? While this legislation has not been introduced in two Congresses, I support many of its provisions.

Will you oppose the SAVE Act or any federal legislation that imposes voter ID requirements that would disproportionately burden Alaska Native voters in rural and remote communities? No. See answer to #1 below. I respectfully disagree with the premise of the question.

Short Answer:

1. Please explain your position on the SAVE Act and how you believe it would affect Alaska voters, particularly those in rural and Tribal communities. Throughout my career, I have been a consistent and strong advocate for voting rights and have supported fair voting practices and access to the voting booth for all Alaskans, but in particular Alaska Natives. When I was Attorney General, I led the effort to settle a case on behalf of the State and vigorously implemented the terms of that

settlement to make significant enhancements to election language assistance for Alaska Natives. I played a similar role as Attorney General to protect the Alaska Native vote in the 2010 election.

Confidence in our elections is fundamental to the strength and stability of our system. I am focused on protecting election integrity while preserving access for all eligible voters. As we've debated the legislation, I've worked with the Division of Elections and many in the Alaska Native community to successfully ensure that reasonable requirements to verify the identity of voters will not disenfranchise Alaskans. For instance, in the Senate, I worked to allow the use of Tribal IDs. We have identified steps to make a smooth transition to adopting election integrity enhancements, including creating more satellite election offices and utilizing mobile election offices. Together, we can move forward with strengthening our election safeguards and preserving the value of every individual's vote. Our goal should be to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

2. A reliable mail service is essential to ensure equal access to voting in Alaska. How will you use your oversight authority to improve the United States Postal Service to ensure that all Alaskans can fully participate in elections?

Reliable mail service and the United States Postal Service are critically important in Alaska. In a state as vast as ours, with many remote communities only accessible by air or water, I recognize the vital services the USPS provides to Alaskans, including ensuring votes are properly cast in elections. Alaska faces more challenges than other states when it comes to getting goods through the mail, including ballots. However, the Postal Service has a Universal Service Obligation mandating a minimum level of service to all areas of the country, offering a lifeline to rural areas and expansive states like Alaska. Each year the USPS ships more than 100 million pounds of consumer goods to rural Alaska communities. I have led the efforts in the Senate and have been a fierce defender of initiatives like the Bypass Mail program that enable Alaskans to receive the goods they need at a cost comparable to the rest of the country. This level of service and reliability applies to ballots for elections in exactly the same way.

3. How would you describe the importance of voting and civic engagement to our youth and new voters, especially within Alaska Native communities?

We are blessed to live in a nation where citizens elect their leaders. Voting is fundamental to the democratic process and provides real power to individual citizens and ensures that elected officials are held accountable to the public. Throughout my career, I have been a consistent and strong advocate for voting rights and have supported fair voting practices and access to the voting booth for all Alaskans. When I was Attorney General, I personally led the effort to settle a case on behalf of the State of Alaska and vigorously implemented the terms of that settlement to make significant enhancements to election language assistance for Alaska Natives. Due in part to this effort, and many others by our Legislature and Division of Elections, Alaska has some of the most expansive laws in the country relating to access to the voting booth. As you may be aware, the Alaska Division of Elections has established a Youth Vote Ambassador Program, which I support, that encourages individuals who are at least 16 years old to serve as election workers and to learn about the importance of civic engagement.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Will you oppose legislation that weakens or rolls back protections under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act? Protecting the environment and supporting responsible infrastructure and natural resources development are not mutually exclusive goals.

Will you support increasing federal appropriations for programs that reduce energy costs in rural Alaska, including LIHEAP and Tribal energy programs? Yes, in fact, for 2026 I was able to nearly double Alaska's allocation of LIHEAP funding to provide relief for Alaskans from high energy costs.

Will you oppose legislation that exempts federal infrastructure, mining, oil and gas, or other resource development projects from meaningful Tribal consultation and environmental review? Yes. I support robust consultation and collaboration.

Will you support legislation and appropriations that increase funding for climate resilience, erosion prevention, and community relocation for Alaska communities facing climate-related threats? Yes. I have secured significant federal funds for these purposes.

Short Answer:

1. What federal investments would you prioritize to reduce energy costs in rural Alaska? I believe the two most important things we can do to bring down the staggering cost of energy are to build more infrastructure and produce more energy in Alaska – for Alaskans. I support an all-of-the-above approach to affordable energy generation. This means expanding hydroelectric grant programs, securing investment tax credits, streamlining permitting, and advocating for wind projects in Western Alaska or solar projects in the Interior to reduce our dependence on expensive diesel generators. Integrating battery energy storage systems will further stabilize local microgrids and ensure clean, reliable power delivery year-round. I also helped deliver a historic \$140 million EPA investment alongside the Denali Commission to upgrade rural infrastructure, including more bulk fuel storage across rural Alaska.

To secure immediate relief, my advocacy recently established a White House Task Force on rural Alaska energy challenges. Through this effort, I doubled Alaska's LIHEAP utility assistance this year, urged allies to prioritize our refining needs to increase supply, and secured waivers that freed up thousands of gallons of North Slope diesel for Alaskans to use at home rather than sending it abroad.

Alaska has abundant energy resources, and my record demonstrates I support solutions that best fit the needs of individual communities.

2. What specific actions will you take to address environmental and climate-related impacts in Alaska? I believe the best approach to mitigate climate-related impacts must be practical and focused on resilience, not top-down, one-size-fits-all mandates from D.C. that raise costs for Alaskans. I have used my committee assignments and listened to Alaskans' priorities to deliver federal resources to our state. Through the Water Resources Development Act, I established a dedicated Alaska erosion mitigation program with a 90-10 federal cost-share, drastically reducing

local financial burdens for storm, glacial, and coastal damage prevention projects, like the Barrow Seawall Project. I secured funding to start the relocation efforts for Newtok after decades of planning, enabling the construction of initial housing. I also resolved a decades-long injustice by amending federal law, so ANCs are no longer liable for cleaning up contaminated lands conveyed to them.

Moving forward, I support federal funding for relocation or shoreline hardening projects and am working to modernize federal reviews so we can build more critical community infrastructure.

Recognizing how changing environmental conditions jeopardize subsistence ways of life, I authored and passed the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act to coordinate federal research into declining salmon return, and I'm maintaining this momentum by translating the task force's findings into actionable policy through my Bycatch Reduction Act.

3. What specific actions will you take to protect LIHEAP from federal budget cuts and ensure stable predictable funding for Alaska's heating assistance program? As part of the annual appropriations process, I always advocate for increased LIHEAP funding, so Alaskan families have the support they need. When my Democratic colleagues shut down the federal government last year and prevented LIHEAP funding from reaching families, I immediately stepped in with HHS Secretary Kennedy to break these funds loose, because no family should be forced to choose between warm homes and groceries. My commitment goes far beyond protecting LIHEAP from proposed budget cuts. Last month, I nearly doubled Alaska's annual funding allocation and delivered an additional \$10 million in LIHEAP funding to provide immediate, direct relief to households across our state.

4. If Congress considers legislation that would weaken environmental protections or reduce Tribal consultation requirements, how would you evaluate and vote on those proposals? Alaska has some of the highest environmental standards in the world, proving that protecting our environment and advancing responsible resource development are not mutually exclusive goals. I believe decisions driving Alaska's future must come from voices on the ground, not unelected bureaucrats thousands of miles away in D.C. Therefore, I will oppose legislation that undermines the federal government's legal and moral trust responsibility to consult with Alaska Native people.

Consultation should never be treated as a 'check-the-box' exercise. Defending this responsibility requires holding federal agencies accountable. It was abhorrent when North Slope leaders visited D.C. eight times to meet with then-Secretary of the Interior Haaland, only for her to refuse meetings and side with outside environmental NGOs that tried to silence Alaskans. Further, after standing side by side with many of you to defeat efforts by Senate Democrats to exclude ANCs from the Coronavirus

Relief Fund tribal set-aside, my team and I scrutinize all legislation to ensure Alaska's unique tribal framework and multi-layered service delivery model are protected.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Will you support full funding of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, which provides supplemental support for Alaska Native students in public schools? Yes. This supplemental funding is important for cultural enrichment, student advocacy, and postsecondary planning.

Will you support full funding of Title VI Indian Education grants, which directly support Alaska Native students in public school systems? Yes, I include this in my appropriations request every year.

Will you oppose any federal cuts to Impact Aid funding, which supports rural Alaska school districts serving Alaska Native students? Yes. In fact, I have been advocating to increase Alaska's allocation of Impact Aid, and always include Impact Aid in my appropriations request.

Short Answer:

1. Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, especially in rural and remote communities, has long been a challenge in Alaska, contributing to gaps in education quality and student outcomes. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address these challenges, improve teacher retention, and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Alaska suffers from a severe teacher shortage, and addressing this challenge has been a priority of mine throughout my time in Congress. I have advocated for increased funding for federal teacher recruitment and retention programs in Alaska. I have also worked with Alaska's teacher apprenticeship program to help clarify federal rules and guidelines and ensure the program has the flexibility needed to be successfully implemented in our state.

Most significantly, given the current circumstances, I have worked to remove the fees associated with H-1B visas for teachers. In February, I advocated to then-Secretary Noem, requesting an exemption for Alaskan teachers. I also cosponsored legislation that would have exempted public school employees from the H-1B processing fee and made multiple personal phone calls to both former Secretary Noem and Secretary Mullin to advocate for an exemption.

While the federal court system ultimately halted the processing fee, I was successful in securing exemptions for multiple individuals who would otherwise have been subject to the fee.

2. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska Native children? I have continually advocated for increased funding for the Alaska Native Education Program, the primary federal funding source dedicated specifically to Alaska Native K-12 education. The program has received funding increases in several recent appropriations cycles. Additionally, I have supported efforts to establish Alaska's State-Tribal Education Compact, which would provide significantly greater autonomy and local control over Alaska Native education. I will continue working with the compacting effort and with Alaska Native Tribes to advance legislative proposals that strengthen and expand educational opportunities for Alaska Native students.

3. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? In Alaska, it is important that our students are provided with a comprehensive, integrated career and technical education system that aligns training programs and coordinates delivery to prepare our youth and adults for Alaska careers. The Working Families Tax Cut Act expanded Pell Grant eligibility to certain high-quality, short term credential and certification programs, rather than limiting federal support to traditional college degrees. This will allow students to receive federal financial assistance while training for high-demand, well-paying careers such as plumbing, pipefitting, and other skilled trades that are particularly important to rural communities. This expanded Pell Grant eligibility will allow these programs to grow and give more Alaskans access to career opportunities without requiring a traditional four-year degree.

I am also excited about the expansion of apprenticeship programs, including teacher apprenticeship programs. These programs allow individuals—including many Alaska Natives—to earn a paycheck and gain valuable classroom experience while working toward the education and credentials needed to become teachers. I believe these programs can expand the pipeline of excellent teachers, create new opportunities for Alaskans, and empower participants to invest in the next generation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes and No questions.

Will you lead and support efforts to increase sustainable federal funding to support Tribal Justice Programs including Tribal Courts, Tribal Police, and investigative resources? Yes. I include this in my appropriations request every year.

Will you work with federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to coordinate in reporting, investigations and sharing data? Yes. Information sharing and collaboration are essential to efficient and effective law enforcement.

Will you support up to date relevant training, wellness support, pay equity, and benefits to help remedy staffing shortages and high turnover for tribal and village law enforcement? Yes. Building capacity and providing adequate resources are vital to meeting the law enforcement needs of rural and Tribal communities.

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I have focused on strengthening public safety for nearly two decades. My mission has always been clear: every single community that wants a law enforcement officer should have one. I remember being at the Tanana Chiefs Conference annual convention years ago when a prominent Alaska Native leader suggested that the Attorney General of the United States visit Alaska to discuss these systemic issues. I pressed and successfully secured a commitment from then-Attorney General Bill Barr to come to Alaska immediately following his Senate confirmation, making our state his very first official trip. That historic visit resulted in an unprecedented \$10.5 million emergency public safety declaration, which we quickly followed up

with a massive \$42 million surge in public safety funding directed straight to Alaska Native tribes, consortia, and shelters. We kept that momentum rolling by delivering over \$77 million in federal grants for tribal victim set-asides, additional COPS personnel, and domestic violence support. I have strongly encouraged the current Acting Attorney General, Todd Blanche, to continue the historic investments in rural Alaska public safety and to meet directly with the Alaskans who live in our rural communities, which he did recently on a trip to Bethel and Emmonak.

2. In VAWA 2022, Congress recognized the inherent authority of Alaska Native Tribes to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in their Villages. Do you support incorporating the definition of ‘Village’ from VAWA 2022 into all public safety statutes, regulations, policies, and implementation strategies? VAWA 2022 was an important step for public safety in rural Alaska. Congress recognized Alaska Native Tribes’ criminal and civil jurisdiction over Indians present in their Villages, expanded their authority to issue and enforce protection orders, and established a pilot program allowing participating Tribes to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over certain crimes involving non-Indians. Congress used Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas to define the geographic boundaries for those specific authorities.

I support using a clear, consistent definition where it helps deliver public-safety resources to Alaska communities. Applying the VAWA definition wholesale to every public-safety law, regulation, and policy could carry unintended jurisdictional consequences. I would work closely with Alaska Native leaders and the State to get that language right—improving public safety while preserving the jurisdictional lines Congress preserved in VAWA.

3. The Alaska Federation of Natives has called on the Department of the Interior to provide dedicated annual non-competitive base funding for P.L. 280 Tribes to develop and sustain tribal court systems and support public safety services. Do you support this initiative, and how would you work to ensure that funding meets the budgetary needs of Tribes in Alaska? Public safety and a well-functioning judiciary are an essential part of serving and protecting our communities. Too many rural communities still lack the law enforcement presence and resources they need. In 2019, as I noted previously, I urged Attorney General William Barr to come to Alaska and see the rural public safety crisis firsthand. His visit led to an unprecedented investment from the Department of Justice in rural Alaska public safety, supporting prosecutors and funding 39 law enforcement positions to help strengthen village law enforcement and victim services.

Village Public Safety Officers are often the first line of response in some of the most remote parts of our state. The State is making meaningful progress in rebuilding the VPSO program, with the number of VPSOs more than doubling from 42 in early 2020 to 87 by early 2025. That progress is crucial, but we need to keep going—strengthening recruitment and retention, improving training and support, and ensuring that village law enforcement has the resources they need.

To this end, I fully support efforts to have the Department of the Interior partner with Alaska tribes and other stakeholders to build the capacity and infrastructure for these vital functions.

4. Alaska has some of the highest rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. The Not Invisible Act Commission was established in 2020, and their report Not One More was released in November 2023 with many recommendations specific to Alaska. This

report has now been deleted from the DOJ website, cases continue to remain unsolved, and Alaska Native people continue to experience high rates of violence and murder. What are your solutions to address the MMIP crisis? I worked hard with others to establish the Operation Lady Justice task force office in Anchorage under the leadership of Alaska's own Tara Sweeney, bringing advanced federal assets to bear on solving cold cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons to provide long-awaited justice and closure. This year, on May 5, the National Day of Awareness for MMIP, I hosted a roundtable with Alaska Native leaders, law enforcement, victim advocates, federal partners, and community organizations. We were joined by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, Billy Kirkland, who announced a renewed Department of the Interior effort to reinvigorate Operation Lady Justice.

In concert with these executive actions, my legislative priorities are delivering results on the ground. The POWER Act is now law, permanently building upon our "Choose Respect" efforts that I started when I was Alaska's Attorney General, by requiring annual events nationwide, with a mandatory focus on tribal partnerships, to expand pro bono legal services that empower survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to break the cycle of abuse. Further, Savanna's Act, which I co-sponsored, directly complements our cold case efforts by mandating clear, nationwide reporting protocols for MMIP cases.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Yes or No questions.

Will you support the 29 recommendations from the Commission on Native Children Report that would improve outcomes for Native children and youth in four main areas, including education and job training, physical, mental and behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice. Yes, in principle, but I need to consider the details to ensure that none of the provisions unintentionally harm Alaska Native children.

Affordable housing is in critically short supply, contributing to various social challenges. Funding under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the main source of federal assistance to provide safe, accessible, and affordable housing to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Do you support reauthorizing and adequately funding NAHASDA? Yes. I am an original cosponsor of Sen. Murkowski's NAHASDA reauthorization bill and strongly support its passing.

Will you advocate for inflation-proofing NAHASDA funds to ensure long-term stability for tribal housing programs? I am the original cosponsor of the bipartisan NAHASDA Modernization Act of 2026, which would reauthorize NAHASDA through 2033 and is explicitly intended to provide greater long-term stability and certainty for Tribal housing programs.

Short Answer:

1. Chronic diseases such as diabetes and respiratory illness disproportionately affect Alaska Native communities, and the Indian Health Service has historically been underfunded. What steps will you take to ensure that IHS receives adequate funding to address these health

disparities and meet the healthcare needs of Alaska Natives? I have continually advocated for improving health care for Alaska Natives. I have fought for greater clarity and accountability around denied BIA 105(l) lease applications and advocated for funding for health care projects across Alaska. Every year, I request funding through the annual appropriations process for BIA and Indian Health Service (IHS) contract support costs, and I have also supported advance appropriations for the IHS, which is especially important during federal government shutdowns and helps provide greater stability and predictability for IHS programs and the communities they serve.

While drafting the Working Families Tax Cut Act, I worked to include provisions exempting Alaska Natives from certain work requirements as well as the six-month redetermination requirement. I am grateful to ANTHC for their work and partnership on these provisions. Finally, I am a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus and a strong supporter of the Special Diabetes Program, which provides critical resources to address diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

2. What strategies will you employ to increase access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs in rural areas, and how will you ensure that mental health services are integrated into these efforts to support long-term recovery and community wellness? I am deeply committed to expanding access to mental health services in Alaska. We do not have enough mental health providers, and Alaska continues to experience one of the highest suicide rates in the nation. These challenges make it especially important to find innovative ways to bring care to rural and remote communities.

One of the first health care bills I worked on removed originating-site requirements for telehealth mental health services, allowing patients to receive care from their homes rather than traveling to a designated facility. For many rural Alaskans, this provides greater privacy, confidentiality, and convenience. I was also a lead author of the legislation creating the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, and I continue to advocate for fully funding this critical program.

Additionally, I worked to expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, helping Alaska enter a statewide Medicaid demonstration program to expand access to comprehensive behavioral health services. I also doubled the Rural Transformation Fund, investing in long-term recovery, resilience, and community wellness in rural communities. Together, these efforts are helping build a stronger behavioral health system and expand access to care for Alaskans.

3. Alaska Native communities are facing a severe drug crisis, including the impacts of heroin, meth, and fentanyl. How would you advocate for ongoing efforts to protect and enhance Alaska Native communities in combating this crisis? This is an issue I am deeply concerned about. I cosponsored the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act, which targeted synthetic drugs being sent from China through the U.S. mail—an especially important issue for our rural communities, where the postal system is a critical lifeline.

I also visited high schools across Alaska as part of my “One Pill Can Kill” campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl and the risks of even experimenting with illicit drugs. I cosponsored and advocated for Bruce’s Law, which provided federal support for public-awareness efforts focused on the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl-contaminated drugs.

All of this builds on my work to secure our southern border and stop the flow of deadly drugs into Alaska. Alaska has been targeted by international drug-trafficking organizations, and I will continue working to prevent these drugs from reaching our communities while also strengthening treatment and recovery options for Alaskans struggling with substance use.



U.S. HOUSE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NICK BEGICH

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Nick Begich / U.S. Representative, Alaska At-Large / Republican / info@alaskansfornickbegich.com / www.alaskansfornickbegich.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful government-to-government Tribal consultation before federal actions affecting Tribal Lands, resources, and communities? Yes. Consultation should happen before decisions are made with those Tribes and ANCSA regional corporations that will be affected.

Would you support amending ANCSA to authorize Alaska Native management of fish and wildlife on all Native Corporation-owned lands in Alaska? Yes, with conditions. I support ANCSA corporations exercising strong control over their own lands and resources, including access. In nearly all cases fish and wildlife populations will traverse federal, state, native, and privately held lands. Migration of fish and wildlife necessarily means that fish and wildlife population management must be handled among all stakeholders and be accomplished in accordance with the goal of maintaining healthy stocks and sufficient populations for affected user groups.

Do you support expanding Tribal co-management of fish and wildlife resources? Yes. Co-management agreements when properly constructed can improve fish and wildlife resources, improve coordination, drives transparency and supports population recovery and growth. Of course, such agreements, must adhere to governance frameworks established under ANILCA, ANCSA, and the State of Alaska's state constitution.

Do you support prioritizing local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes. ANILCA establishes a rural subsistence priority on federal lands during times of scarcity.

Short Answer:

1. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? The people who live closest to a resource uniquely understand how to manage that resource, and federal management policy does not always reflect that reality. My approach has been to fix specific problems that prevent Alaska Natives from accessing their subsistence resources. I introduced the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Representation Enhancement Act to require seats for rural and urban subsistence users on the North Pacific

Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). I worked with Interior to reverse a decades-old interpretation that barred Anaktuvuk Pass residents from using ATVs to hunt caribou near their own community, and I passed a bill through the House protecting the sale of authentic Alaska Native handicrafts made with migratory bird parts.

I will continue to support mechanisms that allow Tribes and regional organizations to develop the capacity to take on more significant management roles.

2. What is your perspective on the current dual (federal-state) management system for subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska? Do you believe it adequately serves Alaska Native communities? No, I do not believe it serves Alaska Native communities well. Federal agencies manage subsistence on federal lands under ANILCA's rural priority, while the State operates under a different constitutional standard. The result is a patchwork of rules that changes at property lines and river boundaries, confuses users, and leaves families caught between two sets of regulators.

Alignment within the current dual system will ultimately require action at the state and potentially the federal level, and I am committed to working toward that goal. Additionally, better coordination between the Federal Subsistence Board and the State is needed so that seasons, closures, and data line up wherever possible. Subsistence is a matter of food security, and the system should recognize that imperative.

3. Would you advocate for amendments to federal laws such as ANILCA, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to ensure consultation with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and organizations; establish co-management standards; and increase funding to support these efforts? I'm working to do just that. On Magnuson-Stevens, my North Pacific Fishery Management Council Representation Enhancement Act would require representation for rural and urban subsistence users, small-scale commercial fishermen, and recreational users on the council, so decisions on bycatch and allocation are representative of each Alaskan user group.

On the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Section 119 already authorizes co-management agreements with Alaska Native organizations, but those agreements have been underfunded for years. I will push for funding that matches the responsibility Congress gave these groups.

On ANILCA, I support clarifying consultation requirements where appropriate to ensure timely engagement.

I will evaluate each proposed amendment on its own merits, including its impact on subsistence users, landowners, and federal and state authority.

4. What actions would you take to limit bycatch by commercial trawlers in federal waters and to improve coordination amongst state and federal agencies on salmon recovery efforts? Bycatch of Yukon and Kuskokwim bound chinook and chum salmon in the Bering Sea trawl fisheries remains unacceptably high relative to what is returning to our rivers, and subsistence families are paying the price. It is unreasonable to have uncapped or high threshold bycatch limits for certain species while at the same time fully restricting the catch of those species for the subsistence families who rely on them. I have pushed for firm bycatch caps, full and transparent observer coverage, and

more accountability. I joined the Alaska delegation on the Bycatch Reduction and Research Act to improve data, gear technology, and monitoring, and I introduced legislation to change the makeup of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, so subsistence and small commercial users have a voice in the decisions that affect them. I also support science-based review of hatchery releases and their impact on wild stocks.

On coordination, salmon recovery is split among NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State, and international partners, with too little shared data. I will keep pressing for joint research priorities, better genetic stock identification, and regular reporting to affected communities, so Tribes are not left waiting for answers. Additionally, low impact, in river enhancement technologies such as moist air incubation should be funded to help stocks recover more quickly. Restoring abundance has to be the goal, and I will use every legislative and oversight tool available to get there.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No Questions

Do you support increased federal funding to improve voting access in rural and Tribal communities? Yes. For targeted support that helps the State of Alaska reach rural and off-road communities, such as language assistance, rural polling place staffing, reliable ballot delivery, and timely reporting.

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation before advancing federal election legislation? Yes. Tribes and Alaska Native organizations should be heard on any election legislation that affects their communities, and I will continue to meet with them on these issues.

Will you support the Native American Voting Rights Act to establish explicit federal protections for tribal ID acceptance, enhance voter registration sites, and equitable ballot drop off access? This bill is not presently before congress. Therefore, without the text of an introduced bill I am not able to respond. However, I do support tribal ID acceptance as a valid form of ID, consistent with Alaska State law.

Will you oppose the SAVE Act or any federal legislation that imposes voter ID requirements that would disproportionately burden Alaska Native voters in rural and remote communities? No. The SAVE Act is commonsense legislation that ensures only American citizens are voting in elections and that valid identification is presented at the time of voting. The vast majority of Alaskans throughout the state support such provisions.

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the SAVE Act and how you believe it would affect Alaska voters, particularly those in rural and Tribal communities. I support the SAVE Act because I believe only American citizens should vote in American elections, and verifying citizenship at registration is a reasonable safeguard that the vast majority of Alaskans, and Americans as a whole, support.

Of course, a voter in a village off the road system should not have to buy a plane ticket to register. An elder born at home without a birth certificate should not be turned away. This is why tribal IDs are recognized in the bill as valid identification and pathways are provided in the bill itself for attestation during initial voter registration that does not require travel, in-person registration, or even certain documentation when it is not available or able to be located.

Our shared goal should be that every eligible Alaskan be able to vote, and every vote should be protected.

2. A reliable mail service is essential to ensure equal access to voting in Alaska. How will you use your oversight authority to improve the United States Postal Service to ensure that all Alaskans can fully participate in elections? In rural Alaska the Postal Service is how people receive medicine, groceries, paychecks, and ballots. I will use every tool available, including committee work, appropriations, and direct engagement with Postal Service leadership, to hold the agency accountable for service in Alaska. That includes protecting Essential Air Service, bypass mail and the air carriers that make delivery to off-road communities possible, pressing for adequate staffing and reasonable hours at rural post offices, and demanding transparency when service standards change.

I will press the Postal Service to guarantee timely, accurate postmarks for election mail in Alaska and to coordinate with the Division of Elections ahead of every federal election. I also support better ballot tracking so voters in remote communities can confirm their ballot was received and counted.

3. How would you describe the importance of voting and civic engagement to our youth and new voters, especially within Alaska Native communities? Voting is how a community makes sure it is heard, and Alaska Native communities have a long history of proving it. Elizabeth Peratrovich helped win passage of the Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act in 1945, nearly two decades before the national Civil Rights Act. Alaska Native leaders were central to statehood, ANCSA, and ANILCA. Young people should know that history, because it shows what civic participation can accomplish.

In a state as small as ours, a few hundred votes can decide a race, and turnout in a single region can change a statewide outcome. I encourage young Alaskans to register, vote in every election, and stay involved beyond Election Day by getting involved, pursuing education (both formal and self-guided) serving on local boards, and meeting with their representatives. My office meets with students and young leaders regularly, and we want to hear from them. The decisions made in Washington about fisheries, land, schools, and more shape the lives of today's young Alaskans, and their voice is important as those decisions are made.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No Questions

Will you oppose legislation that weakens or rolls back protections under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act? Yes. I support clean air and clean water. I also support reforming how these laws are implemented when regulations add cost and delay without actually improving environmental outcomes, especially for rural communities trying to build basic infrastructure.

Will you support increasing federal appropriations for programs that reduce energy costs in rural Alaska, including LIHEAP and Tribal energy programs? Yes. Rural Alaska faces some of the highest energy costs in the country. LIHEAP and tribal energy programs are critical while we work on long-term solutions that bring costs down at the source.

Will you oppose legislation that exempts federal infrastructure, mining, oil and gas, or other resource development projects from meaningful Tribal consultation and environmental review? Yes, with qualifications. I do not support removing consultation requirements from federal projects. I do support reforms that set firm timelines and reduce duplicative processes, because years of delay have blocked projects Alaska Native communities support and are reliant upon, from roads to community relocations.

Will you support legislation and appropriations that increase funding for climate resilience, erosion prevention, and community relocation for Alaska communities facing climate-related threats? Yes. Communities facing erosion, flooding, and permafrost thaw need help now, and the federal government has a particular responsibility where it had a hand in selecting the original site of a community.

Short Answer

1. What federal investments would you prioritize to reduce energy costs in rural Alaska? Rural Alaskans pay some of the highest energy costs in the nation. Power Cost Equalization is essential, but it treats the symptom rather than the cause. My priority is lowering the cost of energy at the source. That means federal investment in generation, transmission, and storage designed for Alaska's geography: hydroelectric projects where the resource exists, geothermal, wind and solar paired with storage, microgrids, and diesel displacement in communities that burn fuel flown or barged in at enormous cost.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Geothermal Caucus and sponsor of the GeoPOWER Act, I am working to open up geothermal and other next-generation baseload power for places that need it most, and I believe small modular or micro nuclear deserves a serious look for hub communities. I will also protect programs already on the books, including USDA High Energy Cost Grants, the DOE Office of Indian Energy, and the Denali Commission, and push agencies to write grant rules that small rural utilities and tribal applicants can actually navigate. Finally, the Alaska LNG project can lower costs for most Alaskans and open the door to trucked or barged gas for more communities.

2. What specific actions will you take to address environmental and climate-related impacts in Alaska? We live on the front lines of a changing climate. Coastal erosion, permafrost thaw, flooding, and storms like Typhoon Merbok and Typhoon Halong are threatening homes, water systems, airports, and entire communities. I support federal funding for erosion control, flood protection, and community relocation, and I support streamlining review, so relocation projects are not stuck in years of paperwork while the ground washes away.

I will keep working to make FEMA mitigation programs, Army Corps projects, and Denali Commission resources accessible to small communities that lack grant-writing staff, and to

speed disaster declarations and assistance after major storms. I also support continued federal investment in the science that matters to Alaskans, including ocean monitoring, fisheries research, and permafrost and coastal mapping. Where the federal government originally chose the site of a village, it has a special responsibility to help that community protect itself or relocate. I do not support sweeping mandates that raise energy costs for families already struggling, but I will fight for resources that help Alaska communities adapt and stay safe.

3. What specific actions will you take to protect LIHEAP from federal budget cuts and ensure stable predictable funding for Alaska's heating assistance program? LIHEAP is a lifeline in Alaska, where winter heating is a matter of basic safety. I support continued funding for LIHEAP and will work with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to maintain it.

I will also push on three things that matter specifically to Alaska. First, timing. Funds need to reach the State and tribal administrators before the heating season, not months into it, and I support forward

funding so program managers can plan. Second, the allocation formula should reflect Alaska's extreme cold, long winters, and high delivered fuel costs. Third, tribal LIHEAP programs, which directly serve many of our rural communities, should continue to receive their share without unnecessary administrative barriers.

Longer term, the best way to protect families from high heating bills is to bring down the cost of energy itself through local generation, the Alaska LNG project, and infrastructure that reduces dependence on imported diesel. Until then, LIHEAP needs to be reliable, stable and predictable.

4. If Congress considers legislation that would weaken environmental protections or reduce Tribal consultation requirements, how would you evaluate and vote on those proposals? I start from two imperatives: Alaskans deserve clean air and clean water, and Alaska Native communities deserve a voice in decisions affecting their lands and resources. I would evaluate any proposal against a few questions. Does it improve outcomes, or does it simply remove protections? Does it shorten delays that have been blocking projects communities want, such as roads, clinics, water and sewer systems, and relocations? Does it preserve consultation with Tribes and ANCSA corporations?

I have supported permitting reform because the current process too often means a decade of review for projects with broad local support, and that delay costs rural communities dearly. Reforming how a review is conducted is different from eliminating consultation, and I will not support legislation that cuts Tribes out of decisions that affect them. When a bill touches these issues, my office reaches out to affected Tribes, corporations, and regional organizations before I vote, and I will continue to do that.

EDUCATION

Yes or No Questions

Will you support full funding of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, which provides supplemental support for Alaska Native students in public schools? Yes. JOM is a modest investment that supports academic and cultural programs Alaska Native families value.

Will you support full funding of Title VI Indian Education grants, which directly support Alaska Native students in public school systems? Yes. These grants reach students directly and give local districts flexibility to meet their needs.

Will you oppose any federal cuts to Impact Aid funding, which supports rural Alaska school districts serving Alaska Native students? Yes. Impact Aid is essential for Alaska districts with large amounts of federal and Native land that cannot be taxed to support schools.

Short Answer

1. Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, especially in rural and remote communities, has long been a challenge in Alaska, contributing to gaps in education quality and student outcomes. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address these challenges, improve teacher retention, and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Rural districts cannot keep good teachers without a place for them to live. Teacher housing is one of the most practical problems we can solve, and I support federal help through USDA Rural Development,

HUD, and other programs to build and maintain it. I also support expanding loan forgiveness and service incentives for educators who commit to rural Alaska schools, improving broadband so rural teachers have the same professional development and support as their urban peers, and protecting Impact Aid, which gives rural districts the budget stability to offer competitive contracts.

The most lasting solution is growing our own. Teachers who come from the communities they serve are far more likely to stay. I support pathways that help paraprofessionals, classroom aides, and local graduates earn teaching credentials without leaving home, including through the University of Alaska and tribal partners.

2. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska Native children? Parents are a child's first teachers, and the most effective early learning programs support families rather than replace them. Alaska already has strong models. Tribal and regional Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve many villages, and home-based efforts show what is possible when language, culture, and early literacy are built around families.

I support continued funding for Head Start and tribal Head Start and flexibility in how those dollars are used, including home-visiting models that work better in small communities than a traditional classroom. Facilities are a major barrier in rural Alaska, so I support helping communities use existing federal infrastructure programs to build or repair early learning space, often alongside clinics, schools, or community buildings. Workforce shortages are just as real, and I support training pathways that let local residents become qualified early educators in their own communities. The goal is for every Alaskan child to arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.

3. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Alaska is heading into a period of major construction and resource development, from new oil and gas projects, to ports, roads, airports, mines, broadband, and water and sewer systems. Alaskans should fill those jobs, especially residents of the regions where the work happens. I support expanding registered

apprenticeships, regional training centers, and partnerships among employers, trades, ANCSA corporations, and tribal organizations that train people close to home. Federal workforce dollars through the Departments of Labor, Interior, and Education should be structured so rural Alaska providers can be competitive, and I will continue pushing for that.

I am particularly interested in career pathways that serve community needs directly: construction trades, heavy equipment, aviation and aircraft maintenance, community health aides and behavioral health aides, public safety officers, utility operators, and fisheries and maritime workers, and many others. These careers allow Alaskans to earn a good living without leaving home. I also support dual enrollment and career and technical education in high schools so students can graduate with a certification in hand. When training is tied to real jobs, people stay, and communities grow stronger.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No Questions

Will you lead and support efforts to increase sustainable federal funding to support Tribal Justice Programs including Tribal Courts, Tribal Police, and investigative resources? Yes. Tribal courts and tribal public safety programs necessarily fill gaps in state capacity. Without these resources, public safety can be unreasonably compromised.

Will you work with federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to coordinate in reporting, investigations and sharing data? Yes. Poor coordination and incomplete data have left too many cases unsolved.

Will you support up to date relevant training, wellness support, pay equity, and benefits to help remedy staffing shortages and high turnover for tribal and village law enforcement? Yes. Recruitment and retention depend on competitive pay, housing, training, and support for officers' wellbeing.

Short Answer

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Every Alaskan deserves a timely response when they call for help, and today many villages have no local officer at all. I support expanded federal investment to supplement State support for Village Public Safety Officers, tribal police, and village police, with particular attention to pay and benefits that let officers make a career of the work.

Funding positions is not enough on its own. Officers need safe housing, holding facilities, vehicles, equipment, and reliable communications, and I support infrastructure investments that make it possible to recruit and retain law enforcement in rural communities. I also support pipeline programs that help local residents become VPSOs, tribal officers, and State Troopers, because officers from the community tend to stay.

Federal grant programs should be structured so Alaska Tribes can use them in practical ways, including through base funding rather than a patchwork of competitive grants that expire. I will

continue working with the Departments of Justice and the Interior to make sure federal resources for tribal public safety reflect Alaska's needs.

2. In VAWA 2022, Congress recognized the inherent authority of Alaska Native Tribes to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in their Villages. Do you support incorporating the definition of 'Village' from VAWA 2022 into all public safety statutes, regulations, policies, and implementation strategies? I support consistency. VAWA 2022 recognized that Alaska Tribes can exercise jurisdiction in their Villages and defined the term in a way that fits Alaska's unique land status. It makes little sense for a Tribe to have authority under one statute and be treated differently under another simply because the definitions do not match. Inconsistent definitions create confusion for tribal courts, State agencies, and federal partners, and they leave gaps that offenders can exploit.

I support working with Alaska Native leaders, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior to identify where public safety statutes, regulations, and grant programs use conflicting definitions and to align them in instances where doing so improves coordination and safety. Importantly, I will review specific proposed changes with Tribes and the State to make sure there are no unintended impacts on existing agreements or jurisdiction. The goal is a clear, workable framework so each entity knows who has authority, and victims are not left waiting while agencies argue over jurisdiction.

3. The Alaska Federation of Natives has called on the Department of the Interior to provide dedicated annual non-competitive base funding for P.L. 280 Tribes to develop and sustain tribal court systems and support public safety services. Do you support this initiative, and how would you work to ensure that funding meets the budgetary needs of Tribes in Alaska? Yes. For decades, Alaska Tribes have been disadvantaged in BIA justice funding because the State holds concurrent jurisdiction under P.L. 280, even though State resources do not reach many villages. Tribes have had to rely on short-term competitive grants that make it difficult to build lasting court systems or keep trained staff. Base funding would give Tribes the stability to plan, hire, and operate year after year.

I will work through the Interior appropriations process to support a dedicated line for P.L. 280 tribal justice funding. I will also press the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop a distribution method, in consultation with Alaska Tribes, that reflects actual need, including remoteness, operating costs, and caseload, rather than formulas designed around structures implemented in the Lower 48. Reporting requirements would let Congress see how the funds are used and what results they produce, which helps build the case for sustaining and growing the program over time.

4. Alaska has some of the highest rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. The Not Invisible Act Commission was established in 2020, and their report Not One More was released in November 2023 with many recommendations specific to Alaska. This report has now been deleted from the DOJ website, cases continue to remain unsolved, and Alaska Native people continue to experience high rates of violence and murder. What are your solutions to address the MMIP crisis? Every missing or murdered Alaska Native person is someone's child, parent, or grandparent, and families deserve answers. Alaska's rates are among the highest in the nation, and too many cases remain unsolved.

My priorities start with the basics. Rural communities need a law enforcement presence, which is why I support expanded funding for VPSOs, tribal police, and tribal courts. Agencies need to share information, so I support full implementation of Savanna's Act and better coordination among federal, State, and tribal law enforcement, including consistent data on missing persons cases. Families need someone to call, and I support dedicated MMIP coordinators and victim advocates with meaningful resources in Alaska.

The Not Invisible Act Commission's report reflected testimony from Alaska families and included recommendations specific to our state. That work should remain available to the public and to the communities that contributed to it, and I will press the Department of Justice on that point and on how it is implementing the recommendations. I will also continue working to end the drug and human trafficking networks that prey on rural communities – particularly targeting young women – and to fund victim services and shelters in regions that have none.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Yes or No Questions

Will you support the 29 recommendations from the Commission on Native Children Report that would improve outcomes for Native children and youth in four main areas, including education and job training, physical, mental and behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice. Yes, with review. I support the Commission's goals and many of its recommendations, especially those on education, behavioral health, and child welfare. I would evaluate legislation implementing each recommendation on its own merits.

Do you support reauthorizing and adequately funding NAHASDA? Yes. NAHASDA is the backbone of housing in many of our communities, and it has operated without authorization since 2013. I support the modernization effort moving in Congress.

Will you advocate for inflation-proofing NAHASDA funds to ensure long-term stability for tribal housing programs? Qualified. I support funding NAHASDA at levels that keep pace with actual construction costs in Alaska, which are among the highest in the country. I support automatic inflation-indexing with the goal of stable, predictable funding that meets the underlying need.

Short Answer

1. Chronic diseases such as diabetes and respiratory illness disproportionately affect Alaska Native communities, and the Indian Health Service has historically been underfunded. What steps will you take to ensure that IHS receives adequate funding to address these health disparities and meet the healthcare needs of Alaska Natives? The United States has a trust responsibility to provide health care to Alaska Natives and American Indians, and meeting it requires funding that is adequate, predictable, and delivered on time. I support advance appropriations for IHS, so clinics and tribal health organizations are not disrupted by shutdowns and short-term funding fights. Alaska's tribal health system, built through self-governance compacting and programs like the Community Health Aide Program, is a nationally recognized model. Federal policy should support it with full funding of contract support costs and Section 105(l) lease costs, flexibility for tribal providers, and continued expansion of telehealth.

I have also worked on practical fixes, including a bill that passed the House and Senate to transfer land to Southcentral Foundation for health and social services, and I helped ensure, as a part of that responsibility, that Alaska Natives were exempted from new Medicaid eligibility requirements. Chronic disease requires prevention as well as treatment, which means clean water and sanitation, access to healthy foods, and a stronger health workforce in rural communities. We must do all we can, both within and outside of native communities to improve the overall health of our population. Type II diabetes and many respiratory illnesses are caused by our modern lifestyles. Preventative medicine, education, and early detection are all key to helping reduce the occurrence of these often-preventable conditions. In keeping with this, I will continue advocating for IHS funding that reflects the true cost of delivering care in Alaska.

2. What strategies will you employ to increase access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs in rural areas, and how will you ensure that mental health services are integrated into these efforts to support long-term recovery and community wellness? Treatment works best close to home, delivered by people who understand the community and its culture. Too many Alaskans have to leave their villages for treatment, often waiting weeks for a bed hundreds of miles away, then return home without the support they need to stay well. I support expanding regional and village-based treatment capacity, including residential programs run by tribal health organizations, and making sure SAMHSA and IHS grants can be used flexibly for models that work in rural Alaska, such as culture camps and family-based care.

Behavioral health aides trained through the Community Health Aide Program are a proven way to bring care into villages, and I support funding to grow that workforce. Telehealth can connect patients to counselors and psychiatric providers. Mental health care should be built into primary care and recovery services from the start, because trauma, depression, and addiction are closely connected. Aftercare, housing, and employment support are also essential to long-term recovery, and federal programs should support them. These investments are good for patients, families, and the communities they belong to and are deeply connected to public safety and family stability.

3. Alaska Native communities are facing a severe drug crisis, including the impacts of heroin, meth, and fentanyl. How would you advocate for ongoing efforts to protect and enhance Alaska Native communities in combating this crisis? Fentanyl, methamphetamines, and heroin are reaching Alaska's smallest communities through the mail, air cargo, and trafficking networks that target places with little or no law enforcement. I co-sponsored the HALT Fentanyl Act to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances and toughen penalties for traffickers. I will keep pushing for stronger interdiction at Alaska's airports and hubs, including more resources for the Postal Inspection Service, Customs and Border Protection, and federal drug task forces working with the State and Tribes.

Despite best efforts, enforcement alone cannot solve this. Communities need public safety officers on the ground, access to naloxone, and treatment close to home. I support federal funding that goes directly to Tribes and tribal health organizations for prevention, treatment, and recovery, with flexibility to use approaches grounded in the community. Tribes should be full partners in task forces and data sharing, because they are often the first to see trafficking trends in their regions. Prevention matters too, especially for young people, through school and after-school programs, education, and mentoring. This crisis requires every level of government working together. This

crisis has touched every person in Alaska in some way regardless of whether they are rural or urban, native or non-native, young or old. We see so often the impact to families, the addicts on the streets in our villages and cities, the neglected children, and the young people who have lost what was once a bright future filled with hope.

I hate what these drugs have done to our state, and I will do all I can to end this crisis in Alaska.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

BILL HILL

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SUBSISTENCE & FISHERIES

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful government-to-government Tribal consultation before federal actions affecting Tribal Lands, resources, and communities? Yes

Would you support amending ANCSA to authorize Alaska Native management of fish and wildlife on all Native Corporation-owned lands in Alaska? Yes

Do you support expanding Tribal co-management of fish and wildlife resources? Yes

Do you support prioritizing local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer:

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I served 15 years on my village corporation's board, 13 of them as president. Alaska Natives have proven we are the best decision-makers on the issues that affect our communities. We have shown it through tribal health care, child welfare and local governance, and fish and wildlife should be no different.

I support expanding tribal co-management and strengthening the role of tribes and Native corporations in management decisions affecting their lands and communities. I want a tribal seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, because subsistence users need to be at the table where the decisions actually get made.

What is your perspective on the current dual (federal-state) management system for subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska? Do you believe it adequately serves Alaska Native communities?

No. The split federal-state system creates confusion and uncertainty, and rural subsistence users are not prioritized. Alaska should be able to recognize the unique importance of subsistence

practices that have existed for thousands of years and prioritize them. You have my commitment to support efforts that bring Alaska into alignment with Title VIII of ANILCA, and I am in favor of an amendment to the state constitution to allow a rural priority for subsistence. Aligning the two would simplify management and better protect the people who depend on it. I will also defend the federal rural subsistence priority under ANILCA and oppose any effort to weaken it.

Would you advocate for amendments to federal laws such as ANILCA, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to ensure consultation with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and organizations; establish co-management standards; and increase funding to support these efforts? Yes. Consultation should happen before decisions are made, not after. I want co-management standards written into statute instead of left to whichever administration is in office, with funding attached. For Magnuson-Stevens, I would start with a tribal seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. My opponent Nick Begich opposes adding a Tribal seat. On the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the co-management agreements with Alaska Native organizations have worked, and they should be strengthened and funded. On ANILCA, I would protect the rural subsistence priority and oppose efforts to weaken it.

What actions would you take to limit bycatch by commercial trawlers in federal waters and to improve coordination amongst state and federal agencies on salmon recovery efforts? As a lifelong subsistence fisherman, I know how important fish is to our communities. We need more action on bycatch, and Alaskans are calling for accountability. We need to set strict, low bycatch limits and hold bad actors accountable. If an operation cannot meet updated limits or bottom contact regulations, it should not be fishing in our waters. If subsistence fishermen and small in-state operations can play by the rules, so can out-of-state industrial trawlers.

I would also support stronger monitoring and enforcement through NOAA and the Council process, and increase funding for salmon habitat restoration, fish passage and research into the declining runs in Western and Interior Alaska. Families on the Yukon and Kuskokwim should not bear the burden of weak management decisions.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increased federal funding to improve voting access in rural and Tribal communities? Yes

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation before advancing federal election legislation? Yes

Will you support the Native American Voting Rights Act to establish explicit federal protections for tribal ID acceptance, enhance voter registration sites, and equitable ballot drop-off access? Yes

Will you oppose the SAVE Act or any federal legislation that imposes voter ID requirements that would disproportionately burden Alaska Native voters in rural and remote communities? Yes

Short Answer:

Please explain your position on the SAVE Act and how you believe it would affect Alaska voters, particularly those in rural and Tribal communities. I oppose the SAVE Act. It would make voting harder for rural Alaska, when we need to make it easier.

We should all be able to agree that we need secure elections without fraud and abuse, and that every citizen who is eligible to vote can do so easily. Alaska already has voter ID laws that I support, and any changes that are made at the federal level have to work for rural communities.

It's unacceptable that in some rural communities, the polling place never opens on Election Day. We need to ensure there is enough planning, staffing, and contingencies to make sure every Alaskan can vote in their community.

A reliable mail service is essential to ensure equal access to voting in Alaska. How will you use your oversight authority to improve the United States Postal Service to ensure that all Alaskans can fully participate in elections? Mail is so important for rural communities in our state. It is how many in our communities vote, receive their medications, pay their bills, and stay in contact with loved ones.

I would use oversight to ensure the Postal Service standards are written for Alaska rather than for the road system. No ballot should be lost in the mail, and I support counting ballots postmarked by Election Day.

How would you describe the importance of voting and civic engagement to our youth and new voters, especially within Alaska Native communities? I spent 25 years in Alaska schools, and I taught a lot of kids who had never seen anyone from their village in a position of authority. I want young Alaska Native people to know that the decisions made in Washington are not something happening to somebody else: they affect whether there are fish in the river, whether your school stays open, whether your community has housing, and whether you can afford to come home and build a life. Your voice belongs in those decisions. Alaska has one House seat, our races are decided by small margins, and a few hundred votes can decide a statewide election.

If we want more people to feel motivated to show up and vote, we also need to improve trust that the system works for them. Alaskans should feel confident that they are choosing their elected leaders, not billionaires or corporate PACs and not foreign governments. That means we need to end Citizens United, and get big money out of politics.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Will you oppose legislation that weakens or rolls back protections under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act? Yes

Will you support increasing federal appropriations for programs that reduce energy costs in rural Alaska, including LIHEAP and Tribal energy programs? Yes

Will you oppose legislation that exempts federal infrastructure, mining, oil and gas, or other resource development projects from meaningful Tribal consultation and environmental review? Yes

Will you support legislation and appropriations that increase funding for climate resilience, erosion prevention, and community relocation for Alaska communities facing climate-related threats? Yes

Short Answer:

What federal investments would you prioritize to reduce energy costs in rural Alaska? In Naknek where I live, a gallon of gas costs nearly \$9 a gallon, and smaller communities in my region are paying \$15 a gallon for heating fuel. Fuel prices are at a crisis level, especially in rural Alaska. Lowering prices starts with putting an end to the tariffs and war in Iran that are jacking up our costs. Fuel costs have gone up 50% since Nick Begich took office. It didn't have to be this way.

For long-term energy cost savings, we need to invest in projects here at home and make sure that Alaska reaps the rewards of being an energy-producing state. I support continued development of our oil and gas, including building the natural gas line, as well as investment in hydro, geothermal, wind, and solar to bring down energy costs for Alaskans. There were new renewable energy projects that were coming to Alaska that have been canceled because of Nick Begich's vote to repeal the tax incentives that made them feasible. I would ensure that LIHEAP and Tribal energy funds are adequately funded.

What specific actions will you take to address environmental and climate-related impacts in Alaska? We need a proactive approach when it comes to climate change. Alaska is on the front lines of these changes, and communities are seeing flooding, erosion, wildfires, landslides and permafrost thaw. We saw it in the damage from Typhoon Halong in Southwest Alaska, and hundreds of residents of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok are still displaced.

I would fight for a dedicated federal resilience package for Alaska covering relocation, seawalls, elevated infrastructure, landslide monitoring and flood control, and I would cut the red tape communities fight through to get it. I have been on the other side of a federal disaster payment and waited more than a year for it to come through. When Alaskans face a disaster they need immediate support.

What specific actions will you take to protect LIHEAP from federal budget cuts and ensure stable predictable funding for Alaska's heating assistance program? I want to expand LIHEAP. I would push for advance appropriations so LIHEAP is funded a year ahead.

If Congress considers legislation that would weaken environmental protections or reduce Tribal consultation requirements, how would you evaluate and vote on those proposals? I would vote no. I support strong, science-based permitting, rigorous environmental review and meaningful tribal consultation before projects move forward. If a project cannot protect key habitat or threatens customary and traditional use, it should not proceed as proposed.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Will you support full funding of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, which provides supplemental support for Alaska Native students in public schools? Yes

Will you support full funding of Title VI Indian Education grants, which directly support Alaska Native students in public school systems? Yes

Will you oppose any federal cuts to Impact Aid funding, which supports rural Alaska school districts serving Alaska Native students? Yes

Short Answer:

Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, especially in rural and remote communities, has long been a challenge in Alaska, contributing to gaps in education quality and student outcomes. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address these challenges, improve teacher retention, and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? This is something I worked on as a Superintendent, with some success! We partnered with the University of Alaska to create an accrediting system that gave teachers credits for spending time investing in the rural communities they were teaching in, participating in cultural events, etc. Because we all know that even though these teachers are coming to teach our kids, they have a lot to learn about our culture and communities. This program not only helped educate these teachers, it also made them feel more connected to the community. As a result, we saw higher retention rates for our teachers.

In Congress, I'd scale that approach by investing in teacher housing, loan repayment, grow-your-own programs, and partnerships that help rural Alaskans become teachers in their own communities. Ultimately, my dream is that we can grow our own – and have members of our communities return to teach. I will support programs that invest in that workforce development.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska Native children? I support public investment so every child has access to high-quality pre-K and kindergarten, and I would increase funding for Head Start and Early Head Start, which in many rural communities is the only early childhood program that exists.

For Alaska Native children specifically, these programs should be culturally grounded and language-inclusive, and tribes and Native organizations should be able to run them directly rather than through the state.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? As superintendent of the Bristol Bay Borough School District, I worked with neighboring districts to build the Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education program. The college path is not the best option for everyone. That program is still going, and it has connected students from hub communities and villages with jobs in the trades that let them earn a good living and stay home.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you lead and support efforts to increase sustainable federal funding to support Tribal Justice Programs including Tribal Courts, Tribal Police, and investigative resources? Yes

Will you work with federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to coordinate in reporting, investigations and sharing data? Yes

Will you support up to date relevant training, wellness support, pay equity, and benefits to help remedy staffing shortages and high turnover for tribal and village law enforcement? Yes

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? There are few other places in the country where the public safety disparity that exists in rural Alaska would be tolerated. It's unacceptable. And it requires active investment from the federal government. I would prioritize funding for public safety personnel to increase the number of officers in the rural communities that need them. I would also support efforts to empower tribes to take ownership over this problem. We know that our public safety issues are connected to a whole host of other cultural, health, and economic challenges. Like the innovative work that is happening through the Tribal Health system, we need a similar tribally-led approach to rural public safety.

In VAWA 2022, Congress recognized the inherent authority of Alaska Native Tribes to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in their Villages. Do you support incorporating the definition of 'Village' from VAWA 2022 into all public safety statutes, regulations, policies, and implementation strategies? Yes. Alaska Native Villages have inherent authority over their own communities.

The Alaska Federation of Natives has called on the Department of the Interior to provide dedicated annual non-competitive base funding for P.L. 280 Tribes to develop and sustain tribal court systems and support public safety services. Do you support this initiative, and how would you work to ensure that funding meets the budgetary needs of Tribes in Alaska? Yes, I support it. We need dedicated annual non-competitive base funding to support tribal court systems. I would work with AFN and tribal leaders on what they need and fight for these funds through the annual appropriations process.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. The Not Invisible Act Commission was established in 2020, and their report Not One More was released in November 2023 with many recommendations specific to Alaska. This report has now been deleted from the DOJ website, cases continue to remain unsolved, and Alaska Native people continue to experience high rates of violence and murder. What are your solutions to address the MMIP crisis? First, we need to put the Not One More report back up. Deleting a federal report does not make the findings go away. I would demand it be restored and require Justice and Interior to report on which recommendations they have acted on. Those Alaska-specific recommendations should be implemented immediately. Let's establish reliable funding for Tribal public safety initiatives and establish dedicated MMIP response teams in hub communities.

Families should be treated as partners in these investigations. Too many Alaska Native families have spent years being told to wait. I will meet with them, and I will keep meeting with them and champion getting them the justice they deserve

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support the 29 recommendations from the Commission on Native Children Report that would improve outcomes for Native children and youth in four main areas, including education and job training, physical, mental and behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice. Yes

Affordable housing is in critically short supply, contributing to various social challenges. Funding under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the main source of federal assistance to provide safe, accessible, and affordable housing to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Do you support reauthorizing and adequately funding NAHASDA? Yes

Will you advocate for inflation-proofing NAHASDA funds to ensure long-term stability for tribal housing programs? Yes

Short Answer:

Chronic diseases such as diabetes and respiratory illness disproportionately affect Alaska Native communities, and the Indian Health Service has historically been underfunded. What steps will you take to ensure that IHS receives adequate funding to address these health disparities and meet the healthcare needs of Alaska Natives? I would fight for advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service, and ultimately for mandatory funding. Congress took an important step by providing advance appropriations for IHS, but Tribal health care should not remain subject to the uncertainty of the annual discretionary appropriations process. I support moving toward full mandatory funding.

I would protect our tribal health system's ability to run its own care, because our tribal health organizations built something that works. I would expand loan repayment and housing support to recruit and keep providers in rural clinics, invest in the community health aide program, and fund

the water and sanitation infrastructure driving so much of the respiratory and infectious disease burden here. Over 3,000 homes across 32 villages still lack running water and a flush toilet.

I would also protect Medicaid, which a large share of the tribal health system depends on.

What strategies will you employ to increase access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs in rural areas, and how will you ensure that mental health services are integrated into these efforts to support long-term recovery and community wellness? Alaska has one of the highest suicide rates in the country and our mental health and addiction treatment services have been hollowed out by our current government. I would support regional and village-based treatment capacity, expand the behavioral health aide and community health aide programs, and invest in telehealth where broadband allows.

I would protect Medicaid, which states like ours use to fund critical treatment, and expand its use for addiction treatment.

Alaska Native communities are facing a severe drug crisis, including the impacts of heroin, meth, and fentanyl. How would you advocate for ongoing efforts to protect and enhance Alaska Native communities in combating this crisis? Alaska has the second highest rate of fentanyl overdose deaths in the country. This is unacceptable and Congress needs to act immediately.

We need to stop these drugs from coming into our state and country, and that means we need a strong, secure border and real anti-trafficking resources. We also need to invest in treatment capacity.

But let's recognize that the drug epidemic in our rural communities does not come from us, or our cultures. Our cultures are our strength, and a critical part of the solution to the behavioral health epidemic. That means taking a wider view than simply DEA enforcement, and making sure Tribes and tribal nonprofits are at the table when designing solutions.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

JIM MCDERMOTT, M.S.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Jim McDermott, M.S. / Candidate for U.S. House / Not Provided / Not Provided / Not Provided

SUBSISTENCE & FISHERIES

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful government-to-government Tribal consultation before federal actions affecting Tribal Lands, resources, and communities? YES

Would you support amending ANCSA to authorize Alaska Native management of fish and wildlife on all Native Corporation-owned lands in Alaska? YES

Do you support expanding Tribal co-management of fish and wildlife resources? YES

Do you support prioritizing local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer:

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Answer: Again, we would need all the parties to discuss this issue further. Communication is essential to good policies. Where I can, I will gladly insert myself and have an open bias where I support Native-led management.

What is your perspective on the current dual (federal-state) management system for subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska? Do you believe it adequately serves Alaska Native communities?

Answer: Yes, it's a 50/50 between the SOA and Federal issue can be fixed with a little relationship building between all the parties, there must be a way to work this out and I would be glad to advocate for our AK native communities and their leaders to have a positive outcome. Obviously, there's a strong case for pro federal management policies, but the SOA policies have been shaped after the "1989: The Alaska Supreme Court ruled in McDowell v. State of Alaska". We will need to all talk on this issue together and I will make it happen.

Would you advocate for amendments to federal laws such as ANILCA, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to ensure consultation with Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, and organizations; establish co-management standards; and increase funding to support these efforts? Answer: Yes, I support

well thought out amendments and increased funding concerning the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Magnuson–Stevens Act (MSA), Marine Mammal Protection Act.

What actions would you take to limit bycatch by commercial trawlers in federal waters and to improve coordination amongst state and federal agencies on salmon recovery efforts? Answer: I fully support “Senator Dan Sullivan’s Bycatch Reduction Act advanced out of the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee by a 22-4 vote on September 16, 2026, aiming to limit trawl gear contact with the seafloor and reduce bycatch of salmon, halibut, and other species in Alaska’s federal waters” ~Alaska Public Media; Additionally, as your advocate I will protect our Alaskan waters against corporate overfishing our waters.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increased federal funding to improve voting access in rural and Tribal communities? Yes

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation before advancing federal election legislation?
YES

Will you support the Native American Voting Rights Act to establish explicit federal protections for tribal ID acceptance, enhance voter registration sights, and equitable ballot drop off access? I would support fair voting policies that address our Alaskan Native voter’s needs

Will you oppose the SAVE Act or any federal legislation that imposes voter ID requirements that would disproportionately burden Alaska Native voters in rural and remote communities? I would support fair voting policies that address our Alaskan Native voter’s needs

Short Answer:

Please explain your position on the SAVE Act and how you believe it would affect Alaska voters, particularly those in rural and Tribal communities. Answer: I am advocate for election integrity.

A reliable mail service is essential to ensure equal access to voting in Alaska. How will you use your oversight authority to improve the United States Postal Service to ensure that all Alaskans can fully participate in elections? Answer: I believe that every vote counts and my goal is to hold the Postal Service feet to the fire to ensure speedy and documented accounting of every vote coming out of beautiful Alaskan Native communities.

How would you describe the importance of voting and civic engagement to our youth and new voters, especially within Alaska Native communities? Answer: When I was teaching at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I had the privilege to teach an entrepreneurship class for the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI). These Alaskan students were sharp and an absolute joy to teach.

My point is that we ought to as leaders within our AK Native communities engage our students on the value to understand the importance and value to their communities by being active in voting. Have the students reach out to me and I will gladly engage them.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Will you oppose legislation that weakens or rolls back protections under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act? Yes

Will you support increasing federal appropriations for programs that reduce energy costs in rural Alaska, including LIHEAP and Tribal energy programs? Yes

Will you oppose legislation that exempts federal infrastructure, mining, oil and gas, or other resource development projects from meaningful Tribal consultation and environmental review? Yes

Will you support legislation and appropriations that increase funding for climate resilience, erosion prevention, and community relocation for Alaska communities facing climate-related threats? Yes

Short Answer:

What federal investments would you prioritize to reduce energy costs in rural Alaska? Answer: Ensure a robust Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

What specific actions will you take to address environmental and climate-related impacts in Alaska? Answer: I will work with the science specialist, SOA, and AK local community leaders for proactive and post policies to help our AK communities affected by events like coastal erosion, flooding, coastal storms, etc....

What specific actions will you take to protect LIHEAP from federal budget cuts and ensure stable predictable funding for Alaska's heating assistance program? Answer: I am pro Alaskans and I will do my best to ensure our brothers and sister in the lower economics of rural Alaska continue to receive help in the form of LIHEAP.

If Congress considers legislation that would weaken environmental protections or reduce Tribal consultation requirements, how would you evaluate and vote on those proposals? Answer: As a former university teacher, I am well versed in research and presenting strong arguments that are pro Alaskans. My votes will be well educated thought out and my focus will be on our AK people concerning the above reference to proposals.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Will you support full funding of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, which provides supplemental support for Alaska Native students in public schools? Yes

Will you support full funding of Title VI Indian Education grants, which directly support Alaska Native students in public school systems? Yes

Will you oppose any federal cuts to Impact Aid funding, which supports rural Alaska school districts serving Alaska Native students? Yes, but that does not count fraud

Short Answer:

Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, especially in rural and remote communities, has long been a challenge in Alaska, contributing to gaps in education quality and student outcomes. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address these challenges, improve teacher retention, and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Answer: As a former educator myself I will support all school of choice options.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska Native children? Answer: I will fully support early childhood education programs that are results driven.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Answer: There is a severe shortage in the job market for individuals with blue collar skills. You will find a champion in DC promoting robust vocation and technical skills being taught to our Alaskan kids throughout Alaska.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes and No questions:

Will you lead and support efforts to increase sustainable federal funding to support Tribal Justice Programs including Tribal Courts, Tribal Police, and investigative resources? Yes

Will you work with federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to coordinate in reporting, investigations and sharing data? Yes

Will you support up to date relevant training, wellness support, pay equity, and benefits to help remedy staffing shortages and high turnover for tribal and village law enforcement? Yes

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Answer: Via a robust peace officer training and recruitment programs in place.

In VAWA 2022, Congress recognized the inherent authority of Alaska Native Tribes to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in their Villages. Do you support incorporating the definition of 'Village' from VAWA 2022 into all public safety statutes, regulations, policies, and implementation strategies? Answer: If the policies fall in line with the 2022 Biden era Violence Against Women Act, I can see where I could support the expansion of village into all public safety statutes, regulations, policies, and implementation strategies.

The Alaska Federation of Natives has called on the Department of the Interior to provide dedicated annual non-competitive base funding for P.L. 280 Tribes to develop and sustain tribal court systems and support public safety services. Do you support this initiative, and how would you work to ensure that funding meets the budgetary needs of Tribes in Alaska? Answer: It looks to me this has already been well thought out. "Increased Funding: Federal investment has grown over time. After directives to assess tribal court budgetary needs, Congress appropriated funding starting at \$10 million, which has since scaled up (such as \$21 million in the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior spending bill) to support tribal courts in P.L. 280 states." ~ www.congress.gov

Alaska has some of the highest rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. The Not Invisible Act Commission was established in 2020, and their report Not One More was released in November 2023 with many recommendations specific to Alaska. This report has now been deleted from the DOJ website, cases continue to remain unsolved, and Alaska Native people continue to experience high rates of violence and murder. What are your solutions to address the MMIP crisis? Answer: MMIP crisis needs my attention once I'm in DC and I will fight for our Indigenous people to ensure a feeling of security within their local communities. Please, invite me in to talk with the people once I'm in DC.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support the 29 recommendations from the Commission on Native Children Report that would improve outcomes for Native children and youth in four main areas, including education and job training, physical, mental and behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice. Yes

Affordable housing is in critically short supply, contributing to various social challenges. Funding under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the main source of federal assistance to provide safe, accessible, and affordable housing to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Do you support reauthorizing and adequately funding NAHASDA? Yes

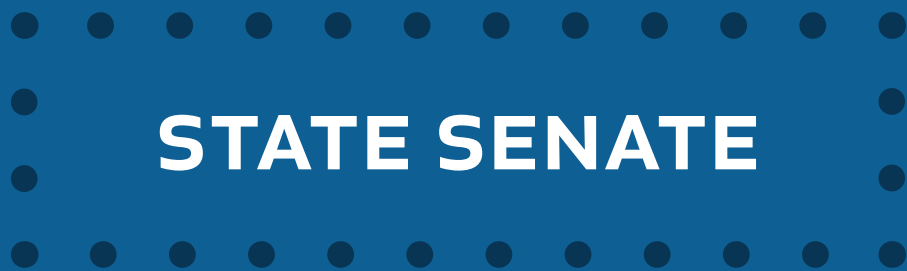
Will you advocate for inflation-proofing NAHASDA funds to ensure long-term stability for tribal housing programs? Yes

Short Answer:

Chronic diseases such as diabetes and respiratory illness disproportionately affect Alaska Native communities, and the Indian Health Service has historically been underfunded. What steps will you take to ensure that IHS receives adequate funding to address these health disparities and meet the healthcare needs of Alaska Natives? Answer: We live in a rich country and even a richer State, therefore I will work hard to ensure needed health funds are there for our Alaskan Natives.

What strategies will you employ to increase access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs in rural areas, and how will you ensure that mental health services are integrated into these efforts to support long-term recovery and community wellness? Answer: I have stated over the last decade plus that we need more mental health facilities and less prisons. My wife is a LCSW and her specialty is behavior health and has been mental health counsellor for decades and with her help we will deliver on this topic!

Alaska Native communities are facing a severe drug crisis, including the impacts of heroin, meth, and fentanyl. How would you advocate for ongoing efforts to protect and enhance Alaska Native communities in combating this crisis? Yes: Drug and alcohol rehab facilities for staff with care and professional staff need to be available in much greater numbers and I will fight for this. Additionally, greater emphasis of bolstering teaching the harm of alcohol and drug abuse in our schools taught via health classes. A start in the right direction, working together, and building a relationship from the AK community to DC will be there when I'm in DC.



STATE SENATE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Senator Cathy Giessel / District E Majority Leader / bipartisan coalition / cgiessel@me.com / Giesselforalaska.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Maybe-depends on present representation

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? ADFG data would be used to determine degree of bycatch

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded?
2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife.
3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources?

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs?

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska?

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis?

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? yes, just as I consult others,

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address

these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting?

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural *[note: Candidate crossed out “the rural” and wrote “all” in questionnaire response]* education funding gap? yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? yes, I’ve carried The Senate bill for 2023 2026

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed?
2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators?
3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children?
4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities?

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? not necessarily

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life?
2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments?

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence?
2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?
3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families?

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

WASSILIE GUY

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Wassilie Guy / Alaska Senate district S / Democrat / wassilie@gmail.com / None

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I will uphold our Native Trust Doctrine.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. I am in support of Memorandum of Agreements to resolve fish and wildlife for future generations.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? The Trust Doctrine with Water Right, as long as we have a similar Subsistence fishing right under ANILCA I will continue to support it.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? To continue funding the Energy and Environment questions above.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I will continue support our EPA/NEPA policies and our communications

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I will continue to support the development and maintenance of our bulk fuel tanks under our State Law Title 44 if not 45.

VOTING AND REPRESENTATION:

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? No

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer:

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I am not aware of the SB64 however I have read it was vetoed by our Governor Dunleavy I have to read the full content before answering the SB64 question.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? There are legislative agency offices in our local city hubs, if one of these offices fail one community with polling it needs attention and resolve with a qualified person.

EDUCATION:

Yes or No questions

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap?
No

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? No

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I believe it should be as it is and be automatically inflation proofed.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I will continue to support the education funding and policy our of local school board working with teachers and students.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I will continue to support our existing funding for early childhood education programs.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I will continue to support our existing vocational and technical training programs in our Alaska Native city hubs to help communities in its district.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS:

Yes or No questions

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I will steward the Trust Doctrine as usual and promote its interest.
2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I will support the memorandum of agreement between the State/Federal and Tribal entities.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Yes or No questions

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I am active when I'm elected to village entity by writing resolutions for AFN such as Tribal Priority Allocations funding for public safety officers and department. IHS and USDA. I will continue to steward the Trust Doctrine whether elected or not to Senate.
2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I will continue to support the resolutions to help and resolve the crisis.
3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I will continue to support fundings for our local legal and paralegal offices with services to help with legal processes and other services for counseling and refuge.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

RICHARD ROBB

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Richard Robb / Alaska State Senate District S / Independent / Robbak7@gci.net / rickrobbalaskasenate.org

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is essential for culture, identity, way of life, and food security in Alaska. This is especially true in Rural Alaska and in Native Communities. Subsistence users must always be the highest priority of all user groups.

I myself participate in a subsistence lifestyle. I understand how important it is.

I support a constitutional amendment giving local subsistence users priority over other groups. If elected I would propose such an amendment. I will closely vet all appointments by the governor for boards and commissions that regulate fisheries and hunting to ensure we get advocates for subsistence rights.

I would propose legislation to ensure tribal representatives on all boards that regulate fishing, hunting, and land use.

We need to protect and enhance our fisheries. This includes protecting our watersheds. I oppose Donlin Gold and the Pebble Mine as they present potential catastrophic dangers to important watersheds.

We have seen the collapse of subsistence and commercial fisheries on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Part of the problem is Trawling. I oppose all trawling in State Waters and will work with the feds and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to limit trawling in federal waters. Out of state trawlers are wreaking havoc in the ocean and the people on the Yukon and Kuskokwim are suffering. I fear this damage to salmon will spread to other areas.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I strongly support Tribal co-management for land status, hunting and fishing. Native people have lived in Alaska for millennia and have deep relationships with the land, waters, and animals. Much of Alaska land is Native owned, and much has been traditionally used by Natives for subsistence. The users closest to the land have the most local knowledge and should have the most input.

I believe people closest to the land have the most knowledge and history with the land. When people have been living for countless generations on a land and subsist off it, they have a unique relationship with the area. This relationship cannot be duplicated by others. Those closest to the land need to be part of the management of that land. This goes for hunting, fishing, gathering, and other uses. Tribal members live off the land and need to be a bigger part of managing it.

I will propose and promote Tribal management and/or co-management of land, waters, fish and wildlife.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I support tribal membership and representation on all boards and commissions that regulate in managing lands, waters, fisheries, and other subsistence resources. Tribes and villages also need to have input into all major development projects.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?

Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Unfortunately, the price of oil depends on world events and is out of our immediate control. There are many factors, including wars, blockades, and tariffs. I believe the State of Alaska should advocate against unnecessary wars

and tariffs, as they are hurting our people. Our current legislature and most of our congressional delegation has not done so.

What we can do is promote alternative energy wherever we can. The state can work with the feds, local utilities, Tribes, and local communities to facilitate develop of wind, hydro, and other energies in locations where they make sense and are feasible. We should be making every effort to reduce our dependence on diesel for energy and heating.

We need to support Power Cost Equalization funding. We need to explore bulk fuel buying where it makes sense. Further investigation into developing more interconnected energy grids may help.

Another major initiative is the Alaska LNG Pipeline. I support the development of the pipeline, and advocate that rural Alaska gets benefit from it. This not only includes additional state revenue, but I will advocate for benefits specifically for rural Alaska in any proposed legislation next year. This may include price guarantees and delivery systems for LNG or subsidies for fuel costs.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? As a representative of Southwest Alaska, I will work to support infrastructure development in our communities and villages. I propose dedicated endowment funds that are invested and can grow over time to support infrastructure development. We can work with the Feds, private foundations, Tribes and other sources to pool resources for infrastructure development. I support full funding for Village Safe Water Programs.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? We need long range plans for upgrading and/or replacing bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska. The state should investigate forward funding facilities, as well as working with the feds, private foundations, energy companies, and utilities to pool resources and maintain fuel storage. This is critical for survival in our communities and villages.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes,

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support SB64 and find it unfortunate it was vetoed by the governor. I believe this will be reintroduce next year and passed in the legislature. Hopefully the new governor will not veto.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? We need to be more creative in ensuring all Alaskans, especially those in rural communities, have access to voting. Our current leadership in Division of Elections has not been proactive or practical in this regard. There are attacks on voting rights in US Congress such as the “SAVE” act. We need a Division of Elections that is proactive in supporting voting in rural communities. This includes working with the people in the communities for local solutions, training local election workers, being flexible about early voting and voting by mail. I would propose legislation that ensures all Alaskans have access to voting.

I believe voter fraud is not a problem, I believe voter suppression is.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes, if properly funded and avoiding the mistakes of the past.

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? In rural Alaska, our schools are the heart of our communities. They are where our children learn, grow, and prepare to lead.

I believe education funding should be adequate, predictable, and stable. Funding education, particularly REAA's, is a primary responsibility of the state government. The BSA should be raised based on cost of living, particularly in rural Alaska.

I support the idea of an Educational Endowment fund. Starting a fund, investing in it, and allowing it to grow can help sustain our children's education into the future. An Educational Endowment Fund—a dedicated, protected fund that provides predictable, long-term school funding independent of annual legislative battles

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? First of all, we need to improve access to education for our students. We should be encouraging more students to pursue a career in education. We can reduce our dependence on out-of-state and out-of-country teachers coming up here.

Teacher pay must be competitive. We need to examine our pay structure and put it back into the high end compared to other states. This will help attract more teachers. I support a defined benefit retirement system for teachers and other state employees. The benefit system needs to be adequately funded and avoid the mistakes of the past. This will help with recruitment and retention of teachers (and other state workers.)

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? With adequate, predictable funding we can expand access to early childhood education programs.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Vocational and technical training programs need to be implemented into our local schools. For many students, these programs are as important (or more important) as academic programs. We need skilled technicians, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, in our villages and communities. These skills can be taught at the high school level within our current framework.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I believe supporting strong Alaska Native cultures, traditions, and languages is essential to a strong, healthy people. As a legislator, I will always support traditional culture in our villages. Indigenous studies should be part of school curriculum. Traditional subsistence activities must always be the highest priority for fishing, hunting, and gathering.

Promoting healthy families, traditional culture, language, and tradition is the best prevention for substance abuse, crime, domestic violence, suicide, and other social ills.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I will always consider Tribes as independent governments and support government to government consultation and decision making. The state, feds, cities, and other entities should always consult with and work with tribes as equal partners. The people who live and work in our communities and villages know best what the communities need and what will be more effective

in that community. This is especially true in addressing gaps in services that state government has been unable to fill.

Tribal and state partnerships is what will work best in addressing our issues and improving the quality of life.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

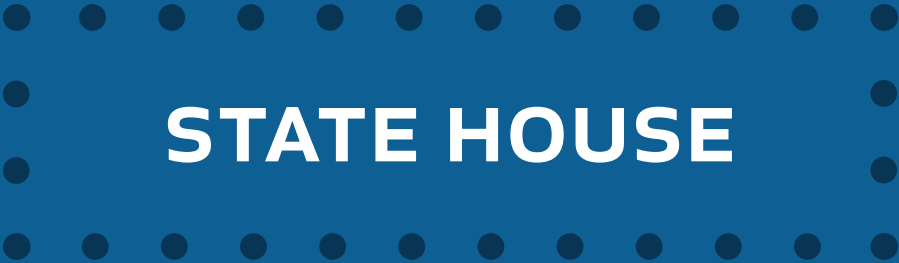
How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Public safety is a great concern in Rural Alaska. I advocate for the state putting more resources into Rural law enforcement. This includes assigning more troopers into Rural Alaska. We also need better funding and training for VPO's, VPSO's, and TPO's. I will advocate for professional salaries for these essential positions. Every Alaska deserves to feel safe in their home community.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? We must have adequate public safety in our villages to protect people. This includes more troopers as well as developing local law enforcement in the village. Murdered and Missing Indigenous People is a real issue affecting our communities and families.

We must also focus on prevention. This includes strengthening families, traditional knowledge, respect for elders and traditional way of life.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? As a Behavioral Health provider, I have helped many people who have been victims of crime and other traumas. From this perspective I advocate strengthening behavioral health services in our state. People can recover and heal from trauma with adequate help.

We also need resources for victims, including domestic violence shelters, victim advocates, and other resources. If elected I will do all I can to help our people.

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STATE HOUSE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

GRANT ECHOHAWK: HD1

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Grant EchoHawk / AK House of Representatives (District 1) / Independent /
echohawk4ak@gmail.com / www.echohawk4ak.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? There are two things that I believe are important to ensure that this land and ocean can continue to care for Native communities for generations to come. First, protect habitats by supporting legislation and regulation that supports responsible business practices based on established science and vetted data when it comes to any commercial or industrial operations within the state. This also includes acknowledging and bringing forth legislation that address climate change, in any capacity possible, strict regulations on reducing pollution making into our air and waters, and regulations on destructive industries like bycatch. The second initiative would be to work closely with Native communities from around the state, as I do now with Ketchikan Indian Community and Metlakatla Indian Community, to ensure that the specific needs of each region are understood and supported. If elected, I would represent southern Southeast Alaska, but all of these ecosystems are connected and being well informed of how they intersect throughout the state will help me better protect traditional and customary harvesting practices in the communities I represent.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Absolutely. This land is land that Native communities have lived on and in equilibrium with for tens of thousands of years. When it comes to any type of management decisions, Native voices need to be at the table to ensure traditional knowledge is brought into the conversation and to ensure traditional and customary harvesting practices are protected. As well, sovereignty is protected when Native voices and leaders from Native communities are involved in these conversations and part of the decision making process when it comes to any kind of management that happens in the state.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? The Guardian program I support. I first became familiar with a similar program in Canada with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative that appeared to be working very well. As I understand it, rather than funding going to different state entities then down into Native communities, the funds are sent directly to the communities and each nation is able to the funding where it is best needed based on their region and traditional practices. I believe programs like this would also strengthen sovereignty as it diminishes the state's role in resource and land management.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes. Absolutely.

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes.

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? There are two areas that I think we can address. First, I believe we need to be well diversified and have the infrastructure in place so that each region is able to receive the best possible energy solution for the region. Second, due to energy costs being greatly impacted by national and international policies, the state needs to ensure that subsidy programs are available and that the state coffers are full by limiting or eliminating out-of-state corporate subsidies and credits.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I support all of those critical infrastructure needs and, again, would work to maximize revenue dollars that come into the state by limiting corporate tax credits and subsidies. In addition, I would lobby our federal delegates to

do the same to ensure that Alaska gets maximum federal dollars to support these infrastructure builds. I believe that over the last 150 years, Alaska has given up truly unimaginable wealth by way of furs, fish, timber, oil, minerals, gold, and even in the beauty which has also been commoditized. Alaska supports countless industries and builds many fortunes as it provides the raw materials for just about everything else to be made. It is critical that Alaska gets its fair share and that its infrastructure needs are met.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? This is a critical priority. It is my understanding that some of those storage facilities are nearly 80 years old which is well beyond normal usage timeframes. Again, funding a revenue are the two key areas to address this issue. The funding is there, but so much wealth is pulled out of Alaska and corporate actors are not paying their fair share. I will support any and all legislation that levels out the fiscal inequity in the state and to bring in federal dollars to support the maintenance or replacement of these storage facility components, as needed.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes. Absolutely.

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes.

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes.

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported this bill and was disappointed when Gov. Dunleavy vetoed it. I urged my house rep to override the veto, but he refused and is one of the reasons why I decided to run against him. I am also concerned about the Department of Elections lack of urgency around ensuring that our rural polling stations are fully staffed and have all the resources they need. I will support any legislation that strengthens voter protections in the state, ensures proper staff and resources are available at our polling stations, and will vehemently block any voter suppression efforts made.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I believe the leaders of this state are following national efforts to inhibit or suppress the vote which can be seen in the many challenges outlined in this question. I find all these challenges to be a failure on the part of the state and will actively strengthen access and resources for our polling stations wherever I see a deficiency.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? Since the current governor and his party have been intentionally shortfunding our schools which has had devastating effects across the state, inflation has removed about \$0.36 on the dollar. So, my recommended BSA amount is 40% higher than its current amount to get us back to where it should have been all along, then inflation proof it.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? First, we need to get 'defined benefits' back which I fully support. With the inadequate compensation and retirement packages, our schools simply become a training ground for educators to get their experience but when it is time to look at meeting career goals, they have to look at other states to meet those goals. By compensating our educators properly and establishing defined benefits we reduce the likelihood of this happening. Also, by properly funding our schools, our educators, administrators, and students are no longer put into unnecessary stress from the chaos that follows inadequate funding. This will also help retain educators across all of our districts.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Early childhood education is extremely important. As with everything in the state, we need revenue dollars to be able to properly support our communities and especially our children. In addition to the revenue generating measures I had outlined, I would also like to pursue a statewide early childcare/education initiative that brings together the state, municipalities, Tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations to find a funding path to move forward on properly supporting our children in this critical area.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I am fortunate to have two vocational training centers in my region. One at the University of Alaska Southeast and the other a Tlingit & Haida center in Klawock. Supporting these facilities by way of funding or subsidized access would be something I would pursue, but my region also has a sea otter overpopulation issue that is impacting ecosystems and industries. One of the challenges of harvesting sea otters is there is no infrastructure in place to support tanning and processing the hides on a scale that could truly benefit the Alaska Natives who would like to harvest these hides. I believe it would be worth

investing in additional infrastructure to open up another trade and allow easier access to tanning and fur working businesses.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes.

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes. Absolutely.

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes.

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? First, work to ensure that Native voices are at as many decision making tables as possible. Too many decisions are made without these voices which can lead to those decisions diminishing cultures, traditions and ways of life even if that was not the intent. Second, knowing that the greatest threat to the longevity of culture and traditions is overly aggressive resource extraction by out-of-state corporations that strongly prioritize their profits over the communities and ecosystems they operate in, I will stand in strong opposition to any projects that appear to be attempting to operate irresponsibly or without appropriate Tribal consultation.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Mutual respect and dispelling myths are two key areas that I focus on. In my time in public service, I have been able to have productive and constructive relationships with those who I knew to hold personal positions that were contrary to my own. Treating everyone with respect, courtesy, and dignity is not only important to me, but it helps set the tone for all interactions I am in. When it comes to dispelling myths, many non-Native individuals still believe that Indigenous people were almost aimless wanderers about the land. By educating on the long tradition of well established forms of government, commerce, trade route, irrigation, agriculture, and laws that have been part of the many Tribal Nations of this land, it helps dispel the myths that only non-Natives understand government or that freedom was invented on this land in 1776.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes.

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I am not familiar with the current recruiting program, but I would like to see a recruitment program that begins in our rural communities and helps community members receive the training to be able to serve their own community in this capacity. I also recall reading several years ago that some of these officers have had concerning behavior and background details that might not make them the best suited people to be in our communities, so ensuring that we have a clear vetting process to ensure those officers that are in our communities are appropriate and can provide the best possible service.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

Violence and crime is often highly correlated to lack of resources and poverty. Not in all instances, but there is a high enough correlation that one place I would start is ensuring that our schools are properly funded, that I advocate for any programs in or out of the school system that provides food and household resources, and community and extracurricular activities. Also, as a Indigenous Uncle, use my voice to remind our boys and young men that the women and children in our lives should never be afraid of us. Lastly, I will work with law enforcement agencies and programs to ensure that the violence that is committed is met with appropriate investigative scrutiny and taken seriously.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Our network of domestic violence shelters often provide a variety of resources to victims of violence. Ensuring that this network is well supported and expanded where possible. I would also advocate strong support of our Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the state and work with the Alaska Children Alliance to expand the CACs where possible.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

REBECCA HIMSCHOOT: HD2

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Rebecca Himschoot / House District 2 / Non-affiliated / rebeccaforstatehouse@gmail.com / www.rebeccahimschoot.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes– depending on the specific reform proposed.

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes - but bycatch is an issue in every fishery.

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Answer: Subsistence is fundamental to the culture, food security, and way of life of Alaska Native people. I support upholding the subsistence priority and ensuring rural and Tribal voices have meaningful roles in decisions affecting their lands, waters, fish, and wildlife.

I will continue working to strengthen Tribal participation in resource management, protect habitat, address bycatch, and incorporate traditional and Indigenous knowledge into management decisions. My work on HB 93 reflects my commitment to ensuring Alaska's fish and wildlife resources are managed first and foremost for Alaskans and the communities that depend upon them.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Answer: Yes. I support Tribal co-management. Alaska Native communities bring generations of knowledge, observation, and stewardship that can strengthen management of our lands, waters, fish, and wildlife.

Co-management means decisions are made with communities, not simply for them. Tribes should be engaged early and meaningfully and have the resources necessary to participate as partners. There is no single model that will work everywhere, so successful co-management should respect Tribal sovereignty, recognize regional differences, and be developed in partnership with the Tribes and communities affected.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Answer: A Native-led management framework must begin by asking Tribes what meaningful management should look like in their regions, rather than having the State develop a framework and seek approval afterward.

I support consistent government-to-government consultation, greater Tribal and rural participation in fish and wildlife management, and opportunities for Tribes to participate directly in research, monitoring, and data collection.

Most importantly, the State needs to approach Tribes as governments and partners. Alaska Native communities have stewarded these resources for thousands of years, and their knowledge and leadership are essential to sustaining them for future generations.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Answer: Reducing rural energy costs requires immediate support for families and long-term investments that reduce dependence on expensive imported fuels.

I will continue protecting Power Cost Equalization and support investment in the Renewable Energy Fund, energy efficiency, community-scale renewable energy, storage, and other locally appropriate projects. We also need to address heating and transportation costs, not just electricity.

There is no single energy solution for Alaska. I support further study of the 2012 All Alaska Energy Plan to bring HVDC lines to rural Alaska and the Railbelt with power generated by natural gas in northern Alaska. The State should work with communities to invest in projects that make sense locally and provide reliable, affordable energy over the long term, and our energy solutions should be an “all of the above” approach.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Answer: I believe strongly in taking care of the infrastructure we already have. Deferred maintenance often costs the State far more when systems eventually fail. I support investment in Village Safe Water and funding for maintenance, upgrades, workforce training, and technical assistance.

As Co-Chair of House Education, I am also committed to protecting E-Rate and Alaska's School Broadband Assistance Grant so rural schools have reliable, affordable broadband. As anchor consumers of internet, it is my hope the cost of home internet is reduced by the schools.

We should maintain existing infrastructure, maximize federal dollars, and ensure rural and Tribal communities help determine where limited state resources can have the greatest long-term impact.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Answer: We cannot afford to wait for aging bulk fuel facilities to fail. I believe in maintaining and improving infrastructure before building new systems we cannot afford to maintain.

The 34th Legislature unanimously passed HB 338, increasing the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan limit to help rural communities afford seasonal fuel purchases. Communities also need safe facilities to store that fuel.

I support investment in the Bulk Fuel Upgrade Program and a coordinated effort with Tribes, communities, and utilities to identify and address the highest-risk facilities. Preventive maintenance protects communities and the environment while saving money over the long term.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. Answer: I supported SB 64 and voted to override the Governor's veto because Alaska needs an election system that is secure, accessible, and responsive to the realities of our state.

I support protecting early and absentee voting, improving access for rural and remote communities, and expanding appropriate language assistance for Alaska Native voters.

Major election changes should also include meaningful consultation with Alaska Tribal governments. Our goal should be simple: every eligible Alaskan should have a fair and practical opportunity to cast their vote and have it counted.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Answer: Representing 21 communities across rural Southeast Alaska, I know equal voting access cannot simply mean applying the same system everywhere. Geography, weather, staffing, mail service, language, and technology create unique challenges.

I will advocate for adequate staffing and training, reliable voting equipment, meaningful early and absentee voting opportunities, and appropriate language assistance.

When problems occur, the State should determine why and fix them before the next election rather than accepting recurring failures. Most importantly, the State should work directly with Tribes and local communities to identify and address barriers to voting.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes, under a carefully designed model with a lot of tribal input

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? Answer: Alaska needs a BSA that reflects the actual cost of providing a quality education. As the prime sponsor of HB 69, the starting point of the process that led to the most recent BSA increase, I advocated for an increase of \$1800 to bring state funding in line with inflation since 2011. I supported the \$700 BSA increase passed in 2025, as that was what was politically feasible, but there is much more ground to be made up.

While I support increasing the BSA, it is important the Legislature establish mechanisms to provide stability and predictability in school funding. This will allow districts to plan responsibly instead of facing another funding crisis each year.

As Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Funding, I have spent the interim examining what it actually costs to educate students across Alaska. Our funding system needs to be adequate, predictable, and sustainable.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Answer: Students deserve excellent teachers regardless of their ZIP code. That requires competitive salaries, a defined-benefit retirement option, quality teacher housing, and stronger efforts to prepare and retain Alaskan educators.

The challenges are particularly acute in rural Alaska, where housing and high living costs make recruitment difficult. I co-sponsored legislation to invest in rural teacher housing because a community cannot retain teachers if they cannot find safe, affordable places to live.

We also need to grow our own educators by creating stronger pathways for rural and Alaska Native students to become teachers and return to serve their communities. Current apprenticeship programs show great promise, with over 100 candidates in training right now.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Answer: Early education is one of the best investments we can make in Alaska's children. I support expanding access to high-quality pre-K while allowing communities and school districts flexibility in how programs are delivered.

I co-sponsored HB 183 to improve the way Alaska funds district-wide early education programs. We should continue removing barriers that prevent communities from offering pre-K, particularly in rural Alaska where programs can be more expensive and difficult to staff.

Our goal should be sustainable early learning opportunities that prepare children for school while respecting the cultures, languages, and needs of their communities.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Answer: Career and technical education should connect students to real opportunities in the communities where they live. I support expanding CTE partnerships among schools, Tribes, employers, unions, regional training centers, and the University of Alaska; as well as recognizing cultural arts as a CTE pathway.

Programs should reflect regional economies—from fisheries, maritime trades and construction to health care, education, energy, and natural resource management. HB 57 included additional support for secondary vocational and technical instruction, which I supported.

We should also expand opportunities for students to earn industry credentials, college credit, and work experience before graduating. Alaska Native communities should help identify the skills and careers most needed in their regions.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Answer: Protecting Alaska Native cultures and ways of life starts with listening to and supporting the communities carrying those traditions forward. I support protecting subsistence, strengthening Indigenous language and cultural education, and incorporating traditional knowledge into decisions affecting our lands, waters, fish, and wildlife.

As Co-Chair of House Education, I supported efforts this year to strengthen Alaska Native language education and will continue advocating for resources that allow communities to preserve and teach their languages.

The State should be a partner in this work—not dictate what cultural preservation should look like. Tribes and Alaska Native communities know best what their cultures, languages, and traditions need to thrive for future generations.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Answer: Strong relationships begin with respect and consistent communication. I support meaningful government-to-government consultation with Tribes early in the decision-making process, not after decisions have already been made.

I support Tribal liaison positions across State departments to help build lasting relationships and improve communication. I also believe the State should actively pursue opportunities to partner with Tribal and federal governments on education, public safety, infrastructure, natural resource management, and other shared priorities.

Most importantly, consultation needs to lead to collaboration. Tribes should be treated as governments and partners whose knowledge, experience, and perspectives make State decisions better.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Answer: Every Alaskan deserves to feel safe, regardless of where they live. I support increased and sustained funding for Village Public Safety Officers and efforts to recruit and retain law enforcement in rural communities.

We also need to recognize that one model will not work everywhere. The State should work directly with Tribes and communities to identify what adequate public safety looks like locally and strengthen partnerships among VPSOs, Tribal public safety programs, local police, and Alaska State Troopers.

Funding must also support training, housing, equipment, communications, and other infrastructure necessary to keep public safety professionals in rural communities. It is important to recognize the public safety function of schools in rural communities, as well.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

Answer: Alaska's rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and MMIP demand sustained attention and resources, through both prevention and enforcement. I supported SB 151, which established the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission and strengthened Alaska's response to MMIP cases, as well as consistently supporting funding for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

I will continue supporting dedicated MMIP investigators and stronger coordination and data sharing among Tribal, state, federal, and local law enforcement.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Answer: Victims and their families should not have to navigate complicated legal and support systems alone. I support sustained funding for victim advocates, shelters, counseling, legal assistance, and culturally appropriate services, including services available in rural communities.

We also need better coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, health care providers, Tribes, and victim service organizations so families receive clear information and do not fall through gaps between agencies.

For rural Alaskans, access is especially important. Services that exist only in our larger communities are not truly accessible. We need to support local and regional programs and use technology and partnerships to reach people wherever they live.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ANDREA STORY: HD3

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Protecting subsistence and existing hunting, fishing, and gathering/foraging grounds is deeply important to me. So is ensuring that rural and Tribal voices are consulted on issues that affect subsistence living, and prioritizing subsistence needs when making fish and game management decisions that affect communities around the state. Encouraging state support of the federal rural subsistence priority under Title VIII of ANILCA, as opposed to the repeated attacks on it being undertaken by the State Department of Law, is also a priority.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska’s lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I support tribal co-management, which should involve shared decision-making and be respectful of government-to-government relationships and traditional knowledge and stewardship of Alaska lands. We have seen, for example, the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions act as leaders in fisheries research and in-river management in partnership with USFWS, which has led to stronger salmon returns this year in the Kuskokwim.

Tribal co-management is a way to give meaningful autonomy to many predominantly Alaska Native communities that are often most affected by management; improve community trust in decision-making; and incorporate local and traditional knowledge. Clear Tribal co-management agreements that align with federal and state law and resource management needs will help preserve Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife for posterity, as has been done by Tribes since time immemorial. We have also seen this co-management in Juneau, where strong municipal, Tribal and state governments work well together mitigating a natural disaster with the Glacier Lake Outburst Flooding. Tlingit and Haida, City and Borough of Juneau and Disaster Assistance through the state, and federal disaster assistance has been and still is critical.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I will hold state agencies accountable (especially the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Education) to good-faith collaboration, negotiations, and communications with Alaska Native communities and Tribal management groups. Recognizing and incorporating valuable traditional knowledge; ensuring Alaska Native participation in research, monitoring, data collection, and data interpretation; and funding Tribally led efforts to improve subsistence management and the revitalization of Alaska Native Languages are also ways I support Alaska Native communities' management of subsistence resources and community desires.

Adjustments to the Board of Fish and Board of Game are also in order. Restoring balance will improve management decisions and allocation of resources.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? I support efforts to increase funding to the Renewable Energy Fund, and (cautiously) reform PCE to avoid punishing rural Alaskan communities for increased reliance on cheaper solar / alternative energy sources. I would support a General Obligation bond that includes bulk fuel storage facility upgrades, among other energy improvements across the state.

Diesel generators and tank farms are failing rural Alaskans, and the opportunities for solar, wind, geothermal heat pumps and other alternative energy sources are great for microgrids across the

state. We are leaders in this area. Supporting the funding, development, job training, and material maintenance required to transition to energy sources that are cheaper (and more resilient) than diesel in the long run should be done. In the short term, I have supported energy relief payments that have helped rural Alaskans weather the storm of external events like the war in Iran. And we have increased funding to (and caps on) the bulk fuel loan program to support communities concerned about making it through the winter on the fuel reserves they are less able to afford these days.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? In particular, I support full funding of the Village Safe Water program, current efforts to improve broadband access and redundancy by completing a full undersea cable network loop around Alaska, and generating a fiscal plan that will allow us to invest meaningfully into deferred maintenance and infrastructure projects in rural Alaska. Increasing local capacities for administration, construction, operation, and maintenance training in Alaska's educational system is also important. Often, human capacity limits rural Alaskan communities' ability to apply for grants, execute projects, and maintain infrastructure, and that should change.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? The average age of bulk fuel storage facilities in Alaska is about 50 years old, and many bulk fuel storage facilities have simply never received a major overhaul. I feel we are in a crisis with this high energy prices from the Iran war and have to generate a fiscal plan as soon as possible for our state so that we can increase our capacity to deliver capital funding and technical assistance to communities seeking upgrades or new technologies as part of their energy futures, get projects moving, and de-risk aging infrastructure as prioritized by objective criteria. The State does have bonding capacity for a General Obligation (GO) bond.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES.

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported SB 64 this session. I look forward to voting for it again as an example of effective compromise legislation addressing real problems with voting access. Alaskans deserve free and fair elections, and every single legitimate vote that fails to

be counted is a serious problem. We should remove the witness signature requirements, establish ballot curing, and ensure that polling locations are open and accessible in every nook and cranny of the state.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? One component of this is working with the federal delegation to ensure that the United States Postal Service is a reliable partner for ballot delivery – I have heard from my colleagues that mail-in ballots in remote parts of the state did not arrive in time for the primary election, and either the state sending ballots to Alaskans earlier or ensuring the reliability and affordability of federal post is key to protecting voter rights in Alaska.

Another part is ensuring that the Division of Elections has, as SB 64 would have created, a rural liaison devoted to solving exactly these problems. The failure to open polls on time may not ever be fully solved, but the current rate at which it is happening is certainly unacceptable. I support adequate funding and coordination to ensure polls open on time with the staffing and materials (ballots, translated ballots, printers, etc.) they need to avoid disenfranchising rural Alaskan voters. Once we enact SB 64 into law, I look forward to further work to improve voting access and security in Alaska, in partnership with Get Out the Native Vote, AFN, and the ACLU.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? The BSA should be \$7,290 or greater, up from \$6,660. As co-chair of the House Education Committee, my committee introduced HB 374 to this effect.

Yes, the BSA should be automatically inflation proofed, once we have developed a fiscal plan to support such a measure.

Our education funding policy needs to be addressed. It's broken, we pass our state budget after communities need to know their funding. This means that teachers and staff may get notices of non-retention (pink slips) every year only to be offered their job back in six weeks. I submitted

legislation this year, in HB 261, to have Alaska switch to using a three year average of the student count, which results in school districts knowing their student count and funding for that, at the state of the year and would not change during the student count time. The student count would still take place as we would need the official number for the three year averaging. If re-elected I plan on submitting a similar bill.

This would also be helpful when adding Tribal Compacting Schools to regions of our state. Offering more choices to families is expensive. Our state history was a main reason for language loss, so we should invest to revitalize the languages. We should understand that funding just based on student count, has huge problems as some children lose options when peers choose other options. It is one reason we need a fiscal plan. There are certain investments that need prioritizing. It will take awhile to implement a full fiscal plan. I am not opposed to implementing it in smaller steps.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? One policy I support to address teacher retention is transitioning Alaska back to a Defined Benefits (pension) system, so we are more competitive on the job market. It should not be a bad financial decision for an individual to teach in Alaska. Our most recent defined benefits bill, that was vetoed by the Governor and failed by two votes on the override vote, was a good affordable bill. Returning to this defined benefits bill would cost the state 78 million more however we are spending more than that in premium pay (overtime and bonuses) in the past several years. We spent in FY 24, 145 million and FY 25 149 million in premium pay. So we would be saving money in addition to saving money in staff training.

Another policy would be to invest heavily in our school deferred maintenance list, so educators and students have a safe and comfortable place to teach and learn in. I have heard stories of students in rural schools sitting in snowpants in classrooms in winter due to broken windows and this is an unacceptable learning environment (as are moldy classrooms, structurally unsound schools, and schools on unstable permafrost). I sit on the Task Force for Education Funding and we are looking at recommending a Base Facilities Allocation (BFA) formula to separately address school facility issues from the BSA.

Also, it is important to build our capacity to train and recruit educators in-state, so that learning is culturally appropriate. I feel the Department of Education should add positions for Cultural Educators to the Department to help with coordination of curriculum and sharing curriculums between regions and much more, decided by the regions and communities of what is needed. We have also had to rely on federal management of educators on J1 and H1-B visa programs, which has had difficult federal rules not helpful to our children. These educators have on the whole been helpful and well liked by our youth, only to have to leave after 3 or 5 years due to federal rules. Transient educators is a huge problem for Alaska. Our children deserve long-term relationships with caring adults. I am encouraged by the teacher apprentice programs for our para-educators. This is a win-win for our youth.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Early childhood education is a significant problem across Alaska and the nation. In HD3 (Haines), we just had a preschool shut down. Part of the solution is stabilizing our economy,

which means committing to a fiscal plan, so that young families feel that Alaska is a place to which they can move and build their lives and careers. This will allow our schools, preschools, and daycares to achieve the economies of scale that make running these programs more financially viable. I have the WILL to work on this.

Expanding state funding for early childhood education programs, so that educators can earn livable wages and families seeking this service can afford it, is also valuable. I have supported our capital appropriations for child care providers in our last few years budget.

Headstart needs to be a part of the early education solution. In many areas we have small populations of pre-schoolers and we want to make sure we compliment programs and work together. As we add immersion preschool programs those are also important and expand access.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I support greater investment in career and technical education in Alaska's schools, apprenticeships, internships, and postsecondary training, while reducing barriers that prevent rural and Alaska Native students from accessing those opportunities. That includes supporting distance learning and training infrastructure where appropriate, as well as programs that allow students to receive training in their own communities rather than having to leave home.

Last month I had the opportunity to be in Bethel, Napaskiak, Napakiak, and Kwethluk. The youth there asked for welding, small engines, boat and Toyo stove repair. I think we should increase the career tech funding factor in the foundation formula to help meet district needs. We also need to increase pay for Career Tech instructors in these areas as they state in the private sector as they make much more money and so we have a shortage of workers. Type M certificates are also an important resource to keep available to those without a teacher certificate but have the skills to instruct our youth.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? As state finances allow, YES

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? As a legislator, I was proud to sponsor HB 26, which became law in

2024 and added four Alaska Native languages to Alaska's official languages, further recognizing the importance of preserving and revitalizing Native languages. It also moved the Council of Alaska Native Languages from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Education as requested by the Council. I have been disappointed in the Department of Education.

Going forward, I would support continued funding for Alaska Native language education, cultural programs, and opportunities for elders and cultural leaders to pass knowledge and traditions to younger generations, especially in our K-12 schools.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I support regular communication between state agencies, Tribal governments, and Alaska Native organizations, including early consultation on legislation and policies with significant impacts on Native communities. Alaska faces many challenges that cross jurisdictional boundaries. We will make more progress when governments work together rather than working in isolation. I would approach these relationships as partnerships built on mutual respect, clear communication, and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for Alaska Native communities and all Alaskans.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I support adequate funding and sustainable growth of the VPSO program to provide adequate public safety to every part of Alaska. I will continue to vote for additional VPSO positions.

Until every village that seeks it has strong coverage from a regional or local village public safety officer and the housing / infrastructure to support them, we have NOT adequately invested in rural public safety.

Ensuring that VPSOs have quality working conditions, adequate mental health support and reprieve from duties, and proper benefits is a goal of mine.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I support stable and adequate funding for shelters, victim services, behavioral health resources, and culturally appropriate victim support programs, particularly in rural and Alaska Native communities. We also need to improve coordination among Tribal, local, state, and federal law

enforcement so cases are investigated promptly and families receive clear communication and support. I support following the MMIP task force recommendations. Progress has been made but so much more needs to happen.

Prevention must start early through education about healthy relationships, consent, and recognizing abuse. We should also address underlying challenges—including housing instability, substance abuse, and limited access to behavioral health care—that can compound risks.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? This year, I supported additional funding to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the budget to support these programs despite a decrease in the Victim Compensation Fund and to adjust for inflation. I also supported comprehensive public safety legislation making it easier to hold perpetrators of sexual assault accountable. Further budgetary adjustments in this vein will support DV and SA victims and their families. One specific target in the FY28 budget would be adequate crime lab funding for the Department of Public Safety, which is currently borrowing from another budget component to order supplies necessary for lab testing.

In our state justice system, there is always a limiting regent when it comes to holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, delivering justice for DV and SA victims and their families, and reforming individuals on the other end of the justice system. It has been difficult for Legislators, under the current administration, to identify what that is (since the Department of Public Safety, Department of Law, Department of Corrections, Judiciary, and Department of Administration are all involved in criminal procedures). I support efforts to collaborate, understand the roots of slow justice, and adjust policies and budgets to get victims and their families care; ensure communication; and ensure that trials are speedy and fair.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

KATHY SIMPLER: HD5

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? a. Fishing has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up commercial fishing on a seine boat in Prince William Sound, and fishing became my first career. For more than two decades, I also fished on my father-in-law's sport boat to help fill our family's freezer. I understand firsthand that Alaska's fish and wildlife are more than resources. For many communities, they are tied to culture, family, tradition, food security, and a way of life passed down through generations.

I will support strong subsistence protections, adequate funding for fisheries management, and greater representation for the rural and indigenous communities most directly affected by these decisions. I also believe

management decisions should be guided both by science and indigenous knowledge held within Alaska Native communities.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future

of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. a. Yes, I support Tribal co-management when decisions directly affect Tribal communities and the resources they have stewarded for hundreds of years. Our Alaska Native communities bring generations of knowledge about our lands, waters, and wildlife and should absolutely have a seat at the table.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? a. I would start by listening to Tribal governments and Alaska Native organizations about what a Native-led framework should look like rather than having the State design one for them. I would support efforts to put that framework into practice.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? In Kodiak, we utilize wind and hydropower extensively and are already using about 99% renewable energy. Because of this our energy bills are some of the lowest in the state. I believe there is tremendous opportunity to build on successes like this to bring renewable energy sources online. I would like to see us produce more of our energy locally to help bring down costs for all Alaskans. There is no single solution that will work for every community. The State needs to work directly with local and Tribal governments to identify projects that are both affordable and appropriate for each community.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I support continued investment in programs like Village Safe Water and making sure our state takes full advantage of available federal infrastructure funding. But building infrastructure is only part of the challenge. Communities need resources to maintain these systems and train local workers to operate them. I'm proud to have the support of labor unions representing thousands of Alaskans working in these skilled trades. I will support investments that help communities build local capacity, create good-paying jobs, and maintain critical infrastructure for the long term.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I support identifying the highest-risk facilities and developing a prioritized plan for repair and replacement in partnership with the communities that rely on them.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I strongly support the goals outlined in SB 64, particularly provisions aimed at improving access for rural voters, establishing a rural elections liaison, providing prepaid postage for absentee ballots, and giving voters an opportunity to correct issues with their mailed ballots. I would support any reforms that remove barriers to voting and make it easier for eligible Alaskans to vote.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I support better recruitment and training of local election workers and stronger contingency planning for rural polling locations. The district I hope to represent is made up of many unique communities off the road system and it's very important to me that everyone can vote.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? Yes. As a teacher for 30 years, I saw firsthand what happens when our schools do not have the resources they need. Through my work with our union as the National Education Association-Alaska Director, I also advocated for public education at the

national level. I support forward funding the BSA and adjusting it for inflation so our schools have stable, predictable funding and can better plan for the future.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I support competitive pay, restoring a defined-benefit retirement option, and increasing access to workforce housing where it is a barrier to recruitment and retention.

We also need to invest in growing our own workforce. That means supporting the University of Alaska, strengthening teacher preparation programs, and creating more pathways for young Alaskans to become educators without having to leave the state or their home communities.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I support expanding access to early childhood education through programs like Head Start and ensuring that they are adequately funded. Childcare is a separate but closely related challenge for Alaska families, especially in my district. I support building on childcare tax credits and other incentives that help increase the number of providers and available spaces.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Expanding CTE and vocational training in both our K-12 and postsecondary systems is crucial to strengthening our workforce. I think that programs should reflect the jobs and opportunities that actually exist in each region, whether that is fisheries and maritime trades, construction, healthcare, transportation, or other locally important industries. We should work with the Tribes and local leaders to determine the most urgent needs and build stronger partnerships with employers, unions, and training organizations to fill those gaps and create pathways into good-paying local jobs.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I believe protecting Alaska Native cultures starts with our youth. Throughout my teaching career, I worked to incorporate Alutiiq culture and Kodiak history into the classroom and used place-based education to help students understand and connect with the indigenous history and culture of the place they call home. I strongly support incorporating

language revitalization and cultural programs in our schools and the State should continue supporting the work Alaska Native communities and Tribal organizations are already doing.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Tribal consultation should happen early enough to actually influence decisions, not after decisions have already been made. I am committed to listening to Tribal leaders and will always respect Tribal sovereignty. Our challenges are too complex for different levels of government to operate in separate silos. We serve the same people, and we should all be working together.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I support adequate funding for Village Public Safety Officers, Alaska State Troopers, and other rural public safety programs. We also need competitive retirement benefits to recruit and retain more officers and expanded workforce

housing options in communities where housing is a barrier. I will work directly with Tribal and local governments to help ensure every community has reliable access to public safety.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

Families deserve to know that when they ask for help, someone will be there, their case will be taken seriously, and they will not be forgotten. I support continued funding for MMIP investigators, stronger coordination between Tribal, State, and Federal law enforcement, and better support for victims and their families, whether that means greater access to shelters, behavioral health services, or other resources they need to feel safe and supported.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Victims and their families should not have to navigate these systems alone. I support stable funding for DVSA shelters, counseling, legal assistance, and other services that help people find safety and begin rebuilding their lives.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

BRENT JOHNSON: HD6

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Brent Johnson / State House District 6 / Nonpartisan / ragweb@icloud.com / brentforhouse.org

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes.

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Even with subsistence harvests each stock must have a harvestable surplus. Warming weather has caused caribou herds to crash and warming oceans have done the same for king salmon. Moose and sockeye have generally benefitted from warmer temperatures. Fish and game are struggling to survive and Alaskans must work carefully with biologists to harvest when possible. Subsistence harvests have priority on federal lands and waters. I'm willing to protect those rights.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. Canada has enacted some tribal co-management that has worked well, so that is the model I would pursue. I believe in management by biologists for maximum sustained yield, so I envision management that combines biological knowledge with local, historical knowledge as a way to manage stocks with more knowledge overall. For salmon stocks experiencing poor ocean survival there will still be huge challenges.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their

subsistence resources? I would try to copy how it was done in Canada.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?

No. In the Kenai Peninsula Borough undeveloped Native Corporation lands are tax exempt. A land-into-trust process would extend the tax exempt status, making it harder for boroughs to fund schools, fire protection, and hospitals. It also would probably remove these lands from Planning Commission oversight. Having served on the borough planning commission and on the assembly, I don't favor the land-into-trust concept.

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes.

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes.

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? I will try to hold down the cost of power in the Railbelt by building the Dixon Diversion for Bradley Lake, by working with industry to find more gas in Cook Inlet and by importing natural gas. I also think that telehealth is a good option for folks in rural areas to have greater access to quick, affordable healthcare for more minor ailments that don't require a physical trip to a doctor's office, and plan to look into options for this in Alaska.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Frankly, I support all of these. I will work with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium on a case-by-case basis. I'll work with legislators from rural areas to help achieve their requests.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I'll work with legislators from rural areas to replace and modernize fuel storage facilities whenever possible.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law

changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support SB64 and believe mail-in voters should have the chance to "cure" ballots. I'll work with Senator Welchowski and the new governor to get a bill similar to SB64 passed.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I will support pay increases for poll workers and make communication with lead workers in polling places a priority. It's essential that the state gets material to villages in a timely manner.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes, tentatively. If the pilot program bears fruit, I'll continue to support and expand it.

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? Yes, the BSA should be automatically inflation proofed. The Legislative Task Force on Education Funding will make a report in January. I'm hopeful it will shed light on what level of funding is needed for the BSA. If I had to guess, I think it will come in with recommendations for a BSA above \$7,400.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Offer teachers good salaries, good health insurance at a reasonable rate and a good, defined benefits or hybrid retirement. Rural teachers should receive higher salaries and whenever possible I think local members of a village who have become teachers should get priority in hiring.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I support SB178, which is already law. I support Head Start & Early Head Start,

Infant Learning Programs, Parents as Teachers, and Pre-Elementary and Early Education Grants. I'll work with legislators from rural Alaska to support these programs.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Ninilchik High School, where I graduated no longer has a shop or home economics class. The lack of these kinds of classes is widespread. I support classes on carpentry, electrical wiring, health, mechanics, medical assisting, and anything else that will help high school graduates make a living and succeed in their own community.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? No

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I'll wear a kuspuk on Fridays. I'll keep in close contact with Ninilchik Traditional Council, the Ninilchik Native Association and the Seldovia Village Tribe.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Most of my work will be between state and tribal governments. I'll talk to the groups I mentioned above frequently.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? This will require hiring another 200 or more Village Public

Safety Officers. That will cost about \$90 million. I think it's best to increase the number of VPSOs in phases. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

I'm in favor of classes in middle school and high schools that teach about safe-dating and consent. I'll join the fight against substance abuse. And increase the number of VPSOs. And finally provided State Troopers and Courts with the funding to make sure crimes are investigated promptly and help courts to move faster.

2. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I'll support the StrongHearts Native Help Line. I support the 2022 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that helped victims with legal assistance, housing, and focused aid to recognized marginalized groups. It also provided a pilot program for tribal courts to prosecute non-Native perpetrators for sexual assaults, stalking and domestic violence in Alaska Native Villages. Funding for the Violence Against Women Act is set to expire in 2027. I support the Alaska Legislature asking Congress to extend the funding.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

KATE VEH: HD7

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Kate Veh / AK House of Representatives, HD 7 / Democrat / katevehforak@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590834404014 (My website is a FB page called, “Kate Veh for AK”.)

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I'd push for co-management of our fisheries & game. Why? Because it blends good science with thousands of years of Indigenous wisdom.

Right now, the state & federal gov'ts make the final call on how many salmon & game can be harvested. Co-management would change that by putting scientific research & ancient ways at the same table.

Granted, change is tough. But after watching out-of-state fish traps steal AK's fish in the '50s & industrial trawlers doing the same thing today, I'd say co-management is our best shot at keeping AK's fish populations healthy for the long haul.

So what are my plans to protect & expand these rights? If elected, I'd have three powers:

1. I could listen to the AK Native voice.

2. I could vote to expand that voice in fisheries & wildlife management. 3. I could encourage First Nations people of AK to run for office.

And as a candidate writing out this questionnaire, that's exactly what I'm asking you to do . . . please consider running for office. We need your voice.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes (please see above answer).

Not only do we need AK Native people on all these boards, but we need them running for state office seats. That's where real change takes root. Boards advise. But elected officials decide.

So, to anyone thinking about jumping into a future race, know this . . . I'll be the first one ready to help with your campaign.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? It's time to recognize AK Native communities as full & equal partners in shaping AK's future.

These folks have sustained our fisheries for thousands of years. In just the past 100 years, we've nearly crashed AK's salmon populations twice . . . first with fish traps, then with trawlers. With climate change bearing down & energy fights heating up, we'd be foolish not to ask AK Native people, "How did you do it? How did you sustain the fisheries for so long?"

Here's what I'd do:

1. Pass a law requiring ADF&G boards to listen to both AK Native communities & scientists so we have access to generations of tried-&-true AK Native fish & game knowledge along with scientific research.
2. Encourage the state to team up with AK Native communities (rather than fighting them in court) to fund AK Native-hired fish & game scientists, so their counts feed into the state's data.
3. Recruit rural voices to serve on their local ADF&G boards, so they can track what's happening in their own backyards instead of leaving all that power to Juneau.

Do this & two good things happen . . . we save money & more decisions get made locally.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? If elected, I would work on these 9 items:

1. Listen to rural communities & help them build custom renewable energy plans using local resources.
2. Upgrade rural microgrids to blend renewable energy with diesel generators, so the power stays on.
3. Upgrade water & sanitation systems so they don't waste so much energy.
4. Retrofit homes, buildings, & schools with better insulation & windows to waste less power.
5. Train community members to maintain & repair their local renewable energy systems.
6. Protect the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program that helps cover part of rural residents' electric bills so they stay affordable.
7. Support the creation of an AK Dept. of Energy.
8. Vote for state grants for renewables & energy efficiency.
9. Work with our congressional delegation to bring home federal funding for AK energy projects.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Programs that work & have my support:

- The EPA's AK Native Villages Water Grant Program & AK's Village Safe Water Program both get money to villages for clean water & sanitation.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law sets aside billions for water projects. Some come as loans & some come as grants.
- The AK Water & Sewer Challenge builds small, self-contained water & toilet systems that fit inside a home. Perfect for houses without pipes.

Programs that need a boost:

- Operations & Maintenance. We need to train local folks to run & fix water & wastewater systems, & survey which communities need help. O&M will help with that.
- Expanding Rural Internet . Too many villages still lack good internet. That's not just inconvenient . . . it's often needed to see a doctor, school from home, & check on power systems. We need an infusion of funds here.

A program that needs a second look:

- The ASCE's Report Card on AK Infrastructure. In 2025, AK got a "C" on energy, transportation, & sanitation. That's not good enough. Let's go back & get everything up to snuff.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Thanks to the war in Iran & rising oil prices, this isn't a future problem anymore. It's a full-blown energy crisis. We should've invested in renewables 26 years ago, at the dawn of the new millennium, but we didn't. So here we are.

We need both a short-term fix & a long-term plan.

Short Term:

Survey how many leaky oil tanks are in rural AK (sounds like quite a few). Send money first to the villages that need it most. Fix old tanks before buying new ones (re-pipe & re-patch). Clean up the tanks that have become environmental disasters. Order fuel early to cut costs. Keep the PCE program alive so energy stays affordable. And train local operators, so AK stays warm, safe, & spill-free.

Long Term:

Invest in renewables across AK & kick the oil habit for good. Survey where renewables make the most sense (hydro? solar? wind? tidal? geothermal?). Draw up a plan, apply for funds, & build. And stay with it, no matter who cycles in & out of the Legislature. Consistently vote for candidates who are committed to renewables.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I was a supporter of SB 64. I called my state reps to back it. Why? Because it would've helped rural voters stay in the game. But the Governor vetoed it. And when lawmakers tried to override that veto, they came up 2 votes short of the 40 they needed. Two votes. That's it.

Here's the one change I'd make . . . introduce the bill the minute the Legislature gets into session. Get it in there early (like yesterday), so there's plenty of time to mull it over. That way, nobody can fall back on the old "it's too much, too fast" excuse. If lawmakers need more time, let's give it to them, by starting sooner & moving it through so it finally passes.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? SB 64 would've given rural AK something it's been needing for a long time . . . a rural community liaison (a person dedicated to helping faraway villages navigate voting). That alone would've been a big win. But because SB 64 didn't make it through the Legislature this year, there's a chance to bring it back next year & make it even stronger.

When it comes back, lawmakers can write in some real improvements, such as:

1. Hire more poll workers in rural AK & train them better.
2. Print voting materials in AK Native languages, so everyone can read & understand what's on the ballot.
3. Send ballots out earlier, because the US mail system is currently slower than molasses, & rural communities feel that the hardest.
4. Make sure voting machines are up to par & accurate because every vote should count, & every voter should trust the count.

So, try again, AK Legislature!

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap?
Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? Well, it should definitely be more than the \$6,660 it sits at today. The AK Council of School Administrators estimates that AK needs a \$1,283 to \$1,808 per-student increase to keep up with inflation. I agree with them.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? AK needs to fully fund public education, & do it two years ahead of time. That one change alone would stop the annual mess of "we might have to let all our teachers go because

we can't afford to rehire them." No more last-minute panic. No more uncertainty for kids, parents, or teachers.

Let's be honest . . . the money that's been whittled away from our schools over the years is downright shameful. AK kids deserve better.

So come on, AK Legislature . . . get it together. Stand up for the kids. Fund our schools the way they deserve to be funded.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Early childhood programs are a special case & for good reason.

When women entered the workforce in the '60s & '70s, they gained rights, but daycare got left in the dust. Kids fended for themselves. Remember "latchkey kids"? That's why Gen X is so tough.

Here's the problem we've never fixed . . . childcare workers earn poverty wages. The folks caring for our youngest kids can't afford food, housing, or clothes. Is that how we value our kids? No wonder turnover is so high.

Then there's the cost to parents. Three kids in daycare will break the bank. People can't afford kids anymore, so they're just not having kids. For the first time in history, we're not replacing ourselves (we have a negative population rate).

This goes all the way to the top. As a nation, we need to get early childhood services up to par. Here's a start:

1. Subsidize wages, health insurance, & apprenticeships for childcare workers.
2. Offer early childhood certification in high schools.
3. Work with our congressional delegation for federal & state funding.
4. And yes, AK can put in its own money so these workers earn a living wage, not a slave wage.

Because if we want strong families, a strong workforce, & a strong AK, it starts with the littlest Alaskans & the people who care for them.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? First, we need a strong connection between local economies & schools in Alaska Native communities. That's where AK's Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) comes in (it's the bridge between the two). TVEP can help fund training centers in rural areas. It can also offer classes that teach skills villages actually need (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, broadband, water & sewer systems, & renewables).

AK Native corporations can step up by providing apprenticeships, buying tools, & bringing in federal grants. And let's knock down the barriers that keep people from showing up. Fund travel, housing, & childcare. Send mobile training units into the schools & offer online classes so folks can learn from home.

By connecting the economy to the classroom, you build up communities.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? After 250 years of American history, here's where I've landed . . . the most meaningful thing we can do is hand real resources & power to AK Native communities & Indigenous peoples across the country. This will help them keep their languages alive, safeguard their hunting & fishing rights, & pass their traditions on to the next generation. The fact that genetic and archaeological research can trace their lineage back tens of thousands of years is remarkable. That kind of rootedness is something most of us can barely imagine.

If I'm elected, I'll use my vote to strengthen & uplift AK Native culture. My hope is that First Nations communities might choose to use some of those resources to teach the rest of us non-Native folks about their history & culture, but that's entirely their call to make. In any case, I'm ready to learn.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I believe we need to listen to each other & learn from each other. Looking ahead, we're going to need one another to face the challenges of climate change. AK Native communities have cared for this land for thousands of years, living in balance with it rather than tearing it apart. That wisdom has a lot to teach a culture like ours that's grown so accustomed to taking more than we give back.

Respect also means honoring Tribal sovereignty, especially in public safety. That starts with the state funding Tribes directly, so they can run their own courts & police officers. And it means making room for AK Native voices as equal partners, with Indigenous knowledge & scientific research working side by side to manage ADF&G.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? The way I see it, keeping Alaskans safe takes coordination at the local, regional, state, & federal levels, so every corner of our state gets covered. And that starts with a VPSO in every community. A Village Public Safety Officer is the community's first responder . . . the local person who shows up first when something goes wrong. Each VPSO would be supervised by a state trooper stationed in a bigger town nearby.

To stretch those budgets, we'd lean on technology to fill in the gaps (Zoom calls, video conferencing, remote consultations). And if a serious crime were to happen in weather too rough for a trooper to fly in, at least there would be solid communication through the internet to keep everyone connected.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I'm sorry to everyone who's lost a mom, daughter, sister, friend, or family member to this crisis. Your loved ones mattered, & they deserved better.

Here's what I've learned . . . a huge part of the problem traces back to a 1978 SCOTUS ruling that stripped tribes of the authority to arrest & prosecute non-Native people who committed crimes on tribal land. So now, when a non-Native perpetrator crosses into a Native village, tribal police often cannot arrest or charge them. The case gets referred to federal or state authorities who may be far away, under-funded, or unwilling to prosecute.

AK took a step forward with SB 151, effective January 1, 2025. It created a review commission, mandated cultural training for officers, tightened missing person reporting timelines, & funded two MMIP investigators. That's progress, though it took far too long to arrive.

Now we wait to see if the law works. In the meantime, we all need to get educated on this issue. Indigenous women cannot keep losing their lives. They need protection.

This matters too much for me to stay quiet. So I'll make another plea . . . we need more people to run for office, particularly AK Native folks with rural experience. We need your perspective & we need you at the forefront.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Every Alaskan deserves to feel safe at home, & victims & their families deserve real support when safety is violated. The most effective approach is to partner with AK Native communities, respect what they know about their people, & remove the barriers that keep survivors from getting help.

Here's what I'll do:

1. Sit down & listen to AK Native communities & let their needs lead the way.
2. Fund what works by sending more money to programs run by tribes & villages.
3. Free up lawyers so folks can get protection orders without the price tag.
4. Let court papers be filed online, so no one has to travel to a bigger population hub just to process paperwork.
5. Help state & tribal police understand each other's cultures so they can protect people together.
6. Invest in safe homes & shelters, plus help with travel, food, & counseling. If elected, I will use my vote to ensure that the healing happens in local communities. Thank you for reading through my paperwork.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

KY HOLLAND: HD9

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Ky Holland / State House, District 9 / Independent (Nonpartisan) / alaskansforkyholland.com / ky@alaskansforkyholland.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Protecting subsistence is fundamentally a question about rural Alaska Native communities, where subsistence means food security and continuing cultural practices across generations.

House District 9 still has strong ties to subsistence traditions. Our residents hunt, fish, and participate in personal-use fisheries. Our district includes Cook Inlet and the Chugach ANC regions, where salmon return to Bird Creek, and hooligan to Twentymile River. These connections deepen my respect for communities where store-bought food may be prohibitively expensive or unavailable and subsistence resources are essential.

Alaska's constitutional structure has prevented the State from establishing the rural subsistence priority required by federal law. I would support a constitutional amendment allowing Alaska to protect that priority. Until then, I support continued federal management where necessary to preserve rural subsistence access.

I will also support better use of science and traditional knowledge to understand changes in fish and wildlife caused by climate, commercial activity, and other pressures. I am not a subsistence expert; my commitment is to listen to rural and Tribal communities and be an effective partner and ally in the Legislature.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. Tribes have managed Alaska's lands, waters, fish and wildlife for thousands of years and hold knowledge the state does not have about ice, migration, animal health and changing weather. Our resource policies should be data-driven, and traditional knowledge is the data that the state too often leaves out.

Co-management is often the most practical and realistic approach to managing Alaska's resources. Tribal partners have deep knowledge and understanding of places where the state departments only have surface level understanding. Co-management should mean more than consultation after decisions are largely made. It can include shared research, monitoring, planning, stewardship, and, where appropriate, participation in management decisions. I also strongly support recognizing and integrating traditional Indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge alongside western science.

With climate change reshaping habitats and migration patterns, this information is more critical than ever. I support expanding Tribal co-management, with the structure tailored to the resource, jurisdiction and community involvement.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I support putting meaningful Tribal participation into law and building Native-led management frameworks that give Alaska Native communities a stronger and earlier role in decisions affecting subsistence resources.

That should include Tribal participation in research, monitoring, planning, data collection, and management decisions; requiring the Department of Fish and Game to share relevant data and involve Tribes before major decisions are made; and appointing Board of Fish and Board of Game members with rural and subsistence experience.

Co-management cannot become an unfunded mandate. Tribes need adequate funding, staff, and technical capacity to participate on equal footing and help shape the work from the beginning.

I also want to connect this effort to education and research. K-12 schools can engage young people in understanding local lands, waters, wildlife, traditional knowledge, and environmental change. Universities should expand research partnerships that involve

Tribal organizations and local residents as partners in defining questions, gathering knowledge, and developing solutions.

Ultimately, this requires sustained investment. Alaska needs a stable fiscal plan so we can support long-term Tribal capacity, research, education, and Native-led management rather than relying on temporary or inconsistent funding.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? For decades, Alaska has talked about high rural energy costs while making mostly incremental investments to maintain the same system. PCE and essential maintenance remain necessary, but I want to help move us beyond simply sustaining expensive dependence on imported diesel.

I will continue advancing legislation and policy that accelerates investment in locally appropriate energy—renewables, storage, smarter grids, regional connections, geothermal, and emerging technologies. That includes building on the advanced-energy work identified in HJR 27, pursuing innovation and economic-development tools such as HB 34, and developing additional energy legislation in the coming session.

I am also working on an Arctic adaptation policy framework so that energy planning is integrated with the larger decisions communities face as erosion, permafrost thaw, flooding, and other environmental changes require infrastructure to be hardened, rebuilt, or relocated.

We should focus our major investments to build more resilient, affordable energy systems for the next generation. My goal is to advance policies that lower costs, reduce imported-fuel dependence, create local jobs, and keep more energy dollars circulating within rural communities.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I support early, coordinated rural infrastructure investments so our state isn't repeatedly paying for emergency repairs, duplicated mobilization, and systems that soon need to be rebuilt.

In Kotzebue, I heard how erosion, thawing permafrost, and storms are threatening roads, water systems, airports, and homes. I support full state match for Village Safe Water and other federal infrastructure programs, continued broadband expansion, and climate- and permafrost-resilient design standards.

I have also advanced work with the Denali Commission to examine how multiple rural infrastructure projects can be better coordinated. Poorly aligned grants, construction schedules, seasonal logistics, and separate agency requirements can drive up costs and make local workforce participation harder.

I want to see statewide coordination that aligns infrastructure needs, local business participation, and workforce development. Local residents should be trained to operate, maintain, and build the systems that their communities rely on.

I bring practical experience as an engineer working with water, wastewater, and downstream petroleum systems, along with past involvement with ARWA and AWWMA, and leverage that perspective in my approach to infrastructure investments.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Bulk fuel systems are essential today, and we cannot allow needed maintenance to be deferred until a failure causes a heating crisis, spill, or threat to drinking water and subsistence resources.

I support a statewide condition and risk assessment of rural tank farms, prioritizing the highest-risk facilities and using state match to capture available federal and Denali Commission funding. Critical repairs must be made where needed to keep communities safe and energy systems reliable.

Many facilities are near shorelines or in areas increasingly exposed to erosion, flooding, storms, and permafrost change. Before making major capital investments, we should evaluate whether the system should instead be relocated, downsized, redesigned, or gradually replaced by locally available energy, storage, and other alternatives.

My goal is to pair near-term reliability with long-term transition planning: protect communities today without locking them into expensive infrastructure that may need to be moved or abandoned within its expected service life.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I voted for SB 64 when it passed the House, and I voted to override the Governor's veto. I will support bringing this legislation back next session and advancing reforms that improve rural voting access, ballot tracking, and clear, timely ballot-curing procedures.

I've been deeply concerned by actions from the Division of Elections that have undermined confidence in our election system. I worked to lead a bipartisan legislative letter opposing the removal of more than 3,000 Alaskans from the active voter rolls based on flawed and outdated citizenship data.

I've also opposed the State's prosecution of American Samoan residents in Whittier over voting-related citizenship questions, cases that were ultimately dismissed after appellate review.

I support the Judiciary Committee's review of the DOE's actions and resilient safeguards to protect voter data and state administration of elections. Every eligible Alaskan voter should have the ease and ability to have their voice heard in our elections, no matter where they live.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Every Alaskan should be able to vote in their own community, on time, with working equipment. Rural voters should never have to wonder whether their polling place will open or whether they will have the same opportunity to participate as voters elsewhere in Alaska.

I would support funding the Division of Elections to recruit, train, and adequately compensate poll workers so remote sites can remain staffed; expanding early and absentee in-person voting opportunities in rural communities; and replacing aging voting equipment while ensuring backup equipment and contingency plans are available when transportation, weather, staffing, or equipment problems occur.

I also support stronger planning and communication with Tribal governments and local communities before each election. Local leaders often know where problems are developing well before Election Day and can help identify practical solutions.

Voting access should not depend on geography. The State has a responsibility to anticipate the additional logistical challenges of conducting elections in rural Alaska and provide the staffing, equipment, language assistance, and resources necessary to ensure every eligible Alaskan has a meaningful opportunity to vote.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES*

**I support State-Tribal Education Compacts as an additional Tribal self-governance pathway, while preserving locally elected school-board authority as the default governance model for Alaska public schools.*

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I support increasing education funding enough to keep pace with rising costs and improving education quality. In the next Legislature, I would like to see education funding addressed in a separate appropriation bill within the first 30 days so districts know early what resources they will have to hire teachers and plan for the coming school year.

For the near term, I support increasing the current BSA by roughly an inflation-adjusted \$200, bringing it close to \$6,900–\$7,000.

Longer term, I want us to look beyond simply adjusting the existing formula. I am particularly interested in funding approaches that more directly support reasonable class sizes, teacher recruitment and retention, and incentives that help keep Alaska-trained educators working in Alaska.

I am looking forward to the recommendations of the Education Funding Task Force before committing to a specific permanent inflation mechanism or formula change. In principle, however, school funding must adjust as costs rise and should be predictable enough for districts to plan responsibly.

My goal is stable, adequate funding tied more directly to the educational outcomes and staffing levels we expect schools to provide.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I support a “grow our own” strategy for Alaska educators, particularly in rural communities.

That includes expanding University of Alaska and Tribal college pathways, apprenticeships, and clear routes for paraprofessionals and experienced vocational and technical professionals to become fully certified teachers. We should invest in people who already know Alaska, understand local communities, and are more likely to build long-term careers here.

I also support restoring a defined-benefit retirement option, improving teacher housing where it is a recruitment barrier, and providing stable funding so districts can hire earlier and retain experienced educators.

Beyond staffing, I want to strengthen the profession itself. Alaska relies too heavily on curriculum and materials developed elsewhere that may have little connection to local history, culture, economy, or environment. I support giving educators more opportunity to develop regionally relevant, contextual curriculum that improves student engagement and learning.

I also support introducing career and technical education earlier so students can connect academics to real skills, local industries, and future careers.

All of this requires sustained investment in Alaska educators, Alaska knowledge, and the fiscal capacity to support them over the long term.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Early learning and child care are economic issues as much as education issues. Parents can't take jobs without child care, and many rural communities have none.

I'd support expanding pre-K funding, state child care assistance, and support for Tribal and community-run programs, including Native language immersion for young children. I'd also cut red tape that makes it hard for home-based providers to get licensed, and support training local residents as early childhood educators so programs are run by the communities they serve.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I've worked in workforce development in technical education at multiple Alaska universities; I understand how important strategic technical education can be to expanding a highly-skilled local workforce.

My goal is a circular local economy: train local residents to build, run and maintain local systems, so wages stay in the community. Too many rural projects fly in outside crews, and that money leaves on the next plane.

I'd support:

- Vocational programs matched to real community needs: water and sewer operators, power plant and renewable energy technicians, construction trades and food production.
- Local-hire incentives on state-funded rural infrastructure projects.
- Partnerships with Tribes, Native corporations, regional training centers and Tribal colleges, which already know what works.
- Small business support so trained workers can start their own companies.

Good jobs, affordable energy and good schools reinforce each other. A community that builds and maintains its own infrastructure keeps its young people and its income.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Language and culture are passed on through people, so funding has to reach people: language teachers, immersion schools, elders' programs and community-led efforts.

I'd support stable funding for Alaska Native language immersion and revitalization, and maintaining Indigenous cultural programs in our schools. I'll also defend subsistence priority, where much of that culture is practiced and taught.

The economy matters here too. When young people can find good jobs at home, they stay in their communities and help carry language and tradition forward.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Partnership starts with showing up and listening. My trip to Kotzebue was about hearing directly from local leaders on infrastructure, erosion, and energy, rather than deciding for them from Juneau.

I support implementing tribal liaisons in relevant state departments and working with our congressional delegation so state funding lines up with the federal programs available to Tribes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Waiting days for public safety response is unacceptable in Anchorage, and it should be the same in our rural native communities. I support continuing to expand funding for the VPSO program, including housing and training communities need to recruit and retain officers. Tackling the housing barrier can ensure VPSOs and state troopers can work and live in the communities they are meant to protect.

I'd also support flexible grants so Tribes and local governments can hire their own public safety officers, and recruit officers from the communities they serve. Local officers know their communities and are more likely to stay.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? This

is a horrific, systemic issue, and needs to be addressed as such. We must respond effectively when violence occurs, while also creating a stronger system for prevention.

I support strong VPSO programs, timely investigation and prosecution, expeditiously processing sexual-assault-kit backlogs, better coordination among Tribal, state, and federal agencies, and stable funding for shelters, advocates, and survivor services.

But those policies and resources don't address the issue of prevention. Every case of domestic violence, sexual assault, or violence against Indigenous women should force us to ask what conditions in families, communities, schools, behavioral health systems, and young people's development allowed that harm to occur—and what we must change so it does not happen again.

We need sustained investment in healthy communities, behavioral health, early intervention, culturally grounded programs, mentoring, education about healthy relationships, and support for young people before patterns of violence take hold.

My priority is not simply to become more efficient at processing the consequences of violence. It is to reduce the conditions that produce violence in the first place, while ensuring that when harm does occur, victims and families receive immediate protection, justice, and support.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I support stable funding for shelters, victim advocates, counselors, and other survivor services, including in rural communities where access is often limited.

Victims and families should receive clear, regular information about the legal process and the status of their cases, without having to repeatedly chase agencies for answers. I also support expanding telehealth and other remote counseling options where in-person services are unavailable, while strengthening culturally appropriate, community-based services whenever possible.

We should also ensure that survivors have practical help with transportation, emergency housing, safety planning, legal assistance, and connections to longer-term behavioral health and family support.

The system should be easier to navigate at the moment people are under the greatest stress. Our responsibility is to provide safety, dignity, information, and continuity of support from the initial report through recovery and, where appropriate, prosecution.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DANNI HALL: HD11

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Danni Hall / House District 11 (Lower Hillside) / Democrat / danniaacts@gmail.com / alaskansfordanni.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? In the legislature, I plan to support and protect subsistence rights for Alaska Native communities. I would prepare to take a closer look at statutory board member requirements, I would be fully prepared to vote on confirmations, and I would support measures that require stronger accountability for bycatch.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I absolutely support tribal co-management. I recognize that my district has a low Alaska Native population and is less affected by decisions made in the legislature about rural communities and indigenous ways of life. With that being said, I support tribal voices having voices in places of decision-making. They know what is best for their people and communities and I fully support tribes having a seat at the table.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I believe that bringing Native-led management to existing frameworks

would involve provisions that limit barriers, provide stable funding, allow legal authority, and secure a voice in decision-making processes.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. **What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs?** I would like to see a diversification in energy sources in Alaska. I would also like to see increased funding for the renewable energy fund, and I would like to support the Power Cost Equalization program strengthened. I am really open to working with anybody who wants to lower rural Alaska energy costs. It should be one of the top priorities of the legislature.

2. **What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska?** I would like to see the Village Safe Water Program fully funded. When I think about it, there are a lot of programs that focus on these issues that just need proper funding. I look forward to reviewing new revenue measures and voting for some that did not make it past the governor in past legislatures (i.e. the internet tax.)

3. **At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis?** Bulk fuel storage is a lifeline in rural communities. I think it is absolutely essential that we access and address the state of these facilities and what improvements need to be made. Again, I think funding is going to help solve a lot of problems here. But also, I want to ensure that we are conducting analysis of emergency readiness and resilience. Even if we do secure more funding for these facilities, it could take years for the funding to actually make it out to communities. How do we speed up this timeline? How do we ensure that these communities have fuel this year? Again, I would like the legislature to make this a top priority.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported many of the key components of SB64. I hope that in the future, provisions that greatly impact Alaska Native communities will be priorities and will not become casualties of negotiation. We need increased language assistance, expanded access to voting, assurances that voting locations will open.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I look forward to voting on the next election bill package that will strengthen voting opportunities and ensure that every Alaska has the opportunity to vote. Removing the witness signature requirement is one item that comes top of mind.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I decided to run in this election because I want to see schools fully funded, forward funded and inflation proofed. This is my top priority.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I believe that Alaska would have higher teacher retention rates if schools were adequately funded and educators had smaller class sizes as well as the resources they need to be successful in the classroom. This also means returning to a pension system so that our teachers will know they are working towards a dignified retirement. I think that rural communities have more success when educators are coming from within the community. I think we need to focus

on bringing the cost of energy down, ensuring that people can get an education where they live, strengthening our schools, and overall making Alaska a great place to live.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I believe it is important to expand access where it is thinnest. I would like to back Head Start and the Tribal Head Start program to make it easier to bring funding to small communities. I think we, as a state, need to support the workforce, and make childcare affordable for working families. I also believe that early childhood is a critical time to honor culture and language. Learning languages from a young age is a fantastic way to grow a skill that can be taken through life.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I think that training programs need to have some of the barriers removed. Firstly, I would like to see more trainings provided within a community, rather than asking workers to travel. I would like to learn more about what these communities are seeking and what benefits they would find attractive.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I decided to run for office because of my passion for education, so I would plan to begin there. Our schools should reflect our students - their culture, language, and needs. I would really like to see this honored in our school system. In the legislature I would also really like to see Alaska Native leadership have a space at the table and a say on decisions being made, especially in regards to fish and game, education, and energy.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I would like to see tribal consultation put into law. I have heard of bills being crafted with the help of the indigenous community, but I would really like to see a commitment to continuing this conversation and not leaving it up to whatever administration is in power. I would also be interested in having more hearings that bring in all of the overlapping tribal, state, and federal partners. As a new legislator, I know I have a lot to learn on the mechanics of State, Tribal, and Federal lawmaking and where they overlap.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I believe it is critical that we fully fund and support the Village Public Safety Officer program. I also believe that every rural community is unique, and will require individual assessments to ensure a safe, reliable, and trustworthy safety presence is available.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I want to ensure that the MMIP commission is receiving the funding and support that they need from the legislature in order to be effective. I also want to ensure that all entities that are liable by statute to produce reports are actually creating and sharing these reports.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I would like to see prevention and healing practices that are rooted in community methods and trust. Access to legal help should have low barriers and should meet people in the communities they are in. Same for counseling and healing services. We need to look to our tribal leaders to know what these communities need in terms of services. Giving power to tribal governments will increase accountability and create a stronger system for members of the community. I also think that funding is needed for many of the resources that should be available to all survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their family members.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CALVIN SCHRAGE: HD12

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is essential to Alaska's identity and crucial for the survival of many communities, making its protection one of my highest priorities. I will continue to oppose any state-level efforts that weaken rural and Alaska Native subsistence protections. Additionally, I am committed to the responsible stewardship of our salmon, fisheries, and habitats, and I will remain a strong advocate at the federal level to ensure subsistence rights are preserved for future generations.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I recognize the importance of Tribal co-management and its potential benefits for local decision-making and resource stewardship. I am interested in learning more about how these frameworks are structured and implemented to better understand how they can best support Alaska Native communities and the future of our state's natural resources.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I am committed to be a strong working partner in these efforts and look forward to learning more about how we might accomplish this goal together.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Energy costs in rural communities are a serious and growing challenge, made even worse by recent conflicts on the international stage. I will continue working to secure capital funding to bring new renewable energy projects online in rural Alaska, and I'm proud of the progress we've made during my time in the legislature to deliver these essential investments. Ensuring that existing electrical and bulk fuel infrastructure is properly maintained and modernized is equally important, and doing so can significantly reduce energy costs for families and businesses. I will also keep fighting to protect the PCE fund and program, which remain a lifeline for rural communities across the state.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? During my time in the legislature, I have strongly supported securing state funding to meet federal match requirements to secure billions of federal dollars for upgrades to village safe water and sewer, rural broadband, bulk fuel upgrades, and other key infrastructure investments. I will continue working to ensure we take full advantage of these federal opportunities and work with departments and local communities to ensure they are administered efficiently, responsibly, and sustainably.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Maintaining and replacing bulk fuel storage facilities is a critical issue for rural Alaska. These upgrades help lower energy costs and prevent both environmental and energy crises. I have supported, and will continue to support, funding for bulk fuel improvements in rural communities. I am proud that we were also able to secure millions in School Major Maintenance funding to upgrade or replace fuel systems in rural schools as part of this effort.

The state is currently working through appropriations of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal and state matching funds to provide essential upgrades to bulk fuel facilities across rural Alaska.

I look forward to working with the next administration to ensure these funds are fully utilized and that these projects are prioritized.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. My goal is to ensure Alaska's elections are safe, secure, and accessible and have led efforts in the House to help accomplish this. I was a strong supporter of Senate Bill 64 and am proud to have carried the companion bill and final version on the House Floor. While it did not include all of the provisions I would have liked, such as the elimination of the witness signature requirement, expanding early voting access, and multi-election absentee voting registration, it would have represented a significant step in the right direction. I am optimistic the next legislature can work with the next Governor and Lt. Governor to modernize Alaska's elections system and look forward to working with AFN to ensure we address the unique challenges facing rural communities.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Every Alaskan deserves the opportunity to vote and to have their voice heard in our electoral process. To ensure the challenges facing rural communities are addressed, I will continue advocating for rural liaisons within the Division of Elections who can work directly with local communities and Tribes to identify risks and disparities early and ensure they are resolved well before Election Day. Adequate staffing and training for poll workers and election staff is another issue that has disproportionately affected rural Alaskans, and it is one I am committed to improving.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Need to learn more

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? As I've met with school districts, teachers, and students from across Alaska, it's clear that our school system is struggling and that current funding levels are insufficient, especially in rural communities. I am proud of the work we've done in recent years to increase the BSA as well as provide one-time K-12 funding and will continue fighting to ensure our schools are adequately funded and that the BSA is automatically inflation-proofed each year to give school districts the stability they need.

As for the exact BSA amount, I recognize that needs vary district by district, which shows the underlying formula may need to be revisited to work more effectively for Alaska's diverse school system. I look forward to the Education Policy Working Group's report and hope it provides meaningful guidance as we take up these issues in the 35th Legislature.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Increase the base student allocation and adjust it for inflation moving forward, provide educators and public employees a livable defined benefit retirement, and make capital investments to ensure students and teachers, particularly in rural communities, have access to a safe and secure teaching environment. I also know that housing availability for educators is a significant barrier and look forward to working to expand housing for Alaskans in urban and rural communities.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Early childhood education is a critical part of our education system and helps set students up for success as they move through school. Some of the most important steps the state should take include expanding Pre-K, funding infant learning programs, supporting early learning and literacy initiatives, and adequately funding the Reads Act. These investments give children the strong foundation they need and strengthen outcomes across Alaska's entire education system.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Vocational and technical education programs are essential and should be accessible and aligned with the unique economic needs of Alaska Native communities. Expanding these opportunities starts with ensuring that Alaska Native leaders, Tribal governments, and local communities are fully included in designing and modernizing vocational training systems, particularly for rural communities. Their guidance is critical to building programs that reflect real workforce needs in rural Alaska.

This also means investing in training pathways that support the jobs most in demand in Alaska Native communities, such as renewable energy technicians, early childhood educators, health aides, construction trades, marine and aviation maintenance, and natural resource management. It also

means strengthening partnerships with regional training centers, and local employers so students can learn skills and transition directly into good-paying jobs.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Need to learn more

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I will continue working to ensure Alaska Native people have the resources and opportunities needed to preserve and strengthen their cultural heritage and languages. This includes expanding support for Native language revitalization programs, incorporating Alaska Native history, culture, and traditional practices into education, and supporting efforts that connect students with their cultural traditions and identities. I also want to listen, learn, and be a strong partner in the legislature as we work together to better support and protect these essential parts of Alaska's culture.

How will you contribute to building stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? For my part, I will continue working to build strong, positive relationships and open communication on issues before the legislature that impact Tribal and Alaska Native communities. I will advocate for meaningful partnership and coordination between the state, Tribal governments, and the federal government, ensuring that Alaska Native voices are heard and respected throughout the policymaking process.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Coming from a family of first responders, I understand the unique challenges facing public safety workers in Alaska—challenges that are even more acute in rural communities. One of the most important steps the state can take is to provide a fair, livable, and competitive pension for our first responders and public employees.

Today, it is too common for employees entering public safety careers to get trained, work for five years to vest their retirement, and then leave for states in the Lower 48 that offer a secure pension retirement and improved benefits. When this happens, we lose experienced officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel, and the significant resources invested in training them. I will continue working to ensure Alaska's public safety and public employees have access to a defined benefit pension retirement.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? The government's number one obligation is public safety, and every Alaskan, whether they live in an urban area or a rural community, deserves to be safe and secure in their home and community. I'm proud of the work the legislature has done in recent years, including expanding VPSO capacity in rural Alaska and establishing the MMIP Review Board, but there is still much more to do.

I will continue working to strengthen public safety by investing in frontline services, making upstream investments that help reduce crime, and ensuring that Alaskans have access to addiction treatment and mental health care, which are a factor in most crimes. These are essential to addressing the root causes of crime and building safer, healthier communities across the state.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and their families, requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes safety, healing, and accountability. I will work to strengthen and expand the services survivors rely on, including crisis response, legal support, counseling, and long-term recovery resources.

I will continue working to ensure programs and resources are available by expanding shelter capacity, increasing access to safe housing for those leaving dangerous situations, and expanding funding to support the essential work the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is doing. Strengthening these programs and ensuring they are accessible, particularly for rural communities, continues to be a high priority for me.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

LISA KELLER: HD13

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is foundational to food security, culture, tradition, and community in Alaska, particularly in rural and Alaska Native communities and must be protected. I support responsible management of our fisheries, wildlife, lands, and waters so they remain healthy and productive for future generations. I am especially concerned about declining salmon runs and the impact that has had on communities that have depended on those fisheries for generations. We need to address all of the factors affecting our fisheries, including habitat, changing ocean conditions, and bycatch.

I also believe Alaska Native communities need a meaningful voice in decisions about the resources they have relied on and stewarded for generations. We should be listening to local and Indigenous knowledge alongside the best available science when making management decisions.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. I support Tribal co-management because Alaska Native communities have generations of knowledge and experience caring for and living from

Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. That knowledge should be part of how we make decisions about these resources.

I support partnerships that bring Tribal governments together with state and federal agencies and incorporate Indigenous knowledge alongside the best available science. These partnerships can help us better understand changes in our fisheries and wildlife populations, protect habitat, and develop management practices that reflect what is happening on the ground.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Alaska Native communities have managed and depended on these resources for thousands of years, and that experience needs to carry real weight in how we manage them today. I would support giving Tribes a stronger and more direct role in decisions about subsistence resources, particularly when those decisions affect the health of local fish and wildlife populations and whether families can continue to put traditional foods on the table.

I also want us to do a better job using the knowledge that already exists in our communities. When people who are on the river or on the land are seeing changes in salmon runs, wildlife populations, or habitat, that information should help shape management decisions.

Most importantly, a Native-led framework needs to result in meaningful influence, not simply another opportunity to provide testimony or comments. I would work to strengthen the role Tribal governments and Alaska Native communities have throughout the decision-making process and make sure the state is accountable for listening and responding to what communities are telling us.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Energy costs affect everything in rural Alaska, from what families pay to heat their homes to the cost of groceries and doing business. We need to treat affordable energy as basic infrastructure. As I go door to door in Anchorage, cost of living is one of the top issues on the minds of voters, and I know that those costs pale in comparison to what's happening in rural Alaska.

While working in the Legislature, I served as the committee aide for the House Finance subcommittee responsible for the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic

Development. That gave me a close look at the state programs and investments that can make a real difference in energy costs.

I support protecting Power Cost Equalization and continuing to invest in the Renewable Energy Fund, which has helped communities across rural Alaska develop projects that reduce their dependence on expensive imported fuel. I also support expanding weatherization and energy-efficiency programs because one of the most immediate ways to lower a family's energy bill is to use less energy in the first place.

There isn't going to be one energy solution for every community. We should invest in projects that make economic sense locally and focus on the bottom line: reliable energy at a lower cost for Alaskans.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Every community in Alaska should have access to safe drinking water, reliable wastewater systems, broadband, and the basic infrastructure people need to live and work in their communities.

I support continued investment in the Village Safe Water program and making sure Alaska takes full advantage of available federal infrastructure funding. We also need to recognize the realities of building in rural Alaska. Rising construction and transportation costs can quickly make projects more expensive, so the state needs to provide consistent funding and help communities move projects from planning through construction.

Broadband is just as important. Reliable internet affects education, health care, public safety, economic opportunity, and whether people can access basic services. I support continued investment in bringing reliable, affordable broadband to communities that remain underserved.

My experience working on state budgets in the Legislature taught me that securing funding is only part of the job. We also have to make sure projects actually get built. I would work with Tribal governments, local communities, and state and federal partners to identify priorities, remove unnecessary barriers, and make sure infrastructure dollars reach the communities they are intended to serve.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Bulk fuel storage is essential infrastructure in many rural communities, and we should not wait for a tank to fail before we invest in it. A major failure could threaten a community's fuel supply while also contaminating the land, water, and subsistence resources people depend on.

I would support a statewide assessment of aging bulk fuel facilities so we know which communities face the greatest risks and can prioritize repairs and replacements through the capital budget. We should also make sure communities have access to the technical assistance they need to maintain these systems and compete for state and federal infrastructure funding.

My experience working on the state budget taught me that preventive maintenance is almost always less expensive than responding to an emergency. I would rather invest now in replacing an aging

tank or repairing a failing system than ask a rural community to deal with a fuel shortage and environmental cleanup after something goes wrong.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I was disappointed that the Governor vetoed SB64. I believe we can strengthen the integrity and security of our elections while also making sure every eligible Alaskan has a meaningful opportunity to vote.

SB 64 included several reforms I support, including allowing voters to correct minor mistakes on absentee ballots before their ballots are rejected, creating a ballot tracking system, strengthening voter-roll maintenance, and improving safeguards against election interference and misconduct. It also addressed some of the unique challenges facing rural Alaska by recognizing Tribal IDs as valid voter identification and creating a rural liaison within the Division of Elections.

If elected, I would support bringing these reforms back to the Legislature. I would also work to improve communication with voters and make sure rural communities have reliable polling locations, trained poll workers, functioning equipment, and meaningful access to early and absentee voting.

Alaska's election system needs to work for every eligible voter, regardless of where they live. We can have elections that are secure and transparent while also making voting accessible to Alaskans across our state.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Where you live in Alaska should not determine whether you can cast your ballot. Many of the problems rural communities experience on Election Day are predictable, which means we should be planning for them well before an election.

If elected, I would push the Division of Elections to identify communities that have historically had difficulty opening polling places, recruiting poll workers, or maintaining functioning equipment and develop plans for those communities in advance. That includes recruiting and training poll workers

earlier, having backup equipment available, and planning for weather, transportation, and mail delays.

I also believe the state should work more closely with Tribal governments and local organizations. They know their communities and can be important partners in identifying polling locations, recruiting workers, providing language assistance, and communicating accurate election information.

I would also support reliable early and absentee voting options and better ballot tracking and curing. No Alaskan should lose their opportunity to vote because the state failed to adequately prepare for challenges we already knew existed.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? For too long, school districts have been asked to absorb rising costs without corresponding increases in funding. That has meant larger class sizes, fewer programs, difficulty recruiting and retaining teachers, and tremendous uncertainty for districts trying to build responsible budgets.

I don't think we should pick an arbitrary BSA number and consider the problem solved. We need to look at what it actually costs to educate students across Alaska, including the significantly higher costs faced by rural and remote districts, and adequately fund that need.

Once we establish an adequate funding level, I support automatically inflation-proofing the BSA. School districts should not have to return to the Legislature every year simply to keep their funding from losing purchasing power. Predictable, inflation-adjusted funding would allow districts to plan ahead, retain good educators, and put more of their attention where it belongs on educating Alaska's children.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Alaska has to become more competitive if we want to recruit great teachers and, more importantly, keep them here. That starts with stable school funding, competitive salaries and benefits, and a retirement system that gives educators a reason to build their careers in Alaska.

Rural districts face additional challenges that require specific solutions. I would support investments in safe, affordable teacher housing and programs that help communities grow their own educators. We should create stronger pathways for paraprofessionals and other local school employees to earn teaching credentials, and expand partnerships with the University of Alaska so students can complete more of their training without having to leave their communities.

We also need to reduce the constant uncertainty districts face over funding. It is difficult to recruit and retain teachers when districts are issuing pink slips or eliminating positions while waiting to see what the Legislature will do.

Ultimately, retention is about making teaching in Alaska a sustainable career. Competitive compensation, retirement security, adequate housing, professional support, and predictable school funding will help us keep experienced educators in our classrooms and provide students with the stability they deserve.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I would support expanding access to high-quality pre-K and making child care more affordable and available across Alaska. Right now, too many families cannot find care at all, and many providers are struggling with staffing and the cost of keeping their doors open.

We need to invest in the early childhood workforce by improving training opportunities, creating career pathways, and making it possible for providers to recruit and retain qualified staff. I also support partnerships among school districts, Tribes, Head Start programs, and local providers so we can expand early learning without assuming the same model will work in every community.

In rural Alaska, access may mean supporting smaller, community-based programs or bringing early learning opportunities into existing schools and community facilities.

Early childhood education is one of the best opportunities we have to help children arrive at school ready to learn. It also helps parents stay in the workforce. I would approach it as both an education priority and an important part of making Alaska more affordable for working families.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I want vocational and technical training to lead directly to good jobs in the communities where people live. That means starting with the workforce needs identified by Alaska Native communities themselves and building training opportunities around them.

I would support expanding career and technical education in our schools, apprenticeships, and partnerships with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, regional training centers, unions, employers, and the University of Alaska. We should be preparing Alaskans for the jobs communities need filled—from health care and construction to aviation, fisheries, energy, education, and maintaining water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure.

We also need to make training more accessible. Someone living in rural Alaska should not have to permanently relocate to Anchorage or Fairbanks just to earn a credential. I would support regional and community-based training, paid apprenticeships, and programs that combine distance education with hands-on instruction.

The goal should be straightforward: train Alaskans for Alaska jobs, help communities build their own skilled workforce, and give young people more opportunities to build successful careers close to home.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Protecting Alaska Native cultures and ways of life requires more than recognizing their importance. We need to support the conditions that allow cultures, languages, and traditions to be practiced and passed from one generation to the next.

I would support Alaska Native language revitalization and culturally relevant education, including programs developed and led by Alaska Native communities. I also support protecting subsistence opportunities and the lands, waters, fish, and wildlife that traditional ways of life depend upon.

We also have to recognize the connection between culture and the ability to remain in your home community. High energy costs, inadequate housing, limited infrastructure, and a lack of economic opportunity can force families to leave. Investments in rural schools, affordable energy, water and sanitation, broadband, housing, and local workforce development are also investments in the long-term strength of Alaska Native communities.

Most importantly, I would respect Tribal sovereignty and make sure Tribal governments have a meaningful role when state decisions affect their communities, resources, cultures, and ways of life.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Strong relationships are built through consistent communication and respect, not just consultation when there is a problem or a project that needs approval.

I would support regular, meaningful government-to-government engagement with Tribal governments and making sure Tribes are involved early when state policies or projects will affect their communities. Consultation should happen while decisions can still be shaped, not after the state has already decided what it wants to do.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Every Alaskan deserves to know that when they need help, someone will be there to respond. In too many rural communities, that is still not the reality.

I would support increased and reliable funding for Village Public Safety Officers and other rural public safety programs, but we also have to address the reasons positions remain vacant. That includes recruitment and retention, competitive compensation, training, and access to adequate housing for public safety personnel.

We should also strengthen partnerships among Tribal governments, communities, the Alaska State Troopers, VPSOs, and other law enforcement agencies. Communities should have a meaningful role in determining what an adequate public safety presence looks like for them rather than having a single model imposed statewide.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

Alaska's rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and missing and murdered Indigenous people are unacceptable, and there is no single solution to this crisis.

We need to invest in prevention while also making sure there is an effective response when violence occurs. I would support adequate funding for VPSOs, Alaska State Troopers, MMIP investigators, shelters, victim advocates, and sexual assault response services, including in rural communities where help may be hours away.

We also need much stronger coordination among Tribal, state, and federal law enforcement. When someone is reported missing or a crime occurs, jurisdictional boundaries should never become a reason for delays or gaps in an investigation. Agencies need clear protocols for sharing information and determining who is responsible for responding.

We have to listen to survivors, families, and Alaska Native communities about what they need. That includes culturally appropriate services, safe housing, counseling, legal assistance, and resources that are actually accessible in rural Alaska.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Survivors and their families should not have to figure out a complicated legal and support system on their own, especially while they are dealing with trauma.

I would support reliable funding for shelters, victim advocates, counseling, legal assistance, and sexual assault response services. Victim advocates are particularly important because they can help survivors understand the legal process, access services, apply for protective orders, and know what to expect as a case moves forward.

We also need to address the significant barriers facing people in rural Alaska. A service is not truly accessible if the nearest advocate, counselor, shelter, or attorney is hundreds of miles away. I would support expanding regional and community-based services, telehealth and remote counseling where appropriate, and assistance with transportation and emergency housing.

I also believe services should be culturally appropriate and developed in partnership with Tribal governments and Alaska Native organizations.

Most importantly, survivors need to know that when they ask for help, the system will respond. That requires adequately funding the organizations and people who provide that help and making sure services are available regardless of where someone lives.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ALYSE GALVIN: HD14

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is food security, cultural continuity, and a responsibility passed from one generation to the next. I will defend existing subsistence protections and work to expand meaningful access to the fish and wildlife communities depend on. That includes protecting habitat, restoring struggling fish stocks, and making sure subsistence users have a strong voice before decisions are made about harvests or development.

Expanding these rights also means expanding the ability to exercise them. I would work with Tribal leaders to identify barriers in state policy, support the resources needed for local stewardship, and seek solutions that respect federal subsistence protections and Alaska law. I would not claim to know what every community needs; I would listen to the people whose families rely on these resources.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. I support Tribal co-management of subsistence resources. Alaska Native communities have cared for these lands and waters for generations, and

their knowledge of changing conditions is essential to sound decisions about fish and wildlife. Co-management brings that knowledge together with scientific research and gives Tribal governments a continuing role in setting priorities, gathering information, and responding when conditions change.

For co-management to matter, it must be more than a request for comments after an agency has formed its plan. Tribal partners need a role early in the process, clear agreements about responsibilities and decision-making, and funding to participate fully. The details will differ by resource and jurisdiction, so I would work with Tribes, state agencies, and federal managers to build on approaches that communities say are working. Better cooperation can protect subsistence opportunities while sustaining healthy fish, wildlife, lands, and waters for future generations.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I would start by asking Tribal governments and regional Native organizations how they want to organize and lead this work, rather than asking them to fit a framework designed in Juneau. I would support funding for Tribal and regional capacity, including local monitoring, research, staff, and participation in management meetings. I would also work to establish agreements with state agencies that bring Tribal representatives into decisions early and set out how local knowledge and data will be used.

Where federal authority is involved, I would encourage the state to work with Tribes and federal managers on coordinated agreements. I would support pilot projects shaped by interested communities, evaluate them together with those communities, and use what we learn to expand Native-led participation. The goal is a lasting role in stewardship and decisions, backed by the resources needed to carry it out.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? It depends on the context. I do not support land transfers for the purpose of constructing casinos.

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? I will support community-led energy projects that reduce reliance on expensive imported fuel, including renewable generation, battery storage, and upgrades to local microgrids. I will also support investments that make existing power systems more efficient and reliable. Each community should be able to choose the solutions that fit its resources and lower costs for families over time.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? As a member of the House Finance Committee, I will continue to advocate for funding for safe drinking water, wastewater systems, broadband, and other essential rural infrastructure. I will work with Tribal and local governments to prioritize projects they identify, secure available federal matching funds, and provide for maintenance so these investments serve communities for years to come.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I support legislation to establish a bulk fuel storage repair and replacement program. The state should identify the facilities at greatest risk, fund timely repairs and replacements, and coordinate with communities on safe operation and maintenance. Acting now can prevent fuel shortages, costly spills, and harm to the lands and waters people depend on.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported SB 64 and voted to override the governor's veto. It would have let voters correct minor ballot errors, track absentee ballots, use Tribal IDs for voter identification, and receive better assistance in rural communities. It also included measures to maintain accurate voter rolls and improve election security. Although the veto stood, I would work to bring these reforms back. I would pair them with clear public reporting and enough time and funding for the Division of Elections to implement them well. Every eligible Alaskan should be able to vote and know that their ballot was counted.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? A polling place that never opens is a failure we must prevent. I would seek reliable funding for the Division of Elections to recruit, pay, and train local poll workers early, maintain backup workers and equipment, and confirm before Election Day that every location is ready. I would work with Tribal governments and rural communities on practical early voting and absentee voting options, including ballot tracking and a way to fix minor ballot errors. After each election, I would require prompt public reporting

on polling place closures, equipment failures, and rejected ballots so the state can correct problems before the next vote. SB 64's proposed rural community liaison and recognition of Tribal IDs were useful steps toward that goal. I support more expansive Legislative oversight of the Division of Elections and its implementation of these priorities.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes, but it needs to be properly funded to ensure there is enough support for the tribe to succeed at providing a quality education for its students.

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I supported the increase that brought the statutory BSA to \$6,660, but schools are still struggling to retain staff and maintain programs. I would work toward a BSA of at least \$8,000, informed by current school costs, and then adjust it annually for inflation. Districts need predictable funding early enough to hire teachers and plan for the school year. The Legislature should also review the formula regularly to ensure it reflects the costs of serving students in both urban and rural Alaska.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I would strengthen the path for Alaskans to become teachers through university partnerships, paid training, and support for local paraprofessionals seeking certification. To keep experienced educators, I support dependable school funding, competitive compensation, a retirement option that rewards long service, and less paperwork that takes teachers away from students. Rural districts also need reliable housing and broadband, with recruitment plans shaped by the communities they serve. I have supported legislation offering educators a defined-benefit retirement option.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I would improve access to state funding for pre-K, Head Start, and Early Head Start, especially where families have few options. That means supporting qualified early educators, working with local and Tribal providers, and making it easier for programs to serve children in rural communities. I also support child care assistance and family supports that help children arrive at school ready to learn.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? The State should work with Tribal governments, Alaska Native organizations, school districts, employers, and training centers to build programs around the jobs communities identify as priorities. Students should be able to explore careers in high school, earn credentials through local or regional training, and move into paid apprenticeships. State funding should help cover the travel, equipment, and instruction that make those opportunities possible in rural Alaska. My goal is to help young people build careers while giving them the choice to remain in their home communities.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? I don't think one is needed in every department, but I'm open to discussions on which departments would improve from the addition.

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I would support Alaska Native led language programs, including opportunities for children to learn from fluent speakers in schools and communities. I was proud to cosponsor legislation strengthening the Council for Alaska Native Languages. I would also listen to Tribes when decisions affect subsistence, lands, and waters. Protecting these ways of life means giving communities a meaningful role in decisions that affect them.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Strong relationships start with respect and regular communication. My approach has always been to bring people together across differences and focus on practical results.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Every community deserves a dependable response when someone calls for help. I will support sustained funding for Village Public Safety Officers, tribal and local public safety programs, and State Troopers. Funding must also cover housing, training, and retention so positions can actually be filled. I will work with communities to identify the mix of local officers and regional backup that meets their needs. Alaska's FY2026 budget added funding for five VPSOs and related housing and support, but there is more work to do.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? We need to prevent violence, respond quickly, and pursue cases thoroughly. I will support culturally grounded prevention led by communities and Tribes, reliable local public safety, and investigators and tribal liaisons dedicated to missing and murdered Indigenous people. I will also press for better coordination among Tribal, state, and federal agencies so families get timely information and cases do not fall between jurisdictions.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I will work to protect funding for shelters, counseling, legal advocacy, and victim advocates across Alaska, including services that can reach remote communities. Survivors and families should have a clear point of contact who explains the legal process, helps them find services, and keeps them informed as a case moves forward. I will listen to survivors and service providers about where the system fails them and use that input to improve it.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CAROLYN HALL: HD16

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Carolyn Hall / State House District 16 / Democrat / carolyn@carolynforalaska.com /
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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? In the Legislature, I serve on the House Resources Committee, where many of these issues come before us. I also co-sponsored HB 233 to protect the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve watershed from certain mining activities. Bristol Bay is an extraordinary resource, and protecting the fish, water, and habitat that sustain communities and subsistence traditions is important to me.

Going forward, I want to strengthen the role Alaska Native communities and Tribal governments have in resource decisions, protect the habitat our fish and wildlife depend on, and make sure subsistence remains available for future generations.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. Alaska Native voices should be central to decisions that affect their communities, and the state needs to respect Tribal sovereignty. Tribal co-management is one way we can put that principle into practice.

Alaska Native communities bring generations of knowledge and direct experience managing and living from Alaska's lands and waters. That knowledge matters especially as we face declining salmon runs, changing environmental conditions, and increasing pressure on our natural resources.

I don't think the state should make these decisions in Juneau and then ask communities what they think afterward. Tribes should be involved from the beginning as partners.

I support co-management approaches that bring Tribal governments, state and federal agencies together and combine Indigenous knowledge with the best available science. If we want healthy fish and wildlife populations and sustainable subsistence resources for future generations, the people who have depended on and cared for those resources for generations must have a meaningful role in managing them.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I would start by asking Alaska Native communities and Tribal governments what that framework should look like. A Native-led system shouldn't be designed for Tribes by the Legislature.

I would also support formal partnerships between Tribal governments and state agencies, greater opportunities for Tribal participation in resource management, and incorporating Indigenous knowledge into decision-making.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
Need More information.

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Rural Alaskans should not have to pay several times what people in urban Alaska pay just to keep the lights and heat on, which is why I support protecting Power Cost Equalization and continuing to invest in the Renewable Energy Fund, energy efficiency, weatherization, and local energy projects that can reduce communities' dependence on expensive imported fuel.

No single solution will work everywhere. We should be helping communities develop the mix that makes sense for them, whether that's hydro, wind, solar, battery storage, or improvements to existing systems.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Every Alaskan should have access to clean water, working sewer systems, and reliable internet. Those are basic things people need to live, work, and raise a family in their community.

Clean drinking water is something I've worked on the last two years while in office. I introduced HB 235 to address PFAS contamination in Alaska's drinking water, and I'll keep working to pass that bill.

We also need to keep investing in rural water and wastewater systems, broadband, and other basic infrastructure. And when federal funding is available, we should do everything we can not only to bring those dollars home to Alaska, but to match them with state funding, if required.

We also need to stop waiting until infrastructure breaks to act. Maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure now is cheaper than responding to an emergency later.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? This is exactly the kind of infrastructure problem where waiting until something fails will cost us far more than addressing it now.

I would support working with the Alaska Energy Authority, rural communities, and other stakeholders to identify which bulk fuel facilities are most at risk and develop a prioritized plan for repair and replacement. We should be using state capital funding and available federal dollars to address the highest-risk facilities before they fail.

These facilities are critical infrastructure. A failure could leave a community without a reliable fuel supply and create an environmental disaster that threatens drinking water and subsistence resources.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I voted for SB 64 because I believe we can make our elections more secure without making it harder for Alaskans to vote.

I used to work for the Anchorage Municipal Clerk's Office on voter education and outreach, so I've seen elections from the administrative side, too. I learned that elections work best when the rules are clear, voters understand the process, and people have multiple ways to cast their ballot. Communication between election administrators and voters is important, but it is also paramount for election workers. Fairness, transparency, and ensuring voters have access to polling locations on Election Day are critical foundations of our democracy. Our state's election administration is severely lacking in this area, and it is an incredible injustice for entire communities to be denied the right to vote.

I also support early voting, absentee voting, and making it easier for eligible Alaskans to participate. I also support better ballot tracking, clear communication with voters when there is a problem with their ballot, and continued improvements to election security.

Alaska is a huge state, and our election system has to work just as well for someone in a remote community as it does for someone in Anchorage.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? We need to start with something pretty basic: if the state tells people there will be a polling place in their community, that polling place needs to open, have trained workers, and have equipment that works.

We know recruiting poll workers can be difficult in small communities, so we need to start that process earlier and work more closely with Tribal governments and local organizations to find, train, and pay people. We also need reliable equipment, better access to early and absentee voting, and language assistance anywhere it is needed.

I would also like to see the state do a better job planning for things we know happen in rural Alaska, such as weather delays, transportation problems, mail delays, and equipment failures. Those aren't surprises.

Where you live should not determine how difficult it is to vote. I would use my election experience and my position in the Legislature to keep pushing the Division of Elections to identify these problems before Election Day and ensure rural communities have the same meaningful opportunity to vote as everyone else.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I absolutely believe the BSA should be inflation-proofed. I believed that before I was elected, and it has been one of my priorities in the Legislature.

I co-sponsored HB 69, which would have increased the BSA by \$1,000 and then provided additional increases and inflation adjustments in future years. I supported that because our schools have been trying to operate with funding that simply hasn't kept up with the cost of providing an education.

I don't think school districts should have to come back to the Legislature every year and fight just to keep up with inflation. We need an adequate BSA and a predictable way for it to grow as costs increase. That is particularly important in rural Alaska, where everything from heating a school to recruiting a teacher can cost significantly more.

Additionally, forward-funding education is another important step the Legislature should take to ensure that districts know, with appropriate advance notice, how to set their budgets.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? We have to make Alaska a place where teachers can afford to stay and build a career. That starts with adequately funding our schools. But funding alone isn't enough. Before I was elected, I also said we needed fair compensation and a dignified retirement for our teachers and public employees. In the Legislature, I voted for HB 78 to restore a defined-benefit retirement option.

For rural Alaska, we also need to recognize that recruiting a teacher is only part of the challenge. We have to give people reasons to stay. That means looking at teacher housing, the high cost of living, professional support, and opportunities to grow educators from within our communities.

Constant teacher turnover is hard on schools and especially hard on kids. I want Alaska to be a place where a great teacher is either homegrown or can arrive in a community, put down roots, and stay.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Affordable child care and early education were priorities for me before I was elected, and they remain so.

We need more child care options, but we also need to make sure the people providing that care can afford to stay in the profession. That means looking at how we support providers, build the early childhood workforce, and make care affordable for families.

We also have to recognize that the solution will look different across Alaska. A traditional child care center may work in Anchorage but not in a small rural community. We should be flexible and work with communities, Tribes, school districts, and local providers to build programs that actually work.

Child care and early education aren't just education issues. They're also workforce issues. Parents can't work if they can't find safe, affordable care for their kids.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I want young Alaskans to have more than one pathway to a good career. A four-year college degree is a great option for some people, but it shouldn't be the only pathway we invest in.

I support expanding career and technical education, apprenticeships, and partnerships between schools, Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, unions, employers, and our universities.

The training needs to match the jobs that exist and are needed in a community. Whether that's health care, construction, aviation, maritime work, energy infrastructure maintenance, or another local industry, we should provide training opportunities for Alaskans to get those jobs.

Whenever possible, people should be able to get that training closer to home. We shouldn't make leaving a rural community permanently the price of getting the skills needed for a good-paying job.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Protecting Alaska Native cultures and ways of life starts with listening to Alaska Native people and making sure they have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their communities.

That includes protecting subsistence, fish and wildlife habitat, and the lands and waters that traditions have depended on for generations. It also means supporting Alaska Native language and cultural programs in our schools and making sure those programs are shaped by the communities they serve.

I also believe strong communities are essential to keeping cultures and traditions strong. People need and deserve good schools, safe drinking water, affordable energy, housing, health care, and economic opportunities if they are going to stay in their communities and raise future generations.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? For me, that starts with showing up and listening. Tribal governments should be included early when the state is making decisions that affect their communities—not brought in at the end after most of the decisions have already been made.

I worked for Governor Walker, and two things about his leadership stood out to me and changed how I think about public policy and the Alaska Native perspective. One, everyone in the Governor's Office (and select workers in state departments) was required to receive Tribal training through First Alaskans. That experience changed my life in how I view and respect Alaska Native cultures and their millennium of existence. Two, Gov. Walker required Tribal liaisons in every state department, including a Native policy advisor in his office. His attentiveness in this area stood out to me, and I learned firsthand how to be a more respectful communicator, professional, and Alaskan. Those personal experiences resonated with me, and I carry them with me throughout my time in elected office and while crafting public policy.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I support continued investment in the Village Public Safety Officer program, and I voted for funding for the VPSO program during my first term. But funding positions isn't enough if communities can't find people to fill them. We also need to address recruitment, retention, training, and housing so communities can retain public safety officers.

We also need to listen to communities about what works for them. Public safety looks different in a small community compared to urban areas, and Tribal and local governments need to be part of developing those solutions.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? We have to address this from several directions. This includes prevention, adequate law enforcement resources, continued and additional support for MMIP investigations, better coordination between Tribal, state, and federal agencies, and making sure survivors have somewhere safe to go.

This is something I've worked on directly. I sponsored HB 222 after learning about threats and violence directed at shelters and victim counseling centers. These organizations perform life-saving work, and the people who work there and the survivors who turn to them for help need to be safe.

HB 222 would establish a new protective order specific for domestic violence shelters, tailored to the needs of those environments.

We also need to improve how agencies communicate and share information when someone is missing or a crime is reported. Families should not have to fight the system to get attention.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? One of the most important things we can do is make sure the organizations helping survivors have the resources they need to do their jobs.

That's one reason I sponsored HB 222. Victim counseling centers and shelters provide a safe place to go, counseling, advocacy, and help navigating a system that can be burdensome and overwhelming. When those organizations are threatened, it becomes harder for those employees to protect the people who need them.

I will continue supporting funding for shelters, victim advocates, counseling, legal assistance, and other services for survivors and their families. We also need to ensure those services are available in rural Alaska and culturally appropriate for the communities they serve.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ZACK FIELDS: HD17

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Zack Fields / HD 17 / Democrat / zackfields@gmail.com / Not Provided

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes, but this is obviously a complex area so support more accountability but I don't believe in engaging in unrealistic rhetoric around "banning" trawling.

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? The state should fully support them in court, to start, rather than litigating against subsistence.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. YES

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I'm not sure what this would look like and would welcome learning more.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES, and specifically I support full funding for REF.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES, but we need to recognize PCE is insufficient amid massive increases in fuel costs, and need to reduce dependence on imported fuels—see REF etc.

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Fully fund REF so every single community has cheaper renewable energy to offset if not eliminate exposure to diesel prices.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I've supported all funding streams for rural Alaska (eg rural safe water) but on a high level we've grossly underinvested in capital budgets over the last decade and I'd like to fix that.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I don't know that the state is the logical lead funder for this; our investments should complement recent federal increases.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I voted for the bill and the veto override.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Starts with systemic reform at DOE.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes, provided we protect employees collective bargaining rights.

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes.

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? We should link BSA and pupil transport and the energy cost factor to inflation, *and* increase BSA by another few hundred dollars to catch up for prior years inflation.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Defined benefits is key; we also need to expand teacher apprenticeships (which were pioneered in LKSD and Bristol Bay)

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Yes and I've fought for funding these through state appropriations.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I've long supported TVEP & STEP and will continue to do so.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES, and Walker admin tribal liaisons in state agencies is a model we should return to.

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes.

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes, and I was the Labor Dept's tribal liaison in Walker admin.

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? See answers above on energy, subsistence, voting rights, language vitality.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Support tribal sovereignty.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes, and I have done this.

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes, and I have done this.

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes, but I don't know what specifics are needed.

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Funding.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? Suggest sharing my ANDVSA answers which are comprehensive on this.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? See my answer to ANDVSA questionnaire.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CLIFF GROH: HD18

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I've been grateful to hear from Alaska Native leaders across the state about many of these issues. I am a strong supporter of the rural preference, along with balanced fisheries and game management for all user groups. I look forward to learning more from Alaska Native leaders about how else lawmakers can support subsistence hunters, fishers and gatherers across the state.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Alaska Native communities have managed these resources for thousands of years, and that knowledge belongs at the table, not as an afterthought once decisions are already made.

I have great respect for Tribal government, and think the State should continue to work with Tribal government to make decisions about resource management. The State works best when it consults Tribes in good faith as partners.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? The communities that depend on subsistence resources should have a strong voice in how these resources are managed.

I support a rural subsistence preference. Alaska's current conflict with federal law on this issue has left rural communities caught between two management systems, and I'm willing to work with legislators from all regions toward a lasting fix.

I also believe the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game should reflect all the people affected by their decisions. Subsistence users, and Alaska Native communities in particular, are too often outnumbered by commercial and sport interests. I would look closely at board appointments and support nominees who bring rural and subsistence experience.

Finally, management decisions should follow the best available science, including the traditional knowledge Alaska Native communities have built over generations. When politics overrides science, fish and wildlife populations suffer, and rural families feel it first.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? A few immediate thoughts come to mind:

1. Protect the Power Cost Equalization program.
2. Subsidize energy costs with an energy rebate to support families during the winter.
3. Hold producers accountable to their existing commitments so we can bring more natural gas to market, reducing cost.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I was proud to support investments in reliable infrastructure in rural Alaska when I previously served in the Alaska State House. In 2024, I voted to keep Village Safe Water funding focused on off-road rural communities, where many homes still lack running

water. I'll continue to protect that program and support the state match needed to bring in federal water and sanitation dollars.

On broadband, I voted for the Internet for Schools bill that raised school internet speeds, which matters most for rural students. I'll support efforts to extend reliable broadband to homes, clinics, and businesses as well.

On energy, I voted to protect the Power Cost Equalization endowment, including voting to block an attempt to drain it, and to extend the Renewable Energy Grant Fund that helps rural communities cut fuel costs.

On ports and harbors, I voted for harbor facility grants and for emergency funding to repair the Metlakatla breakwater.

I look forward to working with representatives and leaders from the region to identify infrastructure priorities.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I would support bulk fuel storage expansion and replacement. I look forward to working with Tribal governments to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective course of action to mitigate impacts from deferred maintenance.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. If I had been in the legislature when SB64 was being discussed, I would have voted in support and voted to override the veto. My district faces a lot of different challenges from those in rural Alaska — but voters in my district are also disproportionately impacted by the inability to cure ballots, like many Alaska Native voters in rural Alaska. In my district, military voters are much more likely to have their ballots thrown out when voting absentee. Every voter should have the chance to have their voice heard, whether they live in Deering, on JBER, or if they are overseas serving our country.

I think the proposed changes in SB64 were fantastic, and a great example of the kind of bipartisan collaboration I aspire to be part of in the House.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? In many cases, this comes down to a lack of funds to keep polling places open. But we don't have to underfund rural voting access. We have to raise revenues to be able to fully fund these kinds of public services. I support closing the S-Corp tax loophole and raising taxes by a moderate amount to be able to fully fund public services like our Division of Elections.

Ballot tracking technology is also long overdue for mail-in ballots. Voters should be able to keep track of where their ballot goes after they put it in the mail.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I strongly support increasing the BSA to a level to give it the same purchasing power that it had a decade ago, and I also strongly support inflation-proofing the BSA. This is one of my top legislative priorities. When I knock doors in my community, I hear from so many of my neighbors about the pressing need for increased and sustainable education funding.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Improving the retirement system for educators is one way we can improve teacher retention. Returning to a defined-benefit pension system is the common sense solution to attract and retain talent in education.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? In the Legislature, I voted for HB 89 and SB 189, which expanded tax credits for businesses that contribute to child care and child care facilities and updated the state's child care assistance and grant programs. I also voted to add support for students in kindergarten through third grade, with extra help for schools serving low-income families.

If elected, I will keep child care assistance working for families and keep encouraging employers to invest in child care. We can also cut burdensome red tape that stops home care providers from being able to compete.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? There's a great opportunity for private-public partnerships in job placement in rural communities. Tribes, Native corporations, and training centers should collaborate to connect workers to jobs in their communities. I'd support that from the state level.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I cosponsored and voted for HB 26, now law, which continues the state's recognition of Alaska Native languages as official languages and supports the Council for Alaska Native Languages. I'll support stable funding for language programs in schools and communities. I'll also defend subsistence and stand against state actions that infringe on the hunting, fishing, and gathering practices rural families depend on.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? When working on issues impacting Alaska Native communities, I'll work with Tribal governments as partners and prioritize early communication with all relevant entities. I'll also work with the federal delegation on these issues.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? No Alaskan should wait hours or days for help in an emergency. I'll support stable funding for Village Public Safety Officers and Alaska State Troopers, along with better pay and housing so rural communities can recruit and keep officers. I'll also support tribal and local partnerships that let communities hire their own public safety officers with state support.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? As a former prosecutor, I've seen how these crimes devastate families. In the Legislature I cosponsored and voted for the law creating Alaska's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission. I'll make sure that the commission is funded and its recommendations are acted on. I'll also push for more officers in rural communities, faster processing of sexual assault evidence, and prevention programs developed with tribes.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Victims shouldn't have to navigate the legal system alone. I'll support stable funding for shelters, victim advocates, and counseling, including in rural communities that have none today. I'll also push for victims and families to get timely updates on their cases, and for free legal help with protective orders and custody.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ANDREW GRAY: HD20

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is essential to the food security, culture, and traditions of Alaska Native communities, and must be protected for future generations. I would support policies that protect access to traditional hunting, fishing, gathering, and harvesting areas. Alaska Native communities should have a strong voice in decisions affecting those resources. Protecting subsistence also means protecting the lands, waters, fish, and wildlife that make these practices possible.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Tribes should be partners in decisions that impact Alaska, not simply asked for comments after decisions have already been developed. Stronger co-management can bring together local experience, and science to make better decisions while ensuring that Alaska Native communities have a meaningful voice in the future of the resources that sustain them.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I would work closely with the Alaska Federation of Natives, Tribal leaders, and Alaska Native communities to better understand the challenges they face with the current subsistence management system and where changes are most needed. I would support a constitutional amendment giving Native preference to subsistence resources.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? If a gas pipeline is built it should offer every community along its path access to that resource. We can also build out better transportation networks that allow for fuel to be transported at less expensive rates. I also support pilot micro-nuclear grid projects and investment in renewable sources of energy (hydro, geothermal, wind, and solar).

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I would support state grants and capital funding to support these types of projects.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Our state is far behind in the maintenance of its infrastructure. We need to invest in our deferred maintenance. Communities with needs should bring them to the legislature. I support funding these types of projects.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported SB64 and, if we keep RCV, I would add a provision requiring ranking data from day one. This would provide additional transparency and a more accurate picture of who is ahead from the time of the first posted results.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? The State needs to modernize voting equipment, improve training, and do more to ensure rural communities have the staffing and resources necessary to conduct elections. When the State knows a community may not have enough local poll workers, election officials should be sent to that community so polling locations can open and every Alaskan has a fair opportunity to vote. I am also open to expanding mandatory mail ballots for the most remote precincts that are routinely challenged with staffing their precinct.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? The BSA should provide schools with stable, adequate funding that reflects the actual cost of educating Alaska students. I support establishing a sustainable BSA with an inflation adjustment so schools are not repeatedly losing purchasing power.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Alaska needs to make it easier to recruit and retain good teachers, particularly in rural communities, through competitive compensation, housing support, and incentives for long-term service. I would also support programs that help Alaskans become teachers and remain in

their own communities. I support programs that allow teaching credentials to be earned in remote communities.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I support expanding access to early childhood education including Head Start, particularly in rural and underserved communities where options are limited. I would work with school districts, Tribes, and local providers to identify funding and practical ways to expand programs. I am interested in state-funded preK for all.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Programs should reflect local opportunities, including construction, transportation, maritime industries, energy, health care, and other skilled trades.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? As a legislator, I have supported and will continue to support efforts that protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life. Specific actions depend on the legislation or proposal before us, but I am committed to listening to Alaska Native communities and working with them to identify where state policy and resources can make a meaningful difference,

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Co-Chair of the Joint Armed Services committee, I have made it a priority to reach out to Tribes and the Alaska Federation of Natives for their input on issues coming before the committee that affect Alaska Native communities. I will continue that approach.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Many of the challenges we face with public safety are similar to those we face with teachers and other essential workers in rural Alaska. We need better housing, competitive compensation and retirement benefits, stronger recruitment and retention efforts, and more opportunities to recruit and train public safety officers from within the communities they will serve.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I raised the age of consent in Alaska from 16 to 18. I am working on legislation to expand Domestic Violence Protective Orders for up to 5 years. These serious crimes need to be investigated and prosecuted aggressively, regardless of where in Alaska they occur. There needs to be a certainty of consequences for those who commit these crimes. We need adequate law enforcement and investigative resources in rural communities so that reports of domestic violence, sexual assault, and missing or murdered people result in timely investigations and, when the evidence supports it, arrests and successful prosecutions.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? We need to ensure that there are safe places for people to go in every community in cases of domestic violence and abuse We need to ensure that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault have a safe place to go and access to support, regardless of where they live in Alaska. That means supporting shelters, victim advocates, counseling, and other services while making sure victims and their families have clear information and assistance as they navigate the legal process.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

TED J. EISCHEID: HD22

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage?

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I support balance on the BOF/BOG so all perspectives are considered, including subsistence, indigenous knowledge, and science'

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I support management that gives voice to all user groups, including indigenous knowledge.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I support efforts to create strong native fish and wildlife management expertise that can provide an indigenous as well as scientific perspective to current fish/wildlife management, increasing its effectiveness while giving Alaska natives a role in management decision making. Related, I support programs that grow the participation of Alaska natives in pursuing education in professional fish/wildlife management in increase their representation in local/state/federal natural resource management staffs.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Where deemed legal, yes, I support this process.

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes, I support Tribal consultation as a standard operating procedure for major SOA projects.

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes. Supporting a diversified energy program, including renewables, is good for Alaska.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes, I support the PCE and the good things it does for energy affordability in rural AK.

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Support energy diversification and a transition away from expensive diesel.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I would continue funding of present state programs that bolster these essential services. Moreover, I would encourage our federal congressional delegation to prioritize bringing in federal dollars to support these efforts. Finally, I would like to see mandatory maintenance plans/budgeting requirements for any new projects so allay the deferred maintenance problems we see with so many SOA facilities.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis?

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes.

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes.

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes.

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes?

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported this legislation as it was good

compromise election reform. I support all reforms that make voting easier, such as eliminating the witness signature requirement for absentee ballots.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting?

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts?

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes.

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes.

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes.

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed?

a. When we passed legislation last year increasing the BSA by \$700, we fell short of the total \$1800 increase needed to account for inflation over the last 15 previous years of flat funding. I would like to see the BSA increase by an additional \$1,100 per student per year to get the inflation adjusted funding level back to where it was in 2010.

b. The BSA should have an automatic inflation adjustment annually to avoid the problem we see from persistent flat funding of education.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators?

a. Pass a defined-benefit pension bill to attract and retain high quality teachers.

b. Ensure that rural Alaska has adequate education staff housing.

c. Study programs that enhance teacher salaries for districts with high staff turnover. d. Enhance apprenticeship and education programs that allows rural Alaska to “grow their own” education staffs from local residents.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Fully fund the state required match for Head Start so we can maximize that program.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities?

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes.

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes.

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes.

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life?

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments?

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes.

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes.

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes.

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence?

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families?

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

JEANNE TROSHYNSKI: HD26

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Food security is a huge issue for me. I will work with you to assure access to subsistence hunting, gathering, and fishing. I think this must also include protection of our waters and wildlife habitat.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I do support Tribal co-management for three reasons. First, the longtime relationship between Native Alaskans and this land is critical to preserving and protecting the land for future generations. Second, due to the dependence of the People on the land and waters for subsistence, I feel the Tribes bring knowledge to the work that would be foolish to ignore. Third, I feel the Tribes working knowledge of the interrelationships between life, land, and water are critical in making any discussions regarding management.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I feel like this is an excellent idea. I would love to work on legislation to assure this happens.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? We have to work statewide to find renewable resources to off set energy costs. I would like to see this work done by Alaskans.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I will support any and all programs that improve drinking water, resolve wastewater issues, increase broadband and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska. I don't have specific programs in mind, because I feel like these programs should be in response to community needs and requests. I will research programs that are available to provide support for these areas.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Environmental protection is very important to me. At the same time, I understand the need for fuel. We have to get these aging systems fixed.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support the addition of the language related to identification for voting to include: identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe. This is an important recognition of the validity of the tribes and Native Corporations.

I will be looking to see what can be done to assure all Alaskans of legal age access to voting. This is a fundamental to our democracy. I am deeply concerned about the federal administrative recent attempts to undermine mail in voting. This should be a huge concern for all Alaskans.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I am willing to work with all members of rural communities to assure the challenges to voting in Alaska are addressed. I want to hear from you as to suggestions for making this possible. I would support both funding and actions that would create access to voting in rural Alaska.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? The BSA has not increased with inflation for many years. It needs to be increased to meet the lack of increases and inflation proofed.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? First, a defined benefit pension program must be reinstated. We cannot expect to recruit and maintain high-quality staff when we are not competitive with other states. I thought the teacher-mentor program for new teachers was really a good idea. I would like to see a program like that implemented, funded, and fully supported. I would like to see the state provide a program that incentivizes children in rural areas to become teachers and return to rural areas to teach. Early childhood education must be available as a part of free public education.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? We have to fund early childhood education. This funding needs to include training and certifications for early childhood educators. Alaska ranks 49 in the nation now for education. To make significant improvement to our education system we need to start with early childhood education.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? We need to find ways to provide vocational and technical programs that are accessible to Alaska Native communities. Each community needs to provide input on the needs of that community and then training can be made available through area hubs.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? First, I think it is critical to acknowledge the significance of Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life. This respect is key to moving forward. Second, I want to hear from Native Alaskans on what they see as ways to support these areas.

How will you contribute to building stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Again, the state legislature has to show a sincere respect for Native Alaskans and their cultures and way of life. I would like to see as much involvement as possible of Native Alaskans at all levels of government.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? These positions must be funded and supported with training. Again, seeking input from each community in this process is critical.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? A public safety presence in each community would be a good start. Again, I would want to start with what do the Native Alaskan communities see as possible solutions? I'd want to explore what areas are having the least problems and see how we can replicate their work.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? There needs to be both education and sexual assault response available to all communities. Education is important to work to prevent violence. There has to be response programs that can offer support to victims. I will work for legislation and funding to support such programs.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

SANDRA LOOMIS: HD30

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Sandra Loomis / Alaska House of Representatives, District 30 / Democrat /
sandra@sandraforalaska.com / <https://www.sandraforalaska.com/>

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Protect Subsistence rural preference for hunting/fishing.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I would be interested in education from your organization about this topic as I will be a new legislator.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I feel that indigenous values may be the best path for protecting the environment of our planet.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Big Yes.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Big Yes.

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Advocate for small to medium energy projects that are sustainable and community based.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I feel that every person in our county should have easy access to clean drinking water, wastewater services, broadband and basic infrastructure.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I believe in addressing the many deferred maintenance projects that Alaska has been putting off for a long time. I also think that a fuel reserve program could protect the rural areas of Alaska during high fuel prices.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? BIG YES!

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Big Yes!

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes.

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. Any policies that make it easier for people to vote. Easy access to voting is a sign of a free society.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal

access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I would make it a priority.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts?

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes.

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? If local communities want it, yes.

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes.

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I believe about 8,500 would put it where it should be with the inflation rate since it has been raised. Yes, I support forward funding and inflation proofing.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? A defined benefit pension plan and loan forgiveness programs for teaching in rural areas.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I fully support and believe that these programs are the best way forward for the health and success of our State.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities?

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes.

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Unsure.

Short Answer:

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Need guidance from your organization.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I would like to be a partner in that process.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes.

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Big YES!

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes.

Short Answer:

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I fully support this.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? First step would be to fully process rape kits. Support: DELTA Ahead, VAWA Pgms & FVPSA (Shelter). Fund Domestic Violence prevention and training programs.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I support the May 2026 bill (HB48) that was passed to increase funding for the state's largest provider of free civil legal aid—support that helps survivors secure protective orders, maintain custody, and navigate housing and financial disputes. I support the continued effort to invest in shelters, victim services, and coordination across tribal and local systems.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

MAXINE DIBERT: HD31

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Not Provided / Not Provided / Not Provided / Not Provided / Not Provided

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is very personal to me. I am Koyukon Athabascan, and I grew up hunting, fishing, and spending time at my grandparents' hunting grounds and fish camp. These traditions are very important because they help connect us to our families and our culture.

I will continue to protect subsistence access and make sure rural and Alaska Native communities have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting our resources. I also believe our management decisions should be guided by the best available science braided with generations of Indigenous knowledge.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Absolutely. Alaska Native people have managed and cared for these lands and resources for thousands of years. Tribal governments bring generations of knowledge that should be valued and included as part of how we manage our fish, wildlife, lands, and waters.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Over the past four years, I've been able to listen to Tribal governments and Alaska Native organizations about what more indigenous inclusion in governance should look like. I would be proud to support efforts that put that framework into practice and strengthen the State's relationships with Tribes. As the current Chair of Tribal Resources and the Co-Chair of the Resources Committee, I will work toward expanding the relationship between the State and our tribal governments.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? It's an honor to serve as Co-Chair of the Resources Committee where making energy more affordable and reliable is a top priority of mine. I support the LNG gasline and voted for every version of the bill. I also voted for \$116.5 million in direct energy relief for Alaskans and supported modernizing the Railbelt grid to bring down costs. Different communities need different solutions, and I support an all-of-the-above approach that makes sense for each community. We need to invest in generation and transmission, support weatherization and energy efficiency, expand natural gas, and continue to develop local resources like wind, solar, hydropower, and possibly micro-nuclear.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I will continue supporting programs like Village Safe Water and investments in rural broadband, while making sure Alaska takes full advantage of available federal funding. We also need to invest in maintaining this infrastructure and training the local workforce needed to keep these systems operating.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? We cannot wait until aging bulk fuel facilities fail to address this problem. I support continued investment in the Bulk Fuel Upgrade Program to prioritize maintenance, repairs, and replacement of facilities most at risk. I will also work with Tribal and local governments to identify their most urgent needs and secure available State and federal funding before these problems become emergencies.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported this piece of bipartisan legislation that advanced this past session that would have allowed for voters to correct technical errors on mailed ballots. Any policy that increases accessibility to voting and that ensures every one of our residents are able to vote without difficulty is worthy of serious consideration, including free postage for ballot return envelopes.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I support better recruitment and training of local election workers and believe that planning should happen year round, not just when we're close to an election. Voting is a constitutional right and it is incredibly important to me that we make the process easy and accessible. Rural Alaska needs special attention and if necessary additional funding to ensure that every polling location is staffed and every resident has easy access to their guaranteed right to vote.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? As someone who taught in Fairbanks public schools for over two

decades, there is no policy issue more important to me than ensuring our students are successful and that they receive the quality of education they deserve. Improving public education starts with treating it like the constitutional responsibility that it is. Alaska needs to significantly increase the BSA and provide school districts with predictable and consistent funding that keeps up with inflation.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? When I studied to become a teacher over 20 years ago, I was told that I should consider other professions because getting a teaching job was so competitive that I might wait years for a job. Today, we are facing critical shortages of teachers. It's not a mystery why: our teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public servants are not being offered competitive benefits, including a prevailing wage and a livable retirement like the great majority of other states offer. I support competitive pay and restoring a defined-benefit retirement option. I also believe strongly in growing our own workforce by supporting the University of Alaska and creating pathways for people from rural communities to become educators.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I am proud of my record having consistently supported investments that expand access to early childhood education and childcare for Alaska families. I supported \$6.4 million in increased funding for Head Start, Parents as Teachers, infant learning programs, and more to address our childcare workforce shortage. I also supported SB 95 to expand childcare assistance to more families and strengthen support for childcare providers. I will continue working to increase access to early learning programs, particularly for communities where there are even fewer options. I believe our families and all young Alaskans would benefit from universal preschool and I will support any legislation that moves us in that direction.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I have made workforce development and vocational education a priority throughout my time in the Legislature. I supported changes to the Alaska Performance Scholarship that created more opportunities for students pursuing career and technical education, and I have supported and will continue to support investment in technical and vocational training programs across the state. We must continue to identify the workforce needs in each region through partnerships with Tribal governments, local leaders, employers, and unions to ensure we are working together to address the workforce shortages.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? This is deeply personal to me. I am one of only a few Alaska Native legislators serving today, and during my first term, I was the only Alaska Native woman in the House. For too long, Indigenous people have been left out of decisions that directly impact our communities, and I am proud to see that representation slowly growing here in our state, but also across the country. I sponsored the resolution that urged the preservation of the name Denali which we adopted by a wide margin. I co-sponsored and helped advance legislation strengthening the Council for Alaska Native Languages, and I continue to support Indigenous language and cultural programs in our schools. As Chair of House Tribal Affairs, I have worked on State-Tribal Education Compacting to give Tribal governments a greater role in educating their children. I will continue supporting efforts like these to protect and strengthen our cultures and ways of life.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? As Chair of House Tribal Affairs, strengthening these relationships has been an important part of my work. This session, our committee worked extensively on State-Tribal Education Compacts, which would give participating Tribes a greater role in operating public schools and incorporating local culture, language, and traditional knowledge into education. I will continue bringing Tribal leaders directly into the legislative process and looking for more opportunities for all of these governments to combine their resources and expertise to better serve Alaskans.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I have supported increased funding for Village Public Safety Officers, including funding approved this past year for additional VPSOs, as well as housing and support. As Chair of House Tribal Affairs, I have also brought the Department of Public Safety before our committee specifically to discuss rural public safety and the VPSO program. I will continue supporting VPSOs, ASTs, and other rural public safety programs while addressing

the workforce challenges that make these positions difficult to fill. That includes competitive compensation and retirement benefits and workforce housing to ensure that every community has a strong public safety presence.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

This has been a priority of mine throughout my time in the Legislature. I co-sponsored HB 234 to establish a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission and strengthen the State's response to MMIP. I have also supported funding for MMIP investigators and victim services. I will continue making MMIP a funding priority and working to ensure cases are thoroughly investigated, families get the answers and justice they deserve, and victims and survivors have access to the support and resources they need.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families?

This past session, I helped move HB 384 through our committee. The legislation would extend existing confidentiality protections for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors to those receiving victim counseling services through Tribal governments. I will continue listening to survivors, Tribal organizations, advocates, and service providers about where gaps remain and work to ensure victims and their families can access the support they need.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

BARBARA HANEY: HD33

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Barbara Haney / Alaska House of Representatives, District 33 / Republican /
barbarahaney100@gmail.com / HaneyforAKHouse.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? The most serious threat to subsistence in Alaska is not legal. It is biological. A statute protecting a right to harvest salmon is worth nothing on a river where the salmon no longer return. I would start where the resource is actually being lost. That means managing on the biology rather than on which user group lobbies hardest. I am on record supporting restrictions in Area M based on the science, and I would apply the same standard anywhere a stock is in trouble. It means real accountability for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch, because fish intercepted at sea never reach the Yukon or the Kuskokwim. It means enforcing the subsistence priority already in Alaska statute during periods of shortage rather than treating it as aspirational. For the Interior it means supporting the hatcheries that keep local stocks viable. I will be straight with you about the word "expanded." I do not believe I can promise a legal expansion that Alaska's constitution, as the courts have read it, does not permit. What I can promise is to fight for the fish and game themselves, because that is what determines whether the right means anything.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. No, and I would rather say so plainly than give a soft answer I could not act on. I am not a lawyer and will not pretend to resolve a body of law that has occupied courts for decades - McDowell, the Katie John litigation, John v. United States. What I take from it as a legislator is this. Alaska's constitution, as our courts have read it, does not permit the state to grant a rural or Tribal subsistence priority, while federal law requires one on federal lands and waters. That is why we live under a dual management system serving almost no one well. I will not promise co- management authority the state constitution withholds. I understand why this matters. Decisions made in Juneau by people who have never relied on a subsistence harvest determine whether families eat. Knowledge held in a village for generations is treated as anecdote while a model built elsewhere is treated as data. That grievance is real and I do not dismiss it. What I can support within this framework: meaningful consultation before decisions, fair representation for rural and subsistence users on the boards, and management driven by biology and local observation rather than politics.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I am not going to support a separate Native-led management framework, for the reasons I gave above. I want to be consistent rather than tell each audience what it prefers to hear. What I will support is making the existing framework answer to the people who depend on it. Three things specifically. Representation. The Board of Fisheries and Board of Game should fairly reflect every user group, including the rural and subsistence users whose food security depends on these decisions. A board weighted toward one interest produces decisions the rest of Alaska cannot trust. Evidence. Local and traditional knowledge is data. A family that has fished the same stretch of river for four generations has an observational record longer than most studies, and management that ignores it is working with worse information, not better. I would want that knowledge formally in the record, not merely heard and set aside. Consultation that happens before the decision. Being informed after the fact is not consultation. If the state is acting on something that affects a tribe's subsistence resources, the tribe should be at the table while the question is still open.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
No

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? No

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Rural energy costs are structural, and so are the fixes. Protect Power Cost Equalization without qualification. The endowment exists to hold down residential and community power costs in the highest-cost parts of Alaska, and it should be preserved for that statutory purpose and not raided to patch an operating deficit. I apply the same rule to the Permanent Fund. A structural deficit tempts every legislature to reach for whatever endowment is nearest, and that converts a durable asset into a one-time patch. Attack the cost of delivered fuel. In much of rural Alaska the price of power is really the price of diesel plus the cost of getting it there and storing it. Bulk fuel infrastructure, barge and air logistics, and storage losses are where the money actually goes, and they are addressable. Treat transmission and generation as critical infrastructure in capital budgeting, and account for lifecycle maintenance at the front end rather than deferring it into a future crisis. Fund what works on cost-effectiveness. Where a local project genuinely lowers delivered cost per kilowatt-hour, I will support it. My test is the ratepayer's bill, not the technology.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Three principles, and one discipline. First, compete seriously for the federal dollars already appropriated for rural water, wastewater, and broadband. Other states draw these down efficiently and Alaska does not always. Money left on the table is the cheapest money we will ever fail to spend. Second, build for the climate and the logistics we actually have. Infrastructure designed for the Lower 48 and installed on permafrost fails early, and the replacement cost falls on a community that could not afford the first one. Third, broadband is not a convenience in rural Alaska. It is how telehealth reaches a village with no clinic, how a student takes a course the school cannot staff, and how a victim reaches an advocate. I would treat it as essential infrastructure. The discipline is the one I apply to every capital appropriation: fund the maintenance when you fund the build. Alaska has a long record of approving projects on construction cost alone and then watching them fail for want of operating support. A water system that runs for six years and then stops has cost a community more than no system at all, because it also cost them the alternative.

3. Many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska need major maintenance. What is your plan to address this before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? This is the clearest example I know of a problem Alaska created by budgeting only for construction, and one I have discussed for years. Deferred maintenance is not a saving. It is a debt that compounds, and the interest is paid in failures. A bulk fuel facility at the end of its service life is not merely an energy risk. It is a fuel spill into a river that a community drinks from and fishes, and the cleanup will cost many multiples of the maintenance that would have prevented it. We will pay either way. The only question is whether on a schedule we choose or one a failure chooses. My plan has three parts. Inventory honestly, with condition assessments that are current rather than a decade old, so the Legislature knows the real exposure. Prioritize by risk, putting the facilities closest to failure and nearest to water first rather than spreading money evenly. Then fix the practice that caused this: require lifecycle maintenance costs to be identified and funded when a project is approved, not discovered twenty years later. I would also pursue federal cost-share aggressively, since much of this infrastructure was federally funded to begin with.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? No

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB 64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I supported parts of SB 64 and had real concerns about others, and I will say which is which. The provision I support most is the one that got the least attention: shortening the timeline for removing inactive voters from the rolls.

Alaska's current process can leave a registration in place for up to eight years after someone has moved or died, and our rolls are inflated as a result. I have advocated using the National Change of Address database for exactly this purpose. Clean rolls protect everyone, particularly confidence in close races. My concern was the one the governor identified in his veto: allowing a missing witness signature to be cured after a ballot has already been returned creates real tension with the witness requirement itself. If we are going to keep that requirement, it has to mean something at the moment of voting. Where I think SB 64 was right is in recognizing that hundreds of fixable ballots went uncounted in 2024, many from rural communities and military families. That is a genuine problem. I would support ballot tracking and faster counting, and address the curing question in a way that does not hollow out the witness requirement.

2. There continue to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. How would you address these disparities? A polling place that does not open is a denial of the vote. There is no partisan version of that sentence. These are administration and resourcing failures rather than policy disagreements, which means they are fixable without anyone surrendering a principle. Poll worker recruitment in small communities needs real compensation and real training, not a volunteer appeal three weeks out. Equipment needs to be tested, maintained, and replaced on a schedule, with backup plans that work when a plane does not fly. The Division of Elections needs enough regional staff that a community is not one illness away from no election at all. I would want the Division reporting publicly, by precinct, on polling places that failed to open, equipment that failed, and ballots that went uncounted and why. You cannot fix what you are not measuring, and the absence of that reporting is itself part of the problem. I will be straightforward that I hold positions some will disagree with, including requiring absentee ballots to be received by Election Day. I do not think any of that is in conflict with ensuring that a precinct in a village functions as reliably as one in Fairbanks.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap?
No

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? No

Short Answer

1. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I do not have a number for you, and I would be suspicious of a candidate who did. Alaska spends near the top of the nation per student and ranks near the bottom in reading and math proficiency. That gap is the central fact of Alaska education policy, and increasing the Base Student Allocation without addressing it means funding the same outcomes at a higher price. My position is reform first, then funding - not instead of funding. The reforms I would want alongside any increase: dollars that reach the classroom rather than administration, a hard focus on reading and math proficiency in the early grades, real support for teachers facing classroom behavioral problems they cannot currently address, and honest reporting of what districts spend and what results follow. On automatic inflation-proofing, no. An automatic escalator removes the Legislature from the decision and guarantees the increase regardless of performance. I would rather have the argument every few years, with evidence on the table, than put education funding on autopilot and lose the only moment when outcomes are examined. Rural districts face genuine cost differences. Those belong in the funding formula explicitly, not buried in a statewide number.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? From 2007 to 2010 I taught on a federal grant, Rural Education Adult Literacy, serving Alaska Native students off the road system. That experience shapes this answer. Retention in rural Alaska is not primarily a salary problem, though salary matters. It is a problem of housing, isolation, and support. Housing comes first. A teacher who cannot find or afford a place to live does not stay, and in many communities teacher housing is the binding constraint. That is a capital and logistics problem the state can solve. Classroom support is next, and it is what I hear most. Teachers leave because they cannot teach, because behavioral problems go unaddressed and nobody backs them up. Support is cheaper than replacement. Finally, grow teachers here. Alaskans rooted in a community stay in it. I would expand pathways through the University of Alaska and local certification routes so communities develop their own teachers rather than recruiting strangers every two years. A teacher who is already home does not leave after one winter. On defined benefit specifically, I am not persuaded. Alaska's unfunded pension liability was built that way. I would rather fix retention with housing, classroom support, and local pathways.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? My priority in early childhood is a narrow and measurable one: a child should arrive in kindergarten ready to learn to read. I would focus on reading readiness rather than on expanding seat time generally. The evidence that matters to me is whether a program moves early literacy, and programs that do should be supported while programs that do not should be honest about it. Parents are the first educators, and I mean that practically rather than rhetorically. My own family helped found Alaska's IDEA homeschool program and my children were educated through it. Programs that equip parents - home visiting, early literacy materials, screening for hearing and vision problems that look like learning problems — reach children a classroom never will, and in rural Alaska may be the only option that works. I would also look hard at what already exists before building something new. Head Start, tribal early learning programs, and district preschools all operate in Alaska, sometimes in the same community without coordination. To be candid about the fiscal frame: I am not going to promise a large new entitlement. I will support what demonstrably improves whether a child can read by the end of fourth grade.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? This is the part of education policy where I think Alaska has been weakest and where the opportunity is largest. Not every student is bound for a four-year degree, and a system that treats that path as the only measure of success fails the majority. The jobs that sustain Alaska communities - construction, diesel and heavy equipment, aviation maintenance, health aides, utility and water system operation, commercial fishing and processing - require real training and pay real wages, many without leaving home. What I would push for: expand and fund career and technical education in secondary schools rather than treating it as an elective to cut first; strengthen the Alaska Vocational Technical Center and regional training partnerships; and build credential pathways that start in high school so a graduate leaves with something employable rather than only a diploma. Align the training with the work that actually exists in a region. A program producing credentials for jobs three hundred miles away helps no one. Finally, the certifications that keep rural infrastructure running water and wastewater operators, powerplant operators, health aides are chronically short. Training Alaskans for them keeps both the money and the expertise in the community.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? No

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? No

Short Answer

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I want to answer this one carefully, because here I have something to offer rather than a position to defend. I am a genealogist by avocation and have spent years in courthouse records, church registers, land files, and oral history. I know what it costs to lose a record, and I know that once a language or a lineage goes undocumented it is not recovered. Alaska Native languages are in a late and urgent stage of that process, with fluent speakers in some languages now numbering in the dozens. What I would support: documentation and archival work while fluent speakers are living, because that window closes permanently; language instruction in schools where communities want it; and support for the tribal and regional organizations already doing this work rather than building a parallel state effort. Let me address something directly. I have been critical of curriculum that substitutes ideology for academics. Teaching a child the language of their grandparents is not that. It is heritage, it is literacy, and the evidence suggests children grounded in their own identity do better academically, not worse. I see no conflict between academic rigor and cultural continuity, and I would not pretend one exists.

2. How will you contribute to building stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? By being useful rather than ceremonial. From 2007 to 2010 I taught adult literacy on a federal grant in Alaska Native communities off the road system. I am not speaking about rural Alaska from a distance, and I know the difference between a program designed in Juneau and one that works in a village. Relationships that work are built on problems solved together, not statements issued at conferences. Where state, tribal, and federal cooperation actually functions, it is on concrete things: a public safety agreement, a fuel facility, a health clinic, a search and rescue. I would consult before decisions rather than after. I said yes to meaningful consultation here and meant it in the ordinary sense. If the state is about to act on something affecting a tribe, the tribe should be in the conversation while the question is still open. Being notified is not consultation. I would focus where jurisdiction is tangled and people are getting hurt: law enforcement coordination, missing persons data sharing, and public safety coverage in communities with no officer. I will not promise agreement on everything, and this survey makes that clear. A relationship that depends on agreement is not much of one.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Dozens of Alaska communities have no local law enforcement presence of any kind. That is the single starkest public safety fact about this state, and it is upstream of almost every other problem in this survey. I support funding additional Village Public Safety Officers, and I would go further than funding the line item. The VPSO program's chronic problem is not only the number of positions but the inability to fill and keep them - housing, training, pay, supervision, and the isolation of being the only officer in a community. A funded vacancy protects no one. I would want the appropriation structured around positions actually filled and retained, with housing treated as part of the cost of the position rather than someone else's problem. Alongside that: adequate trooper coverage with realistic response times, and genuine coordination between state, tribal, and federal law enforcement so that jurisdiction is not the reason a case goes nowhere. I would also measure it publicly. The Legislature should know, by community, how many have coverage, how many do not, and how long a response actually takes. We fund what we measure, and right now we are not measuring this well enough to fund it well.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? Alaska has the worst rates in the country and has had them for a long time, which tells me the answer is not another statement of concern. The constraint is capacity, not statute. The Crime Lab averaged 145 days to complete sexual assault kit testing in state fiscal year 2025 - improved from 246 days in 2020, and the untested inventory has fallen from 3,484 kits in 2017 to 273 as of September 30, 2025, which is real progress. But five months is still long enough that evidence degrades and a victim is asked to stay willing through every month of silence. I would fund the lab to drive that number down. Second, the coverage gap. A protective order in a community with no officer is a piece of paper. Missing persons cases that cross jurisdictional lines go cold in the handoff. I support continued funding for the MMIP investigators at the Department of Public Safety and stronger data sharing among state, tribal, and federal agencies. Third, economic independence. A victim who cannot afford housing, fuel, or childcare alone is a victim who stays. Lowering the cost of living is not separate from this crisis.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Three things, in the order survivors tend to need them. Information, early and in plain language. Most people encountering this system have no idea what happens next, how long it takes, what a protective order does, or what their rights are as a victim rather than a witness. Advocates who can walk a family through it are among the highest-return spending in the entire system, and legal services for victims should be funded accordingly. I said yes to that on this survey. Housing that exists after the emergency. Shelters handle the first night. What Alaska lacks is the next rung - transitional housing a survivor can hold for months while rebuilding. The gap between a shelter bed and a lease is where people return to the person who hurt them. Services that reach where people are. In rural Alaska the nearest advocate may be several hundred air miles away. Telehealth counseling, remote advocacy, and travel support are not luxuries in that geography. For families of missing and murdered relatives, the particular need is information. Being unable to find out what is happening in your own child's case compounds the original harm, and that is fixable.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

PEPPER MCFARLAND: HD33

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? As a legislator I would prioritize resource management with subsistence as the main concern. I admit, I have a lot to learn about the specifics, but I am a teacher and very qualified to learn, ask questions, listen to stake-holders and make decisions based on what's best for Alaskans.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I don't think qualified decisions can be made if all of the stake-holders are not at the table. All stakeholders need to be part of the decision making process, and I support structure that is in the best interests of Alaskans

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources?

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? I do not know enough about this to comment on it, but if elected I will put the energy into exploring it thoroughly and make a decision based on what is best for Alaskans.

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? We should expand other sources of power, including solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and Natural Gas. I propose that the LNG pipeline be a public works project that directly benefits Alaskans.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Again, I have a lot to learn, but I will learn both through research and talking to all stakeholders, and make a decision based on what is best for Alaskans. I do want to see improvements to all of the above mentioned as I am in this race to focus on supporting people.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Supporting the people of Alaska and ensuring that we maintain the health of our environment is a priority for me. I am eager to get to Juneau to learn more about this issue so we can make positive steps for sustainability of our fuel storage facilities and address the looming energy crisis in Alaska.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I am in support of the changes as addressed in SB64.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I would support legislation to improve access to voting in all Alaskan communities.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? \$7373 would get us back to 2017 levels. We should create an endowment fund that is funded at the level of inflation each year so that schools will know how much money they will be getting before they have to finalize their budgets.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Increase the BSA, return to defined benefits, and limit class size.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Alaska has a severe shortage of early educators.

We should implement child/elder programs in high schools to increase readiness of early career workers, expand programs that recruit locals into education, and make sure that we are compensating educators appropriately.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Expansion of CTE programs in high schools is expensive, but will benefit all Alaskans in the long run. We need to invest in our future.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I would need to learn from native associations what would benefit them most, and I would work to support those programs.

2. How will you contribute to building stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Including tribal entities in decision-making would be a starting point to improving relations. I am sure there is more that could be done.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Adequate funding would be the place to start. Providing incentives for these jobs is also important.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? Education, law enforcement, job training, and culture support would all help.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I would support legal defence funds, tribal outreach programs, access to mental health services and other programs that will help families.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

JOY BETH COTTLE: HD34

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I would listen to Alaska Native Tribes, communities, and subsistence users before making decisions that affect their way of life. My job as a legislator would be to protect their ability to continue doing so, not to tell them what that should look like.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Alaska Native communities have generations of knowledge about local fish and wildlife, seasonal changes, habitat, weather, and the health of the land and water. That knowledge should be treated as an important part of resource management alongside Western science and biological data. A seat at the table means being part of the decision-making from start to finish, not just soliciting feedback after the plan is decided.

3 How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I support giving Alaska Native communities a bigger role in managing the resources they rely on. The wood bison reintroduction in Interior Alaska is a good example.

Bringing the bison back is only the first step. If we want these herds to grow and one day provide food for families, local people need to help protect, watch, and care for them. That means listening to local knowledge, working with Tribal communities, and giving them the tools and funding to support this effort. As a legislator, I would support putting more of that work in the hands of the people who live there, know the land, and want to see these animals here for their children and grandchildren.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? It's exciting to watch Eielson AFB pilot a nuclear micro-reactor and consider the long-term implications of being able to power remote villages with this kind of technology. However, the promise of long-term solutions aren't enough to solve today's energy challenges. I want to see either an energy rebate or a pick, click, give program be made available (except you're giving the gift of renewables to yourself). These credits could be redeemed for balcony solar panels or local power producers could use these transferred credits to invest in larger scale community renewable projects. I'm generally opposed to anything that restricts traditional wood-burning activities for those in rural communities as well.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I support working directly with Tribal governments and local communities to set priorities, rather than having decisions made from Juneau without an understanding of what the community actually needs. I'm open to supporting innovations that reduce transportation costs with the fuel cost spike as well.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? AEA already has a system for assessing and ranking these projects, and I would make sure we are using that information to get ahead of the problem.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes!!

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support language that allows every eligible Alaskan to vote, and this bill would have addressed some barriers.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I'm particularly upset at the continued failure of our state to ensure polls are open in all locations and during all times that they should be. Our recent primary election had delayed openings and rejected ballots from a large percentage of Western Alaska due to delays in mail. That's unacceptable, and I'm open to solutions to fix this issue. Would increasing the length of time to accept mail-in ballots help? I'm very open to these conversations and sponsoring legislation to solve these problems.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? Inflation affects everyone, from individual Alaskans to businesses to school districts and government programs. Yes, I think funding should be adjusted for inflation. We've lost a considerable amount of ground in school funding over the last 10 years of flat funding until recently, and we are nowhere near caught up, but if we delay indexing funding to inflation, we will continue to slip further behind.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access

to high-quality educators? I'm going to Juneau to ensure our teachers and public employees have a defined benefit, so they're incentivized to complete their career here in the State. Currently, once they're vested, they can take the balance of their defined contribution plan elsewhere, and many do. I'm interested in knowing more about what incentives we should offer to make teaching in remote locations more appealing. Does a rotating schedule work better where two teachers share a role? Would housing being provided in more locations make the jobs more desirable? I'm open to this conversation.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Here in Fairbanks, we are opening a childcare facility with joint training for UA students studying early childhood development. I believe a significant factor in the success of school aged children is the preparation they get as a baby and through preschool. Nutrition, attention and interaction with safe adults, and social interactions with peers all play a part in their ability to navigate school. I'd like to see expansion of support systems for mothers and families with young children.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I recently attended an industry forum where one of the industry companies was boasting about their integration with the native community in which they were based. I think the co-management strategies, local workforce development strategies, local hire, and consideration for impacts to local river travel and communities they touted should be the standard, not something worthy of boasting about.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? I think that would be appropriate. I'm not familiar with every department and function, and there may be occasional exceptions, but I'm not opposed to the general concept.

Short Answer

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? An important issue is the loss of language. Recently UAF has been under fire for cuts to the department tasked with funding the native language department. These are the sorts of decisions that political pressure can change. Once culture and language and history is gone, it isn't likely to be revived with the same traditional knowledge, and preservation is a much smaller task than rediscovery. I was born in Nome but didn't grow up there. My father told me so

many stories about his time there, and I'm personally curious about so much of what he told me. I think curiosity is an important trait in a legislator, and I hope to have the opportunity to learn more through this experience.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I'm a curious person, and I think good relationships start with listening. In the early 2000s, I flew medevac with Warbelow's and had the privilege of being welcomed into villages like Arctic Village and Huslia. I was invited into homes where outsiders weren't usually welcomed, rode snowmachines to pick up patients, and saw firsthand how much people care for their communities. I've spent more than 20 years as a firefighter and paramedic treating Alaska Native patients and working with people from villages all over Alaska. I ask questions because I genuinely want to learn. As a legislator, I'd bring that same approach to working with Tribal, state, and federal governments: show up, listen, respect people's knowledge, and build relationships before there's a problem to solve.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes, and I want to explore other incentives like including them in PERS or allowing for flexible schedules. I'm open to suggestions for recruiting and retaining these important positions and people.

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes, but I'm not in support of flock camera technology or other measures that lead to a surveillance state. We have a right to privacy in our constitution.

Short Answer

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? The VPSO model has proven to work well, but I recognize some of the shortcomings in the program. It's a tough job to hold the line for friends and relatives, especially without an armed police presence immediately available for backup. I'm open to hearing what other suggestions are on the table to improve enforcement. I do support AST participating in community outreach separate from its enforcement activity and recruiting a workforce that reflects the community it serves.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? This is a topic that's near and dear to my heart as a first responder and the first female firefighter ever hired at Fairbanks Fire Department. I've had the honor as serving as a safe space for hundreds of women after they encounter violence and SA over the years. Women can continue speaking up and speaking out about the problem, but until we have men willing to stand up to their friends and

quit associating with men who display problematic behaviors, we will continue to see this pattern. Having governing bodies with adequately represented demographics is one key pathway forward as well. However, it's going to take a society where men are willing to stick their necks out to push back and risk social alienation by their male friends.

I have so much still to learn about best practices for response to violence and prevention, but fortunately we have robust organizations like the Anchorage-based MMIP that does research and is gathering real data so we can improve prediction models and work towards prevention. I attended their Red Dress Gala this spring, and was inspired by the work being done and the people driving it forward.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Victims shouldn't have to pay out of pocket for the medical exams and treatment needed after a rape. I would support legislation to have the state cover those costs and seek repayment from a convicted offender through the court. I'd also support free or reduced-cost defensive tactics and concealed-carry classes for victims who want those tools.

Prevention matters, too. I'm still shocked by how many people don't understand that coercion is rape. We need to talk about that more openly and teach young people what healthy relationships, consent, and abuse look like. I'd like to see more of that in sex education, including real-life scenarios and role play. Recognizing abuse and knowing how to step in are skills, and like any skill, they get better with practice.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

HARMONY TOMASZEWSKI: HD34

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Harmony Tomaszewski / Republican candidate for State House Representative, District 34 /
HarmonyforAlaska@gmail.com / www.HarmonyforAlaska.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes, I would want to review the specific structure to make sure all affected user groups are fairly represented and that qualified, knowledgeable people are serving on the boards.

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? I support meaningful rural and Tribal representation. Appointments should be based on qualifications, knowledge, experience, and good judgment, while protecting equal access to Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for all Alaskans.

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes, I support enforcing Alaska's existing subsistence priority.

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I support protecting Alaska's subsistence rights and the traditions that have sustained communities for generations. That starts with healthy fish and wildlife populations. We need sound science, responsible management, and meaningful input from the people who depend on these resources so subsistence opportunities remain strong for future generations.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Tribal communities bring generations of knowledge and firsthand experience that should be part of good decision making. These partnerships should work

alongside sound science while maintaining the State's constitutional responsibilities for managing Alaska's resources.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Alaska Native communities should have a voice in decisions affecting the resources they depend on. I support meaningful partnerships that bring local knowledge and generations of experience to the table.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? I would need to evaluate the impacts before supporting changes to Alaska's existing land and jurisdictional structure

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes. Good decisions start with listening to the people directly affected.

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes, when projects provide reliable power, real savings, and long-term benefits to Alaskans.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes. Affordable, reliable energy is essential for families and communities across Alaska.

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Reducing energy costs is one of my top priorities. Rural communities need affordable, reliable energy solutions that fit their individual needs. Alaska should be investing in cost-effective local energy projects, more efficient power systems, heat recovery, hydro, wind, solar, biomass, or storage where they make sense. The goal should be simple: affordable, reliable energy.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I support prioritizing projects that address these needs and making good use of available state and federal infrastructure dollars. We also need practical solutions that fit each community and can be maintained long term.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? We need to maintain the infrastructure we already have. Preventive maintenance costs less than an emergency response and helps protect communities, the environment, and reliable access to fuel.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes, every eligible Alaskan should be able to understand the voting process and cast an informed ballot. I support effective language assistance in communities where it is needed.

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes, Any changes should improve access while maintaining election security, accurate voter rolls, and confidence in the process.

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? I support opportunities for eligible Alaskans to vote early and absentee, especially where distance and rural access create challenges.

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes. I believe major election changes should include input from the communities they affect, including Alaska Tribal governments.

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. SB 64 included ideas I support, including accurate voter rolls, greater transparency, and improving access for rural voters. I believe election changes need to be secure, workable, and implemented carefully.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Every eligible Alaskan should have a fair opportunity to vote, regardless of where they live. We need to make sure rural polling places are staffed, equipment works, election workers are properly trained, and ballots can be returned and counted on time. I support working directly with local and Tribal communities to identify problems early and find practical solutions, while maintaining secure and accurate elections.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes. I support State Tribal Education Compacts that give communities more opportunity to meet the needs of their students while maintaining accountability for public dollars and strong academic outcomes. Local communities often know what works best for their children.

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? I support adequate and sustainable education funding, while recognizing the unique costs of

rural schools. HB 28 is an important step because it allows the state to help cover school heating and electricity costs outside of the BSA. That can make a significant difference, especially in rural Alaska, while allowing more education dollars to reach students and classrooms.

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? Yes. I support locally appropriate Alaska Native cultural and language programs that help students understand their communities and heritage, while keeping a strong focus on reading, writing, math, and academic achievement.

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? No. I support competitive retirement benefits for teachers, but I believe we should strengthen the defined contribution system and expand opportunities like the Supplemental Benefits System. I support portable retirement benefits that belong to the employee and can be passed on to their beneficiaries, without creating new unfunded liabilities for future generations. We still owe almost \$ 7 billion in unfunded liabilities from the last defined benefit system.

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I would not set the BSA or future increases on autopilot. We should look at actual costs, enrollment, classroom needs, and educational outcomes each year. HB 28 also gives us another tool to address high heating and electricity costs outside the BSA, which can be especially helpful for rural schools.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? We need competitive pay and benefits to recruit and keep good teachers, especially in rural Alaska. I supported the teacher retention incentive proposal that would have put \$5,000 to \$15,000 directly toward classroom teachers, with the largest incentives in rural and remote schools. I also support strengthening portable retirement benefits. I want education dollars reaching teachers and classrooms where they can make a difference for students.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? We should focus resources where access is limited, work with local communities, and give families choices.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? As a small business owner for more than 25 years, including 17 years owning an electrical contracting business, I know the value of skilled workers and how important those skills are to our communities.

I strongly support vocational and technical education that connects students with jobs needed in their communities, including construction, electrical, health care, aviation, mechanics, and other skilled trades. I support apprenticeships, dual credit, and partnerships that help students gain useful skills and credentials while still in high school, so they can build careers and opportunities in their own communities.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? I support consultation, cooperation, and working toward solutions that respect the lawful roles of both governments.

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Alaska has already moved substantially in this direction. Administrative Order 300 directed the commissioner of each principal state department to designate a Tribal liaison to help with consultation and collaboration with Alaska Tribes.

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I support protecting Alaska Native languages, traditions, and subsistence opportunities so they can be passed from one generation to the next. That means supporting local language and cultural programs, healthy fish and wildlife populations, and listening to communities about what they need to preserve their traditions and way of life.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Through my work, I have traveled to many rural villages, including Minto, Allakaket, Huslia, Koyukuk, Hughes, Rampart, Tanana, and more. I have appreciated the opportunity to talk with people and spend time in their communities. Those experiences reinforced for me that strong relationships start with listening. I will work with Tribal, State, and Federal leaders to keep communication open, understand local concerns, and find practical solutions.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes. I support adequate funding for Village Public Safety Officers and efforts to recruit and retain qualified officers.

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? We need to recruit and retain qualified Troopers and VPSOs, make sure resources are reaching the communities that need them, and improve coordination between State, local, Tribal, and Federal law enforcement.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? We need prevention, strong investigations, support for victims, and consistent consequences and accountability for offenders. We need to identify where cases are falling through the cracks and fix those gaps.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? I support making sure they have clear information about the legal process and can connect with victim advocates, counseling, legal assistance, and other available services. We should have systems in place to ensure that agencies and service providers are communicating effectively, so people can find the help they need without being sent from place to place.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ASHLEY CARRICK: HD35

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Ashley Carrick / HD 35 / Democrat / Not Provided / Not Provided

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Making sure that fish get upriver to all of our communities that rely on subsistence harvests is essential for food security and culture. I was proud to co-sponsor HB 125, which would have designated seats for each user group on the Board of Fish, thereby ensuring that subsistence users had a dedicated seat at the table. Additionally, I was proud to vote for legislation to establish electronic monitoring for bycatch on trawlers, which passed through HB 117. While this was a good first step, we must go further than simply monitoring bycatch. We must consider a moratorium on bottom trawling in state waters, which was proposed with HB 203. Finally, we must consider a temporary closure for Area-M to allow fish to get up to our rivers, like what was proposed with SB 128 in the 33rd Legislature. Together, all these policies would be very helpful in alleviating our fisheries crisis in rural Alaska. I will always be a strong subsistence-first legislator!

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. I believe that tribes and tribal communities should be considered equal partners in the decision-making process for Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. There is too little input for tribal communities in decisions that primarily affect Alaska's

tribal members. I am a strong proponent of uplifting and codifying the essential role that tribes play in decision-making regarding our natural resources.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I would like to see additional tribal consultation requirements for all major projects that require state permitting. If a tribal community opposes certain projects or actions, then that should be taken seriously and require revising those plans to adequately address community concerns.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? During the legislative session, I was proud to support HB 388, which increased the loan cap for the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program. This will help alleviate the high cost of fuel from our current fuel shock. Additionally, I have been and will always be a strong supporter of the Power Cost Equalization Program and will always vote to protect the billion-dollar endowment that funds the program.

Beyond supporting policies to lower the cost of fuel, I have been a stalwart supporter of the Renewable Energy Fund to support energy diversification in rural Alaska. Renewable energy has a unique opportunity to lower long-term energy costs in rural Alaska. Renewable energy is a main focus of the research done at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power in my district, and I remain a strong proponent of programs and research that advance energy security in rural Alaska.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I will always support investments to improve infrastructure in rural Alaska, including drinking water, wastewater, and broadband. For drinking and wastewater systems, we need to support our congressional delegation and ensure they are able to secure grants to improve this important infrastructure.

The pandemic highlighted the shortfalls of broadband accessibility in Alaska. This year, Alaska received its first \$600 million from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, and we are expecting another \$400 million in the future. This is a critical federal investment that will be revolutionary for access to broadband in Alaska. We need to ensure that

money goes where it's needed, firstly in rural Alaska to alleviate disproportionate cost burdens, and then in semi-urban communities without widespread broadband access.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? This year, the Legislature passed HB 388, which increased the Loan Cap for the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program. We should add to this program an opportunity for grants to be used for infrastructure updates to address deferred maintenance at bulk fuel facilities. We also need to ensure that the Spill Prevention and Response program is fully funded to ensure that if an environmental crisis occurs, we have the resources to address it.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. As the Chair of the House State Affairs Committee during the 34th Legislature, I worked extensively on the House version of the elections bill (HB 43). I also worked closely with AFN to ensure that the needs of rural voters were accounted for. One policy that I was proud to support and that was developed in consultation with AFN was the establishment of a Rural Voting Liaison position in the Division. This person would serve as the point of contact on election day to ensure to help address any problems that come up. That was included in the final version of SB 64. Given the Legislature's inability to override the Governor's veto of SB 64, the conversation about election reform will have to continue in 2027. I look forward to supporting policies that make it easier to vote while preserving election security.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? A component of SB 64 would have established a rural voting liaison in the Division of Elections. This person would serve as the point of contact to help address any issues with voting in rural Alaska on election day. We also need to invest in updated voting equipment, better recruit and support poll workers in their communities, and make it easier to vote by mail in advance of elections with prepaid postage, removal of unnecessary witness signature requirements, and more.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? UNDECIDED

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap?
YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I believe the BSA should be inflation-proofed to ensure that it keeps addressing the needs of our education system. In addition, I support forward-funding education through a separate budget process, much like our current mental health budget.

During the consideration of SB 140 in 2024, I offered an amendment to increase the BSA by \$1413 per student, which would have matched the BSA with where it would have been if it had been inflation-proofed. Unfortunately, that amendment did not pass. In 2025, the Legislature was able to increase the BSA by half of what that amendment would have provided for. While I would have liked to see a much larger increase, \$700 per student is what allowed the Legislature to come together and override the Governor's veto. Going forward, the Legislature will need to provide additional investments in education. I will continue to be a strong supporter of increased investment in education!

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Above all, our education system needs stability. This means increasing funding to match historic funding levels that have been eroded away by inflation. This also means we need to provide competitive benefits to help recruit and retain teachers. Since first being elected, I have been a strong supporter of establishing a defined benefit retirement system for all public employees. This will not only help recruit teachers, but it will also help retain them. When we had defined benefits, the issue of teacher retention in rural schools was much less severe. I also believe that the State should assist communities in providing and maintaining infrastructure that supports education in rural communities, with a particular focus on providing adequate teacher housing that is so needed in many locations.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? During the 2025 session, the Legislature passed two bills to address childcare in Alaska – SB 95 and SB 96. These bills expanded the childcare grant program and the childcare tax credit. While the Governor allowed those two bills to go into law, he has repeatedly vetoed the funding necessary to implement these programs. To start, we need to fund those childcare programs. Adequate and competitive salaries for childcare workers is also a major issue, and we need to help recruit and retain childcare workers.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? During the 2024 session, I passed legislation to make the funding for the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) permanent. In addition to providing critical funding for workforce development at the University of Alaska including its satellite campuses in Dillingham, Bethel, Kotzebue, and Nome, this program provides funding for institutions primarily located and serving rural Alaska. Those include Yuut in Bethel, Galena Interior Learning Academy, the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue, the Northwest Career and Technical Center in Nome, the Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center in King Salmon, and more!

I strongly believe in promotion and expansion of technical and vocational opportunities across our state. Alaska needs a strong workforce, and I will continue to advocate for targeted investments in workforce development.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Over the past year, the Alaska Native Language Center, which is located in my district at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Main Campus, has been suffering from some serious challenges due to departmental restructuring that are making it difficult for it to accomplish its mission. I am a strong supporter of ANLC. I have been meeting with stakeholders and the University administration to assess current challenges and develop solutions to ensure that this institution continues in perpetuity.

Additionally, in 2024, I was proud to support HB 26 to update the mission of the Council of Alaska Native Languages and better support language and cultural education across our state.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? As a member of the Tribal Affairs Committee, collaboration with tribal communities and organizations has been a top priority. In 2022, the Legislature passed the tribal recognition bill (HB 123). Although I was not a member of the Legislature at that time, I was pleased to see that bill pass, and I also signed the petition to put this bill on the ballot that year, which would have been important if the bill had not passed the Legislature.

The State Legislature is also uniquely positioned to advocate for some of the most pressing issues impacting tribes within our federal delegation. At the end of the 2026 session, the Legislature passed HJR 46, which urged the state's executive branch and the federal government to support the relocation of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok after those communities voted to relocate following the destruction from Typhoon Halong. I was proud to support this resolution and look forward to continuing to support these communities and advocating for support from the federal government to ensure this process is as smooth as possible and to ensure that we are more proactive at listening and responding to community needs going forward.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? In addition to needing more public safety officers, including VPSO's and Troopers for our communities, we also need to address retention issues with these personnel. That will not only help ensure that more villages have a stronger public safety presence, but will also help our officers develop stronger connections with communities. We need better pay and benefits to help recruit and retain more public safety officers.

In both 2024 and 2025, I traveled to the Northwest Arctic Borough for their annual public safety summit to learn more from rural Alaskan communities outside my region, to gain perspective from individuals experiencing some of our state's most pressing rural public safety challenges, and to be better prepared to act on these challenges.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

Addressing the MMIP Crisis has been a high priority for me as a member of the Tribal Affairs Committee. In 2024, the Legislature passed SB 151, and I was proud to co-sponsor this bill which mandated MMIP training for Troopers, required a set number of investigators for MMIP cases, and more. We need to fully fund those positions and ensure that the Department has all the resources it needs to accomplish the mission set out in this bill.

We also need to provide greater investments for victim counseling services and outreach through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Since 2024, the Legislature has increased funding for victim services by over \$4 million. We will need to continue increasing that funding, and I look forward to supporting those necessary increased investments.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Although we have increased funding for victim services by over \$4 million in the past two years, we will need to continue providing additional funding for these critical programs. I would also like to see us empower the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to work with tribal communities and regional organizations to conduct more robust community outreach so victims can know the services available to them.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CRYSTAL JONES: HD36

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Crystal Jones / Alaska House of Representatives, District 36 / Nonpartisan /
jonesforalaska@gmail.com / CrystalJonesAlaska.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is how communities across District 36 feed their families and pass down culture. I'll fight to strengthen subsistence priority protections and push back on management decisions that treat subsistence as secondary to commercial or sport interests. I support the ANILCA subsistence priority and I'll work toward co-management structures that give Tribal governments authority over the resources their communities depend on. I'll also push for stronger bycatch accountability, since salmon lost to bycatch is salmon that never reaches a subsistence net.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes, I support Tribal co-management. Alaska Native communities have stewarded these lands, waters, fish, and wildlife sustainably for thousands of years, long before state or federal management structures existed. Co-management isn't a concession; it's recognition of expertise that predates statehood, and it produces better outcomes: decisions made by the people who depend on and know a resource best tend to hold up better than

decisions made far away with limited local input. For Alaska's future, this means more resilient fish and wildlife populations, stronger rural food security, and a state government that reflects the priorities of the people it serves. I'll support policy that shifts decision-making authority to Tribal governments.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I'd support legislation formally recognizing Tribal governments as co-managers, not just advisory participants. I'd also work to align state statute with what's already happening on the ground in District 36, where organizations like Ahtna, Copper River Native Association, and Tanana Chiefs Conference are doing this work without full state recognition of their authority.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? I'll protect and expand PCE, since it's the most direct tool the state has for rural energy affordability, and push to make eligibility fairer so communities facing similar diesel cost burdens aren't excluded. I'll also support investment in local renewable generation and battery storage to reduce long-term dependence on diesel, since imported fuel cost is the root problem driving rural energy prices.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Broadband is core infrastructure; it enables telehealth, education, and economic opportunity across a district this size. I'll prioritize state investment and grant matching to bring reliable connectivity to communities that have gone without it too long. On water and wastewater, I support directing capital funds to the rural systems in worst disrepair first, rather than a statewide formula that leaves the most remote communities waiting longest.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? This is the kind of infrastructure crisis that gets ignored until it becomes an emergency. I'd push for dedicated capital funding to address the highest-risk facilities first,

prioritized by age, capacity, and proximity to water sources, rather than waiting for a spill to force emergency spending. Preventing an environmental disaster costs far less than cleaning one up.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support SB64. In this last primary, while running for my own seat (for the first time), my absentee ballot was rejected because my witness filled out every line except their signature; mine was complete and correct. It didn't stop any fraud, it just cost me my vote, and I live somewhere a witness isn't always available or realistic. SB64 would have removed that requirement, along with other real barriers rural, military, and Native voters face, like slow results reporting and outdated voter roll maintenance. I was disappointed the Governor vetoed it, and I'll support reintroducing and passing it.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? I'd push for guaranteed minimum polling infrastructure and staffing standards for every community, backed by state funding rather than leaving rural precincts to make do with less. That means dedicated poll worker recruitment and pay in rural areas, reliable equipment maintenance, and expanded early voting locations that don't require a costly trip to a hub community. I'd also want Tribal governments consulted directly on what access actually looks like in their communities, since a standard set in Juneau often misses what's needed on the ground.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I support a substantial, sustained BSA increase, on the scale of the roughly \$1,800 cumulative gap legislative analysts identified between current funding and what it would take to restore 2011 purchasing power, phased in responsibly. I support permanently inflation-proofing the BSA going forward, so school districts aren't forced back to the Capitol every few years just to keep up with rising costs. Flat funding followed by one-time patches is not a sustainable way to run a constitutionally required public education system.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? I'd support housing incentives and student loan repayment specifically targeted at rural and hard-to-fill positions, since the cost and isolation of rural placements are often the real barrier, not pay alone. I'd also support the defined-benefit retirement system for the same reason: long-term financial security matters more to whether a teacher stays than a signing bonus does.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I'd support expanding state pre-K funding and grants that let rural communities design programs that fit their population size, rather than a one-size-fits-all model built for urban districts.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I'd support expanding vo-tech partnerships between school districts and regional Native corporations so training programs are built around the industries and trades that actually exist in a given region, from fisheries to construction to energy, rather than a generic statewide curriculum.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I grew up in Kodiak, where Native cultural and language programs

were part of school life, and I watched my closest friends grow up learning, loving, and sharing their culture because those programs existed and were supported. I'd support state funding for Native language immersion and revitalization programs, and push to make Indigenous cultural curriculum a standard option in every district, not just those with the resources to build it themselves.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? I'd start by treating consultation as a starting point for shared decision-making. Regular, direct relationships with regional entities like Ahtna, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Doyon should inform policy before it's drafted, not after.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? I'd prioritize state funding for VPSO positions and make sure pay and housing support are competitive enough to actually fill and retain them, since vacancy, not lack of demand, is the real problem in most communities.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? I'd support sustained, dedicated funding for MMIP investigators and for domestic violence and sexual assault response capacity in rural communities specifically, since response time and access to services are often the difference between a survivor getting help and not. I'd also support better data-sharing coordination across tribal, state, and federal law enforcement, since jurisdictional gaps are part of what allows cases to fall through the cracks.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Existing services often aren't reaching the survivors who need them because of distance and disconnection, not just lack of funding. I'd focus on making sure legal process information, counseling access, and victim advocacy are actually reachable in rural communities, routed through people already trusted there, like community health aides and tribal offices, and available in the right language and cultural context, rather than assuming a survivor can travel to a hub city to get help.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

JOSEPH AMIK: HD38

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Fight for unrestricted subsistence gathering in the summer and fall subsistence activities.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Existing members need more members and work together to combat excessive closures and allow families who have not had a chance to gather fish for the winter to get a chance to fish when they don't catch their quota in the short openings.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Tribal Gov'ts work with the Federal Gov't at a Federal level, they the power to supersede state and fed laws on Alaskan Waters.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes, the current petroleum based generators that power communities need back up to provide needed energy during cold winter months.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Fight to eliminate crude oil price gouging in communities who are struggling with high fuel costs.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Redirecting funds destined for programs not needed or are wasteful in the education field, transportation, fight for funding for local law enforcement in rural communities, fight more funding for community health facilities, fight for more funding for broadband in villages for the purpose of accessing employment opportunities and virtual health care.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Work with AEA and state law makers to ramp up inspections and redirect part of the pfd funds that are taken through sb21 and divert to bulk tank storage repair or overhauls..

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. Reducing unlawful election interference through

better screening processes, correct explanation to voters so they may not be misinformed, and fully support lawful voting practices.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? All villages need voting locations and only way to do that is to ensure volunteers are compensated in a timely manner and continue to work with them via telecommunication and emails.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Teachers need better retirement benefit programs for retention purposes.

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? K-12 base student allocation needs to be at least 15-25% higher to meet financial inflation costs and make sure students get better help to avoid bullying and for secure education practices. BSA needs to be re-evaluated to see what cost saving methods can be used to save state expenditure.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Better retirement benefits and better broadband access to avoid unnecessary wasteful expenditure on virtual learning practices. Reduce Racial profiling by teachers in the communities they are contracted in to teach students from K-12. Educational content and criteria should be addressed to parents and voted upon before approvals are made by board of education and or district board members.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? Parental involvement should come first before deciding on educational criteria as to avoid conflicts between teachers, school board and parents.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? We need to bring back vocational programs and home economics in small schools to better prepare them for the outside world. We also need more of IT related education programs to better prepare h.s students after graduation.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes and we definitely need it.

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? Allowing more native language, culture, and practices in local schools, reduce and or eliminate state fish and game as well as federal fish and wildlife's unlawful practices of apprehension of Alaskan Natives when hunting and fishing opportunities are presented.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Tribal Gov'ts have the ultimate authority on Alaskan lands. State refused to recognize tribal sovereignty, but the State legislatures need to work with Tribal Governments before working with State based local gov'ts.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes, and push to raise the investigations to top priority.

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Push to fight for funding which is nonexistent in small communities by reallocating some of state law enforcement funding to small communities.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? Fund the much needed law enforcement programs in small communities as they are the first responders

for such violations and crimes. Timely response to crimes mentioned are critical for victims survival chances.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? First of all, fight to replace judges who reduce punishments for offenders who commit said offenses, fight for better care of victims and relocation efforts thru paid housing, name changes if need be, and new contact references (telecommunication, address change, strict no contact by offenders), and added time for incarceration with no communication privileges for such offenders.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NELLIE UNANGIQ JIMMIE: HD38

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

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SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? I grew up subsistence and commercial fishing in Toksook Bay, and I still hunt moose and musk ox.

The Board of Fisheries has seven members, and no seats are set aside for subsistence users. My bill, HB 125, would give subsistence, commercial and sport users two seats each. It passed the House in May 2025 but never got a Senate vote. I'll file it again next session.

I'll also defend the rural subsistence priority. The state fought it on the Kuskokwim all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear the case in January. I'd rather see the state work with our tribes.

To expand subsistence, we need more salmon in our rivers. I'll push the state to hold trawlers accountable for bycatch.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future

of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. Tribes managed fish and game here long before statehood, and our Elders know these rivers better than any agency.

The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission already works with federal managers on the river, bringing tribal monitoring and Elders' knowledge to management decisions. Families are more likely to accept a closure when their own tribe helped make it. The people who live on the land also have the most reason to keep it healthy.

Tribes in Alaska already run health care and child welfare under compacts, and fish and wildlife management can work the same way. I'll support agreements that give tribes a real role in monitoring, research and management. I'll also keep pushing HB 125 to put subsistence users on the Board of Fisheries.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? Tribes should design the framework, and the state should change its laws and budget to support it.

I'd push for state funding for tribal monitoring, harvest surveys and documenting Traditional Knowledge, so managers use tribal data when they set openings. I'd require Fish and Game to consult tribes before in-season decisions on subsistence rivers. Tribes that want to run research or management programs under an agreement with the state should get help paying for them.

HB 125 is a first step. Tribal leaders and Elders testified for it in the Senate this spring. In 2024 I said that to lose one Elder is to lose a book of knowledge. Their knowledge should guide how we manage fish.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Fuel is the biggest part of the cost of living on the Delta. In May, Bethel and nearby villages paid \$7 to \$8 a gallon, and some coastal villages paid over \$9.

On House Finance, I helped pass HB 388, which doubled the bulk fuel loan limit for villages to \$1.5 million so they can buy a full winter's supply. It passed both bodies with no votes against it. This

year's budget added \$15 million to the loan fund and \$11 million for heating assistance, fully funded Power Cost Equalization at \$56 million and gave schools \$29 million for heating. Eligible Alaskans also got a \$200 energy relief payment with the PFD.

Next, I want PCE protected from being raided and more money for the Renewable Energy Fund each year. I served on the AVEC board for Toksook Bay, and I've seen how much diesel our wind turbines save.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Water and sewer are some of the biggest needs of the district. Many homes on the Delta still haul water and use honey buckets.

Most water and sewer money is federal, with a state match through Village Safe Water. On Finance, I'll make sure that match is in the budget every year so we don't lose federal dollars.

This year the Legislature put \$153 million into school repairs and construction. When the governor vetoed the state's transportation match, we restored \$70 million to keep about \$600 million in federal funds. I'll also make sure Alaska's \$272 million in rural health money this year reaches the villages.

I'll keep pushing to get affordable broadband to the villages still waiting for it. After Halong, new projects should be built where they'll be safe from flooding.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? Many tank farms in our district are decades old and sit close to the water. A failure could mean a spill in a river we fish and a village with no heating fuel in winter.

The bulk fuel loan fund helps villages buy fuel but doesn't pay for tank repairs. Most tank farm upgrades have been paid for with federal money through the Alaska Energy Authority and the Denali Commission, and that money is less certain now.

I'll push for bulk fuel upgrades in the state capital budget every year, so we can match federal dollars and cover gaps. The tanks in the worst shape and the villages most at risk of losing heat should go first. Villages that are relocating should get new tank farms at the new site instead of rebuilding in the flood zone.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system? I supported SB 64 and voted to override the governor's veto. The override failed by two votes on May 4.

SB 64 would have let voters fix minor ballot mistakes, paid postage on mail ballots, added ballot tracking and given more help to rural voters. Village ballots get rejected over a missing witness signature or date, and voters often don't find out in time to fix it.

I support clean voter rolls, but no Elder should be removed because she didn't answer a letter written in English.

I'll vote for the bill again in January. I'd also add Yup'ik and other Native language help from registration through fixing a ballot. I want early voting in every hub and in more villages. The Division of Elections also needs a plan for communities whose polling place can't open, like Kipnuk and Kwigillingok this August.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? Kipnuk and Kwigillingok had no polling place in August, and many of those families are still displaced after Halong.

The Division of Elections needs to pay poll workers enough, train them locally and have a backup plan when a village polling place can't open.

When a community is displaced, ballots and Yup'ik language help should go to where people are staying. Hubs need early voting, and villages need early voting days. Voting equipment needs to be tested before it ships, with paper backups on site. SB 64 would have added prepaid postage for mail ballots and a way to fix small mistakes, and I'll keep fighting for both.

The Toyukak case required Yup'ik language help at the polls in our region, and the state should build on it. On Finance, I'll push for the money the Division needs to do this work.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? The BSA is \$6,660 per student. In 2025 we raised it by \$700 and overrode the governor's veto to do it, but it still hasn't kept up with inflation.

This year House education leaders proposed adding another \$630. The final deal included up to \$115 million in one-time school funding, \$29 million to help schools with heating costs and a new teacher loan repayment program. Districts can't count on one-time money to keep teachers.

The BSA should be at least \$7,290, where that proposal would have put it. It should also be inflation-proofed so schools aren't fighting for the same money every session. Fuel, freight and teacher housing cost more in our district than on the road system, so a flat BSA hits our schools hardest.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Our district loses teachers every year, and students have to start over with someone new.

On May 19, I voted to override the governor's veto of HB 78, which would have let teachers and other public employees choose a defined benefit pension. Alaska is the only state that closed its pension to new public employees, and it hurts recruiting. The override failed 33 to 27. I'll vote for a pension bill again in January.

This year we created a loan repayment program for teachers in hard-to-fill subjects like special education, science, math and English learner programs. I also want teacher housing in every village that needs it.

Teachers from the Delta are more likely to stay. I support paying for students from our region to train as teachers and helping aides and fluent speakers already working in our schools get certified.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? In many of our villages, Head Start is the only early learning program.

The governor vetoed Head Start and child care money again this year. The Legislature still increased child care funding, and I'll keep fighting for Head Start on Finance.

I want pre-K in our small villages. Tribes and regional nonprofits already run Head Start here, and the state should fund them to offer more early learning, in Yup'ik where families want it.

Child care also affects jobs. In a village with no day care, a parent may not be able to take a job at the school or clinic. Parents as Teacher program is also a program that I fully support. Having early learning is valuable as my children have benefit before attending headstart.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I went to Alaska Job Corps after high school, and I want more of that kind of training available to young people here.

Our villages need people who can run power and water plants, build houses and do electrical work. Right now we often fly those workers in.

I'll support state funding for regional training centers and for programs that train people in their own villages, so they don't have to leave home for months. High schools should offer career and technical classes for credit that lead to local jobs. Tribes and regional organizations already run good training programs, and the state should partner with them.

This year the Legislature created state financing for workforce housing. I'd like to see local carpenters build those homes, and local crews do as much of the work as possible when Kipnuk and Kwigillingok move to higher ground.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I'm Yup'ik and grew up in Toksook Bay. I've danced with the Nunakauyak Dance Group since 2012, and I knit qiviut and sew seal skin hats and qaspeqs. I learned these from family and Elders.

The state should fund Native language teaching by fluent speakers in our schools and make it easier for those speakers to get into classrooms. Ayaprun Elitnaurvik, the Yup'ik immersion school in Bethel, is a good model.

Subsistence is part of our culture, which is why I wrote HB 125 to put subsistence users on the Board of Fisheries.

After Halong, Kipnuk and Kwigillingok voted to move to higher ground and stay together as communities. I wrote HJR 46 recognizing that decision, and it passed both bodies without a no vote.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? The state recognized Alaska's tribes in law in 2022, and it should treat them as governments.

After Halong, Kipnuk and Kwigillingok voted to relocate. FEMA approved a tribal disaster declaration for Kipnuk and worked directly with the tribe. The state said its disaster money could

only rebuild in place, which would put families back in the flood zone their councils voted to leave.

I wrote HJR 46 recognizing the tribes' decisions. It asks the governor for a state relocation plan and our congressional delegation for federal funding. It passed 39 to 0 in the House and 20 to 0 in the Senate. When Congressman Begich addressed the Legislature, I asked him where the federal relocation money is.

The state should consult tribes before it makes decisions that affect them. Tribes already run health care and child welfare under compacts, and schools and fisheries could work the same way. Tribal liaisons in every state department would also help.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? We're not spending enough on public safety until every village has it. Too many villages have no one to call, and families wait for a plane and good weather when something happens.

In February, 87 of the state's 90 funded VPSO positions were filled. This year's budget added money for VPSOs, regional jails and rural trooper housing. Keeping officers is now the bigger problem. Almost one in five VPSOs leave each year, and the department says housing and facilities are the main reasons.

I want housing and a safe office in every village with an officer, and more than 90 VPSO positions so more villages can have one. Training should be closer to home, and tribes that want their own officers should get state help paying for them.

Halong also showed that rural Alaska needs an emergency plan with equipment, training and local responders. Rescuers saved 51 people in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok that night.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? This year the Legislature passed a public safety law that raised the age of consent from 16 to 18, a change I cosponsored as a separate bill. The law also created a tracking system for sexual assault kits with testing deadlines and made AI-generated child sexual abuse material a crime.

State law requires at least two MMIP investigators at the Department of Public Safety, and the department has had four. I'll work to keep those positions funded and filled and to make sure families get updates on their cases. Federal, state and tribal agencies need to share information so cases aren't dropped between them.

On Finance, I'll push for VPSOs and safe homes in villages. An officer and a safe place nearby make it more likely someone will report abuse and get help. The Legislature also passed mental health education for schools this year, and the governor vetoed it. I'd vote for it again.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Women in villages and others in need often have to leave home to reach a shelter. Tundra Women's Coalition does good work in Bethel, but we also need safe homes and trained advocates in the villages, and help getting to Bethel when it's needed.

This year's public safety law gives victims who use tribal counseling centers the same confidentiality protections as victims at other counseling centers.

Part of victim services funding comes from a fund tied to PFDs. When that fund comes in low, shelters lose money they planned on. On Finance, I'll push the state to cover that gap.

Families also need help understanding protective orders, court dates and investigations. I want Yup'ik-speaking victim advocates in our region so families can get that help in their own language.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CJ MCCORMICK: HD38

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

CJ McCormick / Alaska State House District 38 / Democrat / cjmccormickalaska@gmail.com / cjmccormickak.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? Yes

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? Yes

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? Yes

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? Yes

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? Subsistence is essential to our food security, culture, and way of life. Protecting it requires more than maintaining the rights we already have. We should be strengthening the rural subsistence priority and giving Tribal communities a stronger role in decisions that affect our fish and wildlife.

I support increasing Tribal representation on the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game, strengthening accountability for commercial fisheries with high bycatch, and taking stronger action against destructive trawling. When subsistence users are facing restrictions or closures, the state must ensure existing subsistence priorities are actually enforced.

I also support restoring and expanding fishing opportunities when stocks can sustain them, and working directly with Tribes on management decisions. The people who depend on this food should have a meaningful role in determining how our fish and wildlife are managed for future generations.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future

of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes. I support Tribal co-management. Alaska Native Tribes have governed and sustained these lands, waters, fish and wildlife for generations, and they should have an authoritative role in the decisions that affect them.

Meaningful Tribal co-management should give Tribal governments a formal role in management, including shared responsibility and decision-making authority. Traditional knowledge, priorities, and observations should be incorporated throughout the process and treated as an essential part of sound management.

That is critical in rural Alaska, where communities are often the first to see changes in fish runs, wildlife populations, ice conditions, and broader environment. State management cannot be truly effective without drawing on that knowledge and treating it as an essential part of decision-making.

I support expanding formal state-Tribal partnerships and ensuring Tribes have a stronger role in decisions affecting subsistence and the future of our lands, waters, fish and wildlife.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? I would support developing a Native-led management framework that gives Tribal governments a formal and sustained role in decisions affecting subsistence. That should include state-Tribal co-management agreements, stronger Tribal representation in fish and wildlife decision-making, and direct involvement throughout the development of management plans.

The state should also invest in Tribal capacity to participate fully in management. That means supporting local monitoring, research, data collection, and the incorporation of traditional knowledge alongside western science. Tribes should have the funding and staff necessary to do that work and to participate as full partners with state and federal agencies.

A Native-led framework should be built with Tribes, not designed for them. The communities that depend most directly on our fish and wildlife should have a real hand in how they are managed.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?
Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? Yes

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? Yes

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Reducing rural energy costs requires both immediate relief and long-term investment. I will protect Power Cost Equalization and

oppose efforts to weaken or raid the program. PCE remains one of the most important tools we have to address the enormous disparity in electricity costs between rural communities and the rest of Alaska.

We also need sustained investment in the Renewable Energy Fund and community-driven projects that reduce dependence on expensive imported diesel. That can include wind, solar, hydro, battery storage, and other technologies that make sense for individual communities. The state should also continue investing in weatherization and energy efficiency so families and public buildings use less fuel in the first place.

There is no single solution for every community. The state should help communities develop energy systems that work locally and lower costs over the long term.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Every Alaskan should have reliable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, broadband, and other basic infrastructure. I will support sustained state investment in rural water and wastewater projects, including Village Safe Water, and work to make sure communities can access available federal infrastructure funding without being blocked by unrealistic match requirements or administrative barriers.

We also need to invest in maintaining and replacing existing systems, not just building new ones. Rural infrastructure should be designed for local conditions, including erosion, flooding, permafrost degradation, and the high cost of construction and maintenance in remote communities.

Broadband is essential infrastructure. During my previous term in the Legislature, I supported funding to expand broadband access in rural Alaska, and I will continue supporting investment in reliable, high-speed internet for our communities, along with policies that keep service affordable once infrastructure is built.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? We should not wait for a tank farm to fail or a fuel spill to occur before treating this as an emergency. I will support increased and sustained funding for the Alaska Energy Authority's Bulk Fuel Upgrade Program, including preventative maintenance, repairs, and replacement of facilities that have reached the end of their useful life.

The state should regularly assess rural bulk fuel facilities and prioritize projects based on safety, environmental risk, reliability, and community need. We should also invest in local operator training and maintenance so communities have the capacity to identify and address problems before they become major failures.

Reliable bulk fuel storage is essential infrastructure in rural Alaska. Maintaining these facilities protects our communities and environment, prevents fuel loss, and helps keep energy costs down.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? Yes

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? Yes

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? Yes

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I support the reforms contained in SB 64 and would support bringing them back before the Legislature. The bill addressed real problems in Alaska's election system by creating a ballot-curing process, recognizing Tribal identification, improving ballot tracking and transparency, providing prepaid postage for absentee ballots, and strengthening rural voter assistance.

Our elections should be transparent and accessible. Eligible Alaskans should not lose their vote because of a minor technical error, where they live, or because basic voting services were unavailable to them.

Going forward, I support legislation that expands voting access, improves ballot curing and tracking, strengthens language assistance and rural election services, and ensures Tribal governments are consulted when major election-law changes affect their communities.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? What happened in Nunapitchuk during this year's primary cannot happen again. A polling place opening hours late is not equal access to voting. After the election, I made calls to better understand what happened and what needs to change.

The Division of Elections needs stronger contingency planning for rural communities. That includes recruiting and training enough poll workers to ensure backup coverage, positioning election materials in advance, and having clear plans for weather, travel disruptions, illness, or other emergencies.

We also need more consistent early-voting opportunities across rural Alaska and reliable, properly maintained voting equipment, with technical support available when something fails. The state should adequately fund rural election administration rather than expecting communities to make do with fewer options or weaker infrastructure.

I would work with the Division of Elections, Tribal governments, and rural communities to identify recurring problems before each election and make sure every Alaskan has a meaningful and equal opportunity to vote.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? Yes

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? Yes

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K–12 schools? Yes

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? Yes

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? I believe the Base Student Allocation should be at least \$7,700 today, and yes, it should be automatically inflation-proofed every year.

The permanent increase passed last year was important, but it did not erase years of flat funding and lost purchasing power. Our schools cannot retain educators, keep class sizes manageable, maintain programs, or plan responsibly when the real value of education funding declines year after year.

The base amount also cannot be treated as though the cost of educating a student is the same everywhere in Alaska. Rural and remote schools often face much higher costs for staffing, transportation, utilities, maintenance, housing, and basic operations. I support maintaining and strengthening the school-size and district-cost adjustments that recognize those realities.

We should fund schools adequately through the formula, inflation-proof that investment, and stop forcing districts into an annual fight simply to maintain basic services.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Alaska needs to make it possible for good educators to build long careers here. That starts with competitive pay, stable school funding, and restoring a defined-benefit retirement system so educators have a reason to invest in their careers in Alaska.

I support investment in safe, reliable teacher housing, strong mentoring for educators entering rural schools, and incentives that reward educators who stay in high-need communities.

We also need to grow more educators within our own communities. I support teacher apprenticeships, paraprofessional-to-teacher pathways, and University of Alaska programs that allow rural Alaskans to earn certification without leaving home. We should also remove barriers

facing Alaska Native language and culture educators by creating pathways to full certification that recognize their expertise and ensure they are compensated fairly for the essential work they do.

Our goal should be to build a stable experienced teaching workforce in every community.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I support expanding access to high-quality early childhood education across Alaska, including public pre-K, Head Start, and Tribal and community-based programs. The state should invest in additional classroom capacity, particularly in rural communities where families have few or no options.

Expansion also requires a workforce. I support better pay and training opportunities for early childhood educators, scholarships and local training pathways, and partnerships that allow people to earn credentials without leaving their communities. We should also invest in facilities, transportation, and other practical needs that can prevent a program from operating even when funding is available.

The state should work with Tribes, school districts, Head Start programs, and existing local providers rather than building a one-size-fits-all system. Programs should reflect local cultures and languages and be designed around the needs of families in each community.

Every Alaska child should have access to a strong start, regardless of where they live.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? Workforce development should meet people where they are. It is difficult to ask someone with family responsibilities, community obligations, and subsistence activities that help provide for their household.

I support bringing more vocational and technical training directly into villages and subregional hubs through partnerships with Tribes, school districts, regional organizations, the University of Alaska, AVTEC, unions, and employers. That should include apprenticeships, mobile training programs, dual-credit opportunities, and locally delivered certification in fields such as construction, heavy equipment, energy, water and wastewater, health care, education, and other jobs communities actually need.

When training cannot be provided locally, the state should help address travel, housing, and other costs that keep people from participating. We should also connect major state-funded projects with local apprenticeship and workforce opportunities.

These programs should be designed with communities around local economic needs so that training leads to real jobs and keeps skills within our region.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the

State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? Yes

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? Yes

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? Yes

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I support sustained funding for Alaska Native language revitalization, immersion programs, Elder-to-youth learning, and culturally grounded education in our schools. We should also remove barriers facing Alaska Native language and culture educators so fluent speakers and cultural knowledge holders have pathways to full certification and fair compensation.

Protecting our ways of life also requires protecting subsistence. The state should strengthen the rural subsistence priority, protect access to our lands and waters, and ensure Tribes have a meaningful role in decisions affecting fish and wildlife.

I support State-Tribal Education Compacts, stronger protection of cultural and historic sites, and continued work confronting the legacy of boarding schools. During my previous term, I supported legislative efforts addressing that history, and I believe the state has an ongoing responsibility to support truth, healing, and preservation.

These efforts should be developed with Tribes and Alaska Native communities, with the state supporting rather than directing how cultures, languages, and traditions are carried forward.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Stronger State, Tribal, and Federal relationships have to be built through regular government-to-government engagement and respect for Tribal sovereignty. Tribal governments should be involved early in decisions that affect their communities, not brought in only after major policies or projects have already been developed.

I support Tribal liaison positions across state departments, stronger consultation requirements, and greater use of State-Tribal agreements and compacts where they can improve services and decision-making. The state should also work with Tribes as partners when pursuing federal funding and advocating for changes in federal policy that affect Alaska communities.

Coordination is especially important in areas where jurisdiction and responsibility overlap, including public safety, subsistence, infrastructure, health, and emergency response. I would support regular communication among State, Tribal, and Federal officials so problems can be addressed before they become crises.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? Yes

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? Yes Yes

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? Yes

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? Every community should have dependable public safety coverage, but that will not look exactly the same everywhere in Alaska. We need to strengthen the Village Public Safety Officer program, support Tribal and municipal police departments, and maintain adequate Alaska State Trooper staffing so communities are not left waiting hours for help to arrive.

I support sustained funding for VPSO recruitment, training, housing, equipment, and retention. I also support the Western Alaska Public Safety Emergency Response System and stronger subregional response capacity so communities without a full-time officer still have trained responders, equipment, and backup positioned closer to home.

Communities require dependable dispatch, transportation, communications, public safety facilities, and coordination among Tribal, local, state, and federal agencies. During my previous term, I worked to strengthen rural public safety funding, and I will continue pushing for solutions built around the needs of individual communities.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

Alaska's has to continue and strengthen it's response to MMIP, domestic violence and sexual assault. I support continued funding for dedicated MMIP investigators at the Department of Public Safety, stronger coordination and data sharing among Tribal, state, and federal agencies, and better protocols for responding quickly when someone is reported missing.

We also have to strengthen prevention and local response by expanding VPSOs and other public safety capacity, supporting shelters and victim-service programs, and making sure survivors in rural communities can access forensic exams, advocacy, counseling, and legal assistance without having to overcome enormous geographic barriers.

Tribes and families should be directly involved in shaping these efforts. The state should continue improving how cases are reported, investigated, and communicated to families, while investing in the local services that can prevent violence and support survivors.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? Victims and their families need services they can actually reach. I support sustained funding for domestic violence and sexual assault shelters, victim advocates, counseling, legal assistance, and culturally appropriate services in rural communities.

Survivors should also be able to access forensic exams, medical care, and advocacy without

unnecessary delays or being forced to travel long distances whenever possible. Where travel is necessary, the state should help cover transportation and lodging so cost does not become another barrier to getting help.

I would support stronger coordination among shelters, Tribal programs, health providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and the court system so victims receive clear information about their cases and available services. We also need safe housing and longer-term support for people leaving abusive situations, particularly in communities where housing options are already limited.

The state should fund these services consistently and work directly with local and Tribal providers to identify gaps before families are left without support.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NEAL FOSTER: HD39

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Neal “Quannaq” Foster / Representative House District 39 / Democrat /
Nealfosterforhouse@yahoo.com / FosterForHouse.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? FIGHT FOR LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE 2 BOARD OF FISH SEATS ARE DESIGNATED AS SUBSISTENCE. PUSH THE STATE TO ALIGN WITH FEDERAL MANDATES FOR A RURAL PRIORITY AND THE KATIE JOHN CASE.

Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the future of Alaska’s lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. I SUPPORT TRIBAL CO-MANAGEMENT. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, SUPPORTS LOCAL PARTICIPATION, AND IS INCLUSIVE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE.

How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? EARLIER THIS YEAR I SPONSORED AFN’S PRESENTATION IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE STRENGTHENING OF ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE. I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AFN AND OTHERS IN EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN SUBSISTENCE.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes? YES

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? THIS PAST YEAR I SUCCESSFULLY LED THE EFFORT TO GET THE ALASKA AFFORDABLE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING. IT HELP LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES PAY FOR HEATING OIL AND PROPANE. THE STATE JUST POSTED THE APPLICATION IN SEPTEMBER, AND THE FIRST AWARDS WILL START GOING OUT IN OCTOBER. I INTEND TO SEEK MORE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM.

What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? I HAVE FOUGHT TO INCREASE VILLAGE SAFE WATER AND BROADBAND FUNDING. I HAVE BEEN A BIG PROPONENT OF INCREASING CAPITAL FUNDING FOR RURAL ALASKA. I HAVE TOLD MY COLLEAGUES COUNTLESS TIMES: "WE JUST WANT THE BASICS. MANY COMMUNITIES FACE 3RD WORLD CONDITIONS, AND WE CANNOT MOVE FORWARD AS A STATE UNTIL ALL OUR COMMUNITIES ARE LIFTED UP" THIS INCLUDES MORE FUNDING FOR HOUSING, WATER & SEWER, ROADS, SCHOOLS, FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES, POWER PLANTS, ETC.

At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? WE NEED A FUND SIMILAR TO PCE TO IMPROVE BULK FUEL FACILITIES.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. I SUPPORTED THE LEGISLATION AND PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN GETTING IT THROUGH THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE. NO CHANGES.

There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? SUPPORT HAVING MULTIPLE RURAL LIAISONS THAT WORK DIRECTLY WITH TRIBES AND THE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers? YES

Short Answer

Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? MANY RURAL SCHOOLS SAID THEY NEEDED A \$1,200 INCREASE, WHICH I SUPPORT. IT SHOULD BE INFLATION PROOFED.

What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? BETTER PAY AND A PENSION RETIREMENT.

What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT TO MATCH FED HEAD START FUNDING AND BELIEVE THE STATE CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE INFLATION ADJUSTED.

How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I HAVE TWO VOCTECH PROGRAMS IN MY DISTRICT AND STRONGLY SUPPORT THEM. WE NEED TO INFLATION ADJUST THE REVENUE RATES ESPECIALLY WHEN BSA INCREASES ARE MADE.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer

What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? I SUPPORTED THE ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES LEGISLATION AND WOULD LOVE TO SEE STATE SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL EVENTS SUCH DANCE FESTIVALS. WE HAVE SUPPORTED OTHER EVENTS SUCH AS IDITAROD AND THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES.

How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? COMMUNICATION AND INCLUSION. MY OFFICE IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH OUR REGIONAL TRIBAL ORGANIZATION AND AFN.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer

How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence? EACH YEAR WE FIGHT TO GET MORE VPSO's FUNDED AND DEFEND THE PROGRAM WHEN THERE ARE EFFORTS TO CUT PROGRAM FUNDING. WE ALSO NEED TO BUILD PUBLIC SAFETY HOUSING AND OFFER RETIREMENT TO INCENTIVIZE APPLICANTS.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis? MORE INVESTIGATORS, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND A CULTURE OF LEADING FROM THE

TOP STARTING WITH THE GOVERNOR AND COMMUNITY LEADERS. I CO-SPONSORED THE MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS LEGISLATION, AND I PUSHED LAW ENFORCEMENT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE CONCERNS OF FAMILY & FRIENDS WHEN SOMEONE IN MY DISTRICT WENT MISSING THIS PAST WINTER.

Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families? WE NEED TO EMPOWER AND FULLY FUND LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. THE ALASKA CHAPTER (ANDVSA) DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH PROVIDING INFORMATION AND COUNSELING, AND WE NEED TO HELP THEM WITH OUTREACH INTO ALL OF RURAL ALASKA.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ROBYN NIAYUQ BURKE FRIER: HD40

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name / Office Sought / Political Party / Email / Campaign Website

Robyn Niayuq Burke Frier / State House, District 40 / Democrat / robynburkehd40@gmail.com / robynfrierAK.com

SUBSISTENCE & FOOD SECURITY

Yes or No questions:

Do you support balancing the membership to equally represent all user groups on the Board of Fish and Board of Game? YES

Do you support reforms increasing rural and Tribal representation on the Board of Fish & Board of Game? YES

Will you support stronger accountability measures for commercial fisheries with high salmon bycatch? YES

Do you support enforcing existing state law to prioritize local subsistence needs over commercial harvest during periods of shortage? YES

Short Answer

1. Subsistence in Alaska Native communities is essential to food security, culture, identity, and the continuation of our way of life for future generations. What are your plans to ensure these rights are not only protected, but expanded? It starts with protecting the spirit of the law that exists - fully supporting subsistence priority in times of scarcity. That precedent needs to be held resolutely. Further, I would work to include greater rural and indigenous participation on Fish & Game Boards. Expanding subsistence also means defending our whale pods, caribou herds, and other resources. It's also important to note that subsistence practice takes on many forms; in the North Slope, subsistence whaling is not a state or federal issue, but regulated internationally, and requires rigorous advocacy to ensure that our whalers can hunt for what our communities need.

Expanding subsistence also means defending our whale pods, caribou herds, and other resources. Bycatch, industry maritime operations, climate change, and overpermitting disrupts migratory patterns and threatens the resources that our people rely on.

I look forward to working with AFN on any legislation that involves subsistence practices.

2. Do you support Tribal co-management? Please provide a detailed response explaining your position, why Tribal co-management is important to Alaska Native communities and to the

future of Alaska's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Yes! I supported a great role for Tribal co-management for our lands, waters, fish, and wildlife. Our tribes have been reliable stewards since time immemorial, and we should continue to hold that responsibility.

Our tribes have knowledge that the state government does not. We understand how changes in ice, migration, animal health, and weather patterns interact with the broader ecosystem. That knowledge and perspective, and the tribes that hold it, should be respected in resource management.

Tribal co-management is not an affront to our state, or goals of resource development. It's an understanding that indigenous knowledge is valuable, that our communities deserve autonomy over the decisions made affecting them.

I will support legislation and agency agreements that formalize Tribal co-management and give tribal governments legitimate authority.

3. How would you support the development and implementation of a Native-led management framework to ensure Alaska Native communities have a stronger role in managing their subsistence resources? We need to have a seat at the table. Tribal participation should be formalized into state law, including for co-management agreements with the Department of Fish and Game. There are examples of Native-led management frameworks that have proven effective, and we should lean on the work of previous advisory councils, whaling commissions, and Tribal fish and wildlife programs to execute this kind of framework.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Yes or No questions:

Do you support the federal land-into-trust process for federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes?

Yes

Do you support meaningful Tribal consultation before major state projects? YES

Do you support increased funding to the renewable energy fund? YES - I strongly support the Renewable Energy Fund and led legislation to create a technical assistance program for communities with less than 2,000 people to ensure that rural communities can also compete for these funds.

Will you commit to protecting the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program and opposing any legislation that would undermine its goals or threaten its funding? YES

Short Answer

1. What actions would you take to reduce rural Alaska energy costs? Protect the Power Cost Equalization program, and maintain it for its original purposes. Fund the Renewable Energy Fund at a level that allows communities in the Northwest Arctic to add the wind, solar, and battery storage that can cut back diesel reliance. Develop the natural gas resources that can lower costs in communities and grow local economies.

2. What specific investments or policies will you support to improve drinking water, wastewater, broadband, and other essential infrastructure in rural Alaska? Infrastructure improvements are critical in my district, especially in areas of the Northwest Arctic that were affected by the extreme cold disasters last year. I've been working with the state administration to restore the impacted water systems.

I fully support state matching funds for the Village Safe Water programs, and will continue to support the federal buildout of broadband into the Arctic.

I've worked to improve climate resilient infrastructure, including securing investments to relocate Deering Airport. Our state needs to proactively pursue erosion mitigation and resilient infrastructure, fortifying these systems before disasters can damage and interrupt the resources that our people rely on.

3. At this time, many critical bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska are in need of major maintenance. What is your plan to address this issue before it becomes a major environmental and energy crisis? I fully support expanding bulk fuel storage. Many bulk fuel tank farms are decades old, where an isolated disaster could cut off a community's heat and power. We should be targeting grant funding - like the Bulk Fuel Upgrade program - to replace and maintain these fuel tanks.

Communities relying on deteriorating fuel tanks are at risk of failing heat systems. We've seen the Denali Commission award \$100 million to replace failing fuel tanks, but there's no centralized data body to determine how these funds should be prioritized. I'd advocate for a statewide condition assessment of rural bulk fuel facilities so that our funding can be appropriated to the communities that need it.

VOTING & REPRESENTATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support increasing language assistance for Alaska Native voters? YES - I've advocated for dialectical translations of DOE's official OEP materials.

Will you support legislation expanding access to voting for rural and remote Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose legislation reducing opportunities to vote by mail or to vote early? YES

Will you commit to consulting Alaska Tribal governments before supporting major election law changes? YES

Short Answer

1. Please explain your position on the voting reform legislation (SB64) and any changes you would support to improve Alaska's election system. Alaska needs election reform. We should be taking direct action to ensure that elections are more accessible, improve ballot curing, and update our witness signature requirements. Moreover, we need a distinctive rural liaison program that can ensure that small communities have their votes reliably and consistently counted.

I supported SB64 in the legislature and will continue to strongly advocate for comprehensive voter reform legislation.

2. There continues to be significant voting access challenges in rural Alaska, including polling locations not opening, challenges securing poll workers in remote communities, and unequal access to early voting and malfunctioning equipment. If elected, how would you work to address these disparities and ensure every Alaskan has equal access to voting? This is one of the most prevalent and important issues for my district. On every election day, there are stories of polling stations open only for a few hours, failing voting machines, and ballots that are cast away due to delayed transit.

This is a systematic failing from the state to deliver the key services that our communities need to be heard. It's nothing short of disenfranchisement.

We need to recruit and pay poll workers at a rate that will ensure consistent staffing at locations. We should require early voting sites in every community with a school. There also needs to be appropriate capital allocated towards replacing aging voting machines.

I promise to continue to hold the Division of Elections accountable for these gaps in voting access.

EDUCATION

Yes or No questions:

Do you support State-Tribal Education Compacts? YES

Do you support increasing the Base Student Allocation to close the rural education funding gap? YES

Do you support Indigenous cultural programs in K-12 schools? YES

Do you support a defined-benefit retirement system for teachers?

Short Answer

1. Education in Alaska, both urban and rural, has faced significant funding challenges over the years. What do you believe the K-12 Base Student Allocation should be, and should the BSA be automatically inflation proofed? In the legislature, we were proud to have passed a \$700 BSA increase. However, that funding was a stopgap for what has been consistent flat funding against inflation over the past two decades.

Our BSA needs to be inflation proofed, and should be delivered at a level that gives our students and teachers the resources they need to succeed. But there's

more to this problem. We need to pass a defined benefit plan that keeps teachers in Alaskan classrooms, and forward fund our budgets so schools aren't scrambling every fall to fill staffing vacancies and fund extracurricular programs.

2. What specific strategies and policies would you implement to address the challenges to improve teacher retention and ensure that all students, particularly in rural areas, have access to high-quality educators? Before my election to the state House of Representatives, I served as President of the North Slope Borough School Board. I've seen firsthand the negative impact of poor teacher retention onto student success and the quality of education that can be delivered.

In the legislature, I was a prime sponsor of HB 231, a bill which would revamp teacher retirement plans and implement a series of policies all designed to encourage long-term teacher retention.

A defined benefit policy is still the best way to keep teachers in our state and I will continue to champion those efforts if reelected.

3. What measures will you take to expand access to early childhood education programs for Alaska children? I strongly support expanding early childhood education programs and will support legislation that will make these programs more accessible, especially in rural areas. Early intervention in education is critical for long-term development and successful outcomes.

4. How do you plan to expand vocational and technical training programs that align with the economic needs of Alaska Native communities? I've served in leadership roles at Ilisagvik College, the tribal college in Utqiagvik. Ilisagvik offers a series of applied and relevant technical education programs which could be used as a model of success.

The immediate answer is in critical infrastructure. Our communities desperately need improvements to water systems, roads, and airports. These upgrades are often neglected due to high logistics and labor costs. By aligning vocational programs with community infrastructure needs, we can provide new economic opportunities in local communities while improving quality of life.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENING STATE & TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Yes or No questions:

Will you support meaningful Tribal consultation in State actions and decision-making that impacts Tribes and tribal communities, recognizing Tribal sovereignty and ensuring that the State is guided by Tribal perspectives to build strong, respectful partnerships that better serve all Alaskans? YES

Will you oppose any State action that diminishes or bypasses Tribal sovereignty? YES

Would you support tribal liaison positions in every State department? YES

Short Answer:

1. What actions would you support to protect and strengthen Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions, and ways of life? My grandmother was a lifelong instructor of INupiaq language and culture for over 41 years, and inspired my aspirations for education and public service.

I will support state funding for Alaska Native language immersion and revitalization programs, and Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council. I also serve on the Tribal affairs

committee, and will actively champion legislation that strengthens Alaska Native culture, way of life, and subsistence priorities.

2. How will you contribute to building a stronger relationships between State, Tribal and Federal Governments? Compacting and co-management agreements are a clear example of how Tribal governments can expand self-governing capacity, while engaging with state and federal governments.

We've already successfully compacted healthcare governance, child welfare, and tribal sovereignty. Using my seat in the Tribal Affairs committee, I'd work towards executing Tribal Compacting of Education. Support for this compacting has stretched back to 2016, and it's time to formalize these agreements and provide Tribes the ability to administer education in their communities.

On a broader level, strengthening relationships between Tribal, State, and Federal governments requires active participation and communication. That's why I'll push towards a tribal liaison for each state department and strengthening the role of the Tribal affairs office in the governor's office.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Yes or No questions:

Will you support funding for additional Village Public Safety Officers? YES

Will you support continued funding for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Investigators at the Department of Public Safety? YES

Will you work to strengthen federal, state and tribal law enforcement agencies and increase coordination in reporting, investigations and data sharing? YES

Short Answer:

1. How will you work to ensure that every Alaskan community has a full-time (or otherwise adequate) public safety presence?

Many communities in my district have no public safety presence at all. When an incident or crime occurs, the nearest trooper may be a plane ride away. That's unacceptable in Anchorage, and it should be treated with equal urgency in my district.

The VPSO program is critical to keeping our communities safe. When full staffed and resourced, VPSOs play so many roles in our communities - as public safety officers, correction officers, counselors, mentors, first responders. In my district, where small communities are often clustered together, VPSOs are unique in that they can actively respond to neighboring communities when needed. They are well respected and integral parts of our society.

Our legislature should be focused on protecting and expanding the VPSO program. We need to deliver funding and proper incentives so that VPSOs can be recruited, trained, and retained without breaks in service. When funding for VPSOs in the Northwest Arctic Borough, I worked with the municipal government to ensure that we were able to retain those key roles.

2. Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault and missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Nation. What are your solutions to address this crisis?

It starts with public safety. We need the VPSOs, police, and troopers needed to respond to instances of domestic violence and sexual assault. When there is no direct and sufficient response, the victim is left in the same environment with the same perpetrator, they are forced to stay in a dangerous environment. We need to be fully funding and supporting VPSO programs so there can be a sufficient and immediate response.

We also need to continue to collect data and to understand the problem, so we can implement strategic policy interventions. We should be processing sexual assault cases and rape kits, and holding abusers accountable.

We cannot be fearful of calling out the people that perpetuate abuse. This is a systemic problem, and needs to be addressed with a large-scale intervention spanning from education, direct response, and survivor support.

3. Victims and families need support, including information on legal processes, counseling, and other services. What actions will you take to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families?

We need to work to provide survivors safe places to get away from their abusers. We should cut red tape and make it easier to operate state-supported shelters in rural communities. In Utqiagvik, there's a shelter called Arctic Women in Crisis, where domestic abuse survivors and their families can shelter and separate from dangerous living conditions. Those resources should be available in all communities, regardless of size.



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