

Anchorage Tea Party

Alaska State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire 2012

You may use as much space as you like for your responses, including additional pages. Your responses will be posted on our website, and hard copies will be made available to attendees at our June 25, 2012 candidate forum.

Candidate Name _____ Jeff Landfield _____ House or Senate District ___ K _____

1. Give your opinion on a rotating legislative session to be held in each of the three largest cities in Alaska. What are your ideas for providing Alaska citizens' better access to the legislature?

I think we should look at moving to a biennial budget and during the off budget year move the session to Anchorage. Another option would be moving the capitol to somewhere on the highway system that is more accessible to Alaskans.

2. What must Alaska do to increase our oil-related revenues?

It is not rocket science, create a favorable business climate by having a competitive tax regime and incentives that encourage the producers to develop our resources.

3. What is your position on "Loser Pays" tort reform legislation for Alaska?

I support it. I also would support making groups post a bond that are suing resource development projects.

4. What is the one most important thing we can do to improve education in Alaska and how will you facilitate that?

Give parents more control over the education of their children. I would support school choice to accomplish that.

5. Give examples of capital budget projects you favor spending state monies on.

I support roads to resources projects. However, I think we first need to get our fiscal house in order before we start undertaking large projects. Why would we build monumental projects if oil continues to decline and spending continues to soar?

6. Do you believe this year's state operating budget is too high, just right, or too low? If too high, name three programs in which you would make cuts. If too low, list the areas which need more spending.

Definitely too high! We have tripled spending from the general fund in the last 10 years, this is a big problem.

Many of the problems come from automatic, formula based increases in education and healthcare. We need to look at growth in government, specifically the operating budget. Getting general fund spending to a sustainable amount of \$5.5 billion a year or less is crucial. This is about a philosophy and electing people with who are serious about cutting spending. Some ways of doing this include:

- 1. Market based healthcare reforms to lower costs**
- 2. Loser pays tort reform to cut down on defensive medicine**

Please email responses to admin@anchorageteaparty.org by June 22. Thank you for your willingness to serve Alaska!

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3. Evaluate the medical formula with respect to 'federal poverty level qualification'
4. Advocate for block grants from the feds to manage Medicaid better
5. Institute market based school reforms to lower costs and improve quality through competition
6. Freeze all department spending until budgets are limited to the number above
7. What is your interpretation of the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and how it relates to states' rights? Give specific examples relating to Alaska

It is pretty clear to me, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or the people." The federal government has no business and is prohibited from meddling in the affairs of the States unless specifically expressed by the Constitution, examples being coining money and defense. Specific examples relating to Alaska include but are not limited to the EPA, TSA, and the Department of Education. I can't seem to find any authority in the Constitution for them.

8. Name four things Alaska can and should do to reduce health care costs.
 1. Allow the market to work properly by getting the government out of the health insurance business
 2. Eliminate the certificate of need program
 3. Enact tough tort reform laws to prevent frivolous malpractice lawsuits, which would drive the cost of healthcare down
 4. Evaluate occupational licensure requirements for medical care
9. Do you support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions? Why or why not?

I am not sure on this one. It would seem prudent for judicial appointments to be made directly by the Governor and confirmed by the senate rather than being forwarded a list of names from the judicial council. However, there is also evidence to suggest that the process we have is very non-partisan and keeps the politics out of it. This part of the Constitution was meant to keep the politics out of the Supreme Court. I would need to do more research on the issue in order to make a decision. I would not support direct election of judges because then it becomes political. Currently, if a judge is performing poorly than they can be removed during the retention vote, this is a good idea.

10. List any restrictions you personally will have (or have) on contributions to your campaign such as a dollar cap, accepting contributions from public-sector or private unions, PACs, etc. Please provide details and justification.

I will not solicit nor accept any contributions from unions. I do not agree that the State withholds public union dues from employee's paychecks and then the PAC's make substantial contributions to many legislators, such as my primary opponent. I also think Alaska should be a right-to-work state and people should only pay union dues if they choose. I have no issue accepting personal donations from supporters and privately funded PAC's who have the same goals of cutting spending and improving the business climate in Alaska as I do.