

Barbara Bachmeier - State House, District 13

ANCHORAGE TEA PARTY
LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE '12
admin@anchorageparty.org

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 favor providing Alaska residents better access to the legislature held in one place each year. Annual legislative sessions in the Anchorage area are the best alternative because: a) the majority of Alaskans reside in or near Anchorage, b) it is cost prohibitive for most Alaskans to fly to Juneau to meet with their legislators or provide legislative testimony, and c) logistical expenses of locating the Legislature in a different city each year would be cost-prohibitive.

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

Oil-related revenues will increase sufficiently if oil production is increased. To encourage oil production, Alaska must offer a stable economy, reasonable and consistent tax structure, and a much less-obtuse permitting/approval process.

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

I am in favor of processes like arbitration instead of litigation to a) reduce frivolous lawsuits, b) lower litigation costs, and c) lessen the burdensome judicial processes for legitimate court cases. To enact "Loser Pays" legislation will lead to an encouraging and expanded small business climate and consequent job growth in our state, but this is not the only solution.

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

With regard to the Anchorage School District, the administrator-to-student ratio has increased unnecessarily in recent years. Until ASD responds to this problem in a meaningful way, parents who want to insure the best educational opportunities for their child should be able to use a portion of their property taxes for payment of tuition at a private school. Such competition will compel schools in Anchorage and around the state, to undertake meaningful systemic changes that will result in parents choosing to enroll their children in them.

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

a) I am strongly in favor of using state funds to pay for a large-diameter, in-state natural gas line project. When federal laws permit the export of Alaska's excess natural gas, I will support LNG export facilities.

b) The Susitna-Wantana Hydroelectric project in order to meet future electrical power needs along Alaska's rail belt, and

c) *I support the construction of the Knik Arm Bridge using funding that would be available under the initial plan presented. I do not favor the state's use of "eminent domain", however, for the confiscation of Government Hill homes and businesses.*

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

The state budget just passed by the legislature is MUCH TOO HIGH! Whenever state expenses are higher than state revenues, the budget a) is too high, b) is unsustainable, and c) needs to be corrected before passage.

Reducing the operating budget is best accomplished by a) finding and remedying government inefficiencies, b) discontinuing duplicative services, and c) assigning all state workers full-time work loads in exchange for full-time salaries.

It may be much "easier" to cut capital budget items such as:

a) Film Production Subsidy; Alaska was under compensated for the large subsidy provided to Hollywood in exchange for filming "The Big Miracle" here, for example,

b) UAA funding that provides Alaskans living in or around certain Alaska hub cities to attend the failing "Great Alaska Shoot-Out" basketball tournament at state expense (state-paid round-trip airline tickets are provided after an individual has purchased an admission ticket to this event), and

c) Parking lots at privately-owned facilities; the Dome and Wellspring Revival Ministries in Anchorage as examples.

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.

The Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution reads:

"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 to the people."

While still relevant to the United States in the contemporary period, the Tenth Amendment has been reduced in its power and applicability since the 1960s. Alaska correctly challenges the federal government in actions inconsistent with the intentions of the framers of the Constitution. Some good examples are;

a) Federal management of fish and game in Alaska,

b) The federal Transportation Security Agency (TSA) operating at most of Alaska's airports, and

c) Federal actions to restrict the development on Alaska lands.

8. Name four things Alaska can and should do to reduce health care costs.

Alaska can reduce health care costs by advancing a more streamlined and technology-driven approach to medical documentation and billing. There should also be an increased use of tele-medicine, when appropriate.

In addition to this but not enforced by the state, it is the personal responsibility of each Alaskan (and doubly for parents caring for their children) to participate in the maintenance of good individual health by:

- a) Consuming healthful foods and beverages,*
- b) Using sound dental hygiene practices daily,*
- c) Participating in reasonable exercise practices,*
- d) Alcoholic beverages in moderation and no illegal drug use, and*
- e) A good hard day's work!*

9) Do you support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions? Why or why not?

During the first constitutional convention, the participants expressed the concern about an entrenched judiciary. As those participants did not want the judiciary to be involved in political elections, the compromise was for judges to stand for retention in non-partisan state elections.

In recognizing the Separation of Powers between Alaska's Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, the current system here, including a Judicial Review Board, follows the Constitution and is the best system available.

10. List any restrictions you personally will have (or have now) 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 rely on good old-fashioned "door-to-door campaigning" to win the political support and votes of my friends and neighbors. Fundraising has not been a major element of my campaign, because most of my potential constituents cannot afford the expense. And I do not want to get to Juneau based on the expenditure of large sums of money provided by "rich and famous lawyers", as others have chosen to do. As for the contributions offered to me and that I've accepted, all meet state law and are consistent with my beliefs, core values, and reasoning.