

ANCHORAGE TEA PARTY

Alaska State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2012

Bob Roses State Senate Seat G

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 better access to the legislature. The idea of having the legislative sessions held on a rotating basis in the three largest cities has been discussed numerous times. It is a great concept, but from a logistical standpoint it would create a mess. There are so many support personnel involved in the process that moving them around for the session would probably cost more than other options. People voted to move the capital. We should do it, but until then we should hold committee meetings in cities impacted by the issue being discussed. The LIO offices could also be equipped with video conferencing along with audio that is currently being used.
2. What must Alaska do to increase our oil related revenues? We need to make Alaska more competitive with other oil and gas markets. ACES created a tax rate with the progressivity factor that is a burden to increased production. The argument against lowering the tax is the loss of between \$1 billion and \$ 2 billion per year to the state treasury.
If production is increased by just over 115,000 barrels per day at \$95 per barrel the 25% tax base would generate \$1 billion for the general fund and 12.5% royalty would generate over \$ 500 million from which the permanent fund obtains its deposits.
3. What is your position on "Loser Pays" tort reform legislation for Alaska? Loser Pays tort reform would go a long way in reducing lawsuits designed to slow processes down. It would make groups and individuals more thoughtful and deliberative before filing suit. As a trained mediator, I firmly believe that many lawsuits could be directed towards mediation rather than full litigation.
4. What is the one most important thing we can do to improve education in Alaska and how will you facilitate that? There are a number of things that could help improve education in Alaska. Employers often believe that a diploma doesn't signify much, nor does the high school qualifying exam. A multiple diploma system could help. The highest being a college preparatory diploma that had high standards and requirement at a level that truly prepared student for post secondary education without the need for remediation. The second being a business diploma that would require classes in economics, word processing, reading and writing skills, and either technology skills or vocational education skills. The third being a general diploma with adequate requirements and skills to function at an entry level position or qualify for military service. Prospective employers or educators could much more easily identify the level of education obtained. If a student attempted to obtain the college prep or business diploma and fell short

they could, if qualified, obtain a general diploma. Increased school choice could also make a difference.

5. Give examples of capital budget projects you favor spending state monies on. Highway projects, deferred maintenance projects, energy related projects like hydroelectric and an in state gas line. We should also aggressively seek matching funds for these projects.
6. Do you believe this year's state operating budget is too high, too low or just right? Given the fact that oil is currently below \$100 per barrel and spending is based on just over \$100 per barrel, one would believe spending to be too high and unsustainable. The easiest place to reduce spending is in the capital budget. We also need to reduce any duplication of services, as well as, budget closer to the actual employee levels rather than budget levels that include unfilled positions.
7. What is your interpretation of the Tenth Amendment of the US Constitution and how it relates to states' rights. I take the tenth Amendment literally. The federal government shouldn't pass laws or interfere with the state's right to govern. The health care law is an over reach of federal authority and should be struck down. We are seeing an over reach by the EPA into state issues as well. For years we have had conflicts between federal and state agencies over fish and game management. If we aren't careful we will see increased control handed over to a board regarding the Coastal Zone Management Initiative.
8. Name four things Alaska can do to reduce health care costs. Allow for competition by opening the state to other insurance providers. Acceptance of TRI- Care, Medicare and Medicaid is a serious issue. The federal government has far too much control over the issue. Doctors are reluctant to take those patients because they can't afford for the majority of their clients to be covered under those programs. If the state had more control over the issue, we could make as a condition for license renewal that a certain percentage of patients come from that pool. This would spread the economic burden across all physicians. Tort reform would reduce the cost of liability insurance and protect doctors against frivolous lawsuits. The increased use of PA's and NP's in rural areas would provide cost reduction benefits as well.
9. Do you support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions? No. I believe that we need a panel composed of attorneys and citizens that aren't attorneys to forward a list to the Governor for nomination to the Legislature for approval. We currently take an advisory vote for retention, but the voters don't make the final determination. That could be considered for further review and modification to put more power with the voters.
10. List any restrictions you personally will have (or have) on contributions to your campaign such as dollar cap, accepting contributions from public sector or private unions, PAC's, etc. The campaign finance and ethics laws are pretty clear on that subject. With full disclosure, voters

can determine if undue influence is occurring and they can vote that person out of office. I would not grant greater access to my office for a contributor over a noncontributory. When I served in the House, I had an open door policy and met with everyone that came to my office regardless of their party affiliation or if they were a constituent or contributor. I will do the same when elected to the Senate. We are elected by our constituents, but we serve all Alaskans. We also need to put more teeth into conflict of interest recusals. Rarely is a vote withheld on an issue even though the law before the body benefits some legislators' employer. This, in my opinion, is no different than a paid lobbyist on that issue, except the lobbyist doesn't get to vote.