

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 _____ Cris_Eichenlaub_Jr _____ House or Senate District _____ 18 _____

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 disagree with rotating legislative sessions. Costs of administrative overhead would likely increase. To improve the citizen's access to the legislature, I would support moving the capital to the Mat-Su valley. Mat-Su is balanced in a position that is closer to the center of the state, while also located near the highest concentrations of residents. This would reduce travel for almost everyone, and would open the capital to road access. After the Knik Arm crossing is complete, my home district would be a short drive away.

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

Alaska must increase production, and can do so by building a provision into ACES that will allow for a lower base tax rate in underdeveloped oil fields when the tax rate exceeds the 10% of the market high.

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

I support "loser pays" tort reform. This would serve as a deterrent to frivolous law suits, while also decongesting the court system.

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

I would advise better use of technology. However, I feel the use of educational spending would best be decided by local school districts, where school boards can be held accountable by the communities they serve.

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

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

I support the Knik Arm crossing. Alaska spends more money per person than any other state in the union. Our first priority should be to establish a more conservative budget by reigning in capital expenses. Surpluses should be returned to the Permanent Fund and to the people through dividends.

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.

This year's state operating budget is excessively high.

I believe the Alaska Marine Highway System would be a good place to make some spending cuts. This department wastes too much money on repair and maintenance of older vessels, and should focus on replacing the old boats with newer and more effective models.

University spending should also be cut. The universities have enough resources to supplement their own budgets.

The AEA Power Cost Equalization program should be cut. The State should not be incentivizing the consumption of expensive electricity. They should be allowing the free market to address the problem.

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 states "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." This means that any power not given to the federal government as expressed in the Constitution belongs to the States. Alaska must act to protect state sovereignty, and, more importantly, the sovereignty of its people. Fish and Game management, natural resource development, and civil liberties.

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

Alaska should grow the economy through pro-business free market practices.. Market prices for goods and services in Alaska are too high. Overall improvements to the Alaskan market are needed to reduce health care prices.

Better economy means fewer low income residents on Medicaid and less of the total health care bill on the state dime.

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Transportation related Medicaid expenses needs to be reduced by improving access through private sector development in a healthier economy.

A healthy economy will also increase competition among service providers, cutting down costs.

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

I do support the appointment process; however the retention process should be tightened. Judges should be required to be up for retention more frequently.

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 am the no one candidate. To this day, I have raised \$0 in campaign contributions. My desire is to run a campaign based on grass-roots word of mouth that does not involve heavy campaign spending. I do believe "spending money" is a form of free speech and is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as by Section 1.5 of the Alaska State Constitution.