

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: BOB

LYNN_____

House or Senate District 23

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?

“Short answer:” Nice idea, but would be too expensive.

“Longer answer:” I believe a government close to the governed tends to be a better government. Unfortunately, rotating our legislature between would cost too much money.

The legislature you see on the House and Senate floors, and in Committee sessions, is the “tip of the iceberg” of those who would have to rotate between the “three largest cities.” There’s four clerks from Juneau on the Speaker’s dais, plus their support office clerks, and the Sergeant at Arms. The Gavel-to-Gavel TV crew (Juneau) and technical support people, who provide at least some transparency for constituents, and they likely couldn’t travel. There’s communication and recording equipment, voting display boards, plus facility space for all this. Each legislator has two or three staff critical to legislation and constituent services. Legislative research and legal services people are housed in Juneau, and we often consult personally with them. Some spouses and children travel with their legislator (very important), and local housing must be obtained and, in some cases, schools.

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

It would be more cost effective to move our legislature to Anchorage, or nearby, rather than rotating between cities. As a point in passing, I believe I'm the only committee chair who has ever been successful in getting a capitol move bill out of committee! Unfortunately, that bill failed to move out of the following committee.

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

“Short Answer:” Lower oil taxes to help make Alaska more competitive. That's why I voted “Yes” on HB110, and would vote “yes” on similar legislation.

“Longer Answer:” Oil people, like other business people, invest limited capital wherever they think the most profit can be made. Nations and states COMPETE for oil investment, in the hope of getting tax revenue from successful oil producers. Alaska must compete with other US states (like North Dakota and Texas), as well as the world of nations.

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

“Short answer:” I think It's a great idea. *Good news:* Alaska has such a law (I voted for it). *Bad news:* The Alaska Supreme Court ruled key parts of it “unconstitutional” – “public interest” litigants (read “wacko” environmental groups) were given an exception by the Court.

“Longer answer:” I voted for HB145 (loser pays) in 2003, and it passed the House with a simple majority (23 Yes, 14 no, 3 excused) – and it became law. Every Democrat voted against it. Later, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that, under Rule 82 of the “Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, ” *exceptions* to “loser pays” could apply to public interest groups, even if they prevailed on any issue whatsoever in the case – even if the issue was “marginal or substantial.”

It would take a 2/3 vote in both the House and Senate to change the Rules of Procedure, and make “loser pays” what our legislature meant it to be in 2003. The only practical way now to possibly implement “loser pays” was meant to be, would be to vote in a 2/3+ Republican Majority in both the House and Senate in the upcoming 2012 general election.

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

“Short Answer:” Put parents back in control of educating their children.

“Longer Answer:” I support public schools as one means of delivery of education to our children. Competition would improve public schools. Public or private, parents deserve other affordable choices. One way to help put parents back in control of their children’s education is to provide educational scholarships to be used for enrolling their children at a school of the parent’s choice, either public or private.

Minimum state basic skills standards would have to apply to any private school eligible to receive a scholarship from a parent. Educational scholarship legislation would require a pre-existing amendment to the Alaska Constitution – possible, but not easy. I would facilitate a reasonable educational scholarship program by voting to move the needed Alaska constitutional amendment out of committee, and would vote “yes” for such an amendment on the House floor.

Other Comments on Educational Issues: (A) Competition is good. (B) Vocational education opportunities should be increased. (C) I do NOT support publically funded expansion of “pre-school” years (would it eventually extend “pre-school” to the maternity room?). I believe parents are children’s primary educators, not the government. D) I do NOT support extending mandatory public education beyond age 18 (It would

help neither the person nor other students). However, children over age 18 should be able to continue public school voluntarily, so long as other students are not disrupted. (E) I do NOT support so-called student “At Risk Surveys.” Such surveys are an invasion of student and family privacy. (F) I will vote accordingly on (A) through (E). NOTE: I am a retired public school teacher, and have held both general and special education credentials. Also, I was able to earn B.A. and an M.A. (in Educational Administration) with an “educational scholarship” from military service labeled the “G.I. Bill;” I was able to use that “scholarship” at any school of my choice that would accept me.

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

Alaska should use a large part of its capital budget expenditures for infrastructure and deferred maintenance, like “Roads to Resources” - such as roads to/from oil and gas, mining, and timber venues. I support state investment for hydropower from Susitna/Watana Dam, and similar waterpower projects.

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.

I wish the Finance Committee would have allocated more money for 1) paying off debt and 2) savings for a “rainy day” caused by declining oil revenue. We face declining revenue, at least in the short term, so it’s time for Alaska to “tighten its belt.”

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 US Constitution is a contract with Americans and the states. The Tenth Amendment clearly 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.*"

One such example of a Tenth Amendment violation would be the case of Jim Wilde, a seventy year old man arrested in 2010 on the Yukon River by the National Park Service for "intruding on 'federal waters.'"

I voted "YES" in 2009 on HJR27 that declared Alaska's sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution. Another example is the US Postal Services trying to force Alaska to pay for bypass mail of parcels to bush communities. The Feds have no right to force sovereign states to pay for federal programs.

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

(1): Eliminate, or significantly reform, our state imposed "Certificate of Need" requirements, which would more properly be termed "certificates of monopoly." If you and I decide to open a business – health or otherwise – we shouldn't have to go to the government, hat in hand, and request permission to do so. I had a bill that would have addressed the so-called "Certificate of Need," but it was held in the House HESS Committee without a vote. In additional, all health care regulations should be reviewed for potential cost saving.

(2): Work with our Congressional Delegation to try to obtain some exemption that would enable patients pay some or part of the difference

Medicare and non-Medicare covered procedures, as well as some exemptions from the Stark Law for Alaska.

(3): Incentivize more patient out-care opportunities. Out-care is much less expensive than hospital care.

(4): Require use of generic drugs in place of brand name drugs for state retired employees, and use the savings to fund colorectal screenings (which is cheaper than cancer treatment). I sponsored HBXX for this. The bill was held in House Labor and Commerce Committee because the Commissioner came before the committee and promised administrative action on both matters. If this doesn't happen, I will re-introduce the bill.

(5) More emphasis on preventive medical care.

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

“Short answer:” NO, I do NOT support the current Judicial Council processes.

“Longer Answer:” I don't support the current Judicial Council system because any governor's "hands are tied" by being required to appoint from only judicial nominees from a list provided by the Judicial Council – which is made up by attorneys who, as a general rule, are notoriously liberal.

A “fix-it” amendment to the Alaska Constitution is needed to change the judicial selection process, and such an amendment is virtually impossible to achieve without a large conservative majority in both the State House and State Senate.

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.

“Short Answer:” All contributions must be legal. No other contributor restrictions - except on a case-by-case basis.

“Longer Answer:” More important than the dollar amount of contributions is full disclosure of any amount donated, the contributors' name, address, and business/interest affiliation. Current law covers that. I (and I think most other candidates) would prefer smaller contributions from many, rather than large contributions from a few. Other than not accepting illegal contributions, or contributions from known or legally alleged corrupt persons, I have no contributor restrictions - except that all contributions must be legal, and be fully disclosed during the time allowed.

A record of all contributions to all my campaigns, 2002 to the present, is public record. A “PAC” is not necessarily a bad thing, for example, the “Alaska Right to Life PAC.” I am opposed to publically funded campaigns. Likewise, I’m very concerned about our US Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision that permits corporations and unions (“Super PACS”) to spend unlimited amounts of money on “independent” advertising for/against candidates or ballot propositions. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee I was at least to get a disclosure of the top three contributors put into law. I’m currently in contact with APOC for suggestions on possible legislation in 2013 to mitigate some of the built-in problems caused by Citizens United.

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CLOSING COMMENT: Your support of my campaign, *WIN WITH LYNN*, is respectfully requested!

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