

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Connelly \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_

House  or Senate

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? The people of Alaska, the voters, have instructed the legislature a couple of times to move the Capital out of Juneau. The Legislature, in their arrogance, have defied the will of the people and refused to do so. Replace said Legislators with new representatives who will truly and faithfully carry out the wishes of the people that put them in their Legislative offices. Move the Capital to Anchorage.
  
2. What must Alaska do to increase our oil-related revenues? Alaska must come to terms with the people who produce and sell Alaska's oil. Government should only tax to the degree it needs, not wants. Alaska revenues revolve around two separate issues. The first issue is ownership of the oil and "Our Fair Share". When the oil companies first came to Alaska, the state and oil companies agreed that Alaska's Fair Share was twelve and one half barrels of oil per one hundred barrels of oil produced. This is the price that the people of Alaska thru their elected representatives agreed was their fair share. The second issue is taxes. The relationship between Alaska and the oil companies is the same relationship between any seller and buyer of any commodity. The tax system is extremely burdensome and complicated. I propose changing the tax structure so as the tax paid is based upon the final pump price. The company and the state each need to determine how much they need from the final pump price to take care of their prospective needs. Theoretically, the company needs 25% of the final pump price leaving the state the remaining 75% or some numbers such as. Without compromise there is no moving forward and both the companies and the state ie: the people lose.
  
3. What is your position on "Loser Pays" tort reform legislation for Alaska? Where frivolous lawsuits are obviously the case the loser should pay. However, not all lawsuits are frivolous. Where the suit has merit, and there is a honest intent to correct a legal wrong, said loser should not be held accountable for the loss.

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4. What is the one most important thing we can do to improve education in Alaska and how will you facilitate that? Plan for a Starship Educational System. Embrace technology to its fullest and offer financial incentives to the teachers who utilize this technology.
  
5. Give examples of capital budget projects you favor spending state monies on. Susitna Dam System. Electrify the state. Add roads.
  
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. Its too high. The state has spent too much money on this years budget. Example #1..the Great Alaska Shootout Free Plane ticket scandal #2 ..Hollywood Film tax credits
  
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 gives specific duties and authorities to the federal government and reserves all other duties and authorities to the state. Weak or corrupt politicians have allowed the feds to encroach on states rights and degrade the rights and freedoms of the people of the individual states. Every state must challenge these federal abuses wherever possible. If left to me the states would collect all tax dollars due government and then send the federal government the money needed to accomplish only the constitutionally mandated duties it has.
  
8. Name four things Alaska can and should do to reduce health care costs.  
  
1. Competition 2. Allow foreign trained healthcare providers to test and practice in Alaska. 3. Promote/encourage more community healthcare clinics. 4. Embrace tele-care technology.
  
9. Do you support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions? Why or why not? No, let the Governor have as many qualified names as he wants. The Judicial Council should only tell him who is qualified to be a Judge, not tell him the three he needs to make his choice from.
  
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, PAC's, etc. Please provide details and justification. I have no restrictions for accepting money from anyone. I'll let them know up front that it buys  
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them nothing except the same ear that anyone else will have whether they contribute to me or not. The needs of special interest groups must compete with the needs of the total community. I will work for all on an equal footing.

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