

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 _____ Lisa Vaught _____ House or Senate District _____ 22 _____

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?

As a citizen of Alaska I think it is a great idea but... who will pay to transport the legislature around and will there be adequate facilities in each location? You would need legislators, staff, office equipment, facilities, housing and multiple other things. That would be a huge expense. During the 3 months that our Representatives or Senators are in Juneau they are available via phone, email, POM and a multitude of other ways. Most committee meetings are televised or webcast. All of the LIO offices are set up to take testimony and to allow visitors to watch the proceedings. During the non-legislative portion of the year, the legislator is at home and easily available to constituents. I believe the cost of moving the capitol around would not be in the best interest of the State.

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

We have to asses our tax structure to encourage more oil production as well as more exploration and development. We need to be competitive globally.

3. What is your position on "Loser Pays" tort reform legislation for Alaska? It is my understanding that in Alaska, the loser pays a portion of the winners' fees in cases that have been judged groundless. I agree with this, particularly in light of knowing what was occurring, where businesses eventually cleared of all wrongdoings, had to file for bankruptcy simply because the lawsuits that were continuously filed before this legislation took effect.

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

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

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Get back to teaching the basics. Make it so our schools are for education only and not clearing houses for social programs. Assess how State money is being spent and see that the money the state provides is used strictly for education. We need competition in schools and accountability for funding as well as student success. I think parents need more choices, not every student fits the public school mold.

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

I would support increased infrastructure projects. Alaska needs infrastructure to develop its resources.

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.

Our operating budget is too high and not sustainable. As oil production declines and the price of oil drops we will find ourselves facing a lot of cuts. I think we have to look at all programs and decide if they are viable valuable programs that are getting results. Education and Medicare are huge factors in our state budget. We need to evaluate them also.

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.

Powers not granted to the Federal government by the constitution belong to the state. The federal government should not have the power to tell us whether or not we can develop our resources, nor should it have the ability to force individuals to pay for healthcare insurance.

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

More competition to purchase health insurance, more competition for doctors, more health education for people, tort reform with regards to malpractice insurance.

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

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I think the Alaska Bar has too much say in this and there should be a broader panel of people submitting names to the governor - perhaps a panel of citizens and attorneys.

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 appreciate people and groups who believe in me enough to make a contribution. I would accept contributions that are legal according to state law. I would not cast a vote based on the fact that someone donated to my campaign. I would vote based on what is best for the constituents of District 22.