

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Cathy Giessel    Senate     District N

Give your opinion on a rotating legislative session to be held in each of the three largest cities in Alaska. I **would have to review the fiscal note on this idea. I'm not sure a venue exists in Fairbanks that would accommodate the legislature in a single location.** What are your ideas for providing Alaska citizens' better access to the legislature? **I think special sessions should be held in Anchorage. Other than that...move the Legislature's permanent location to a more central location.**

What must Alaska do to increase our oil-related revenues? **Taxes must be brought into competitive line with our other competition around the world.**

What is your position on "Loser Pays" tort reform legislation for Alaska? **Support**

What is the one most important thing we can do to improve education in Alaska and how will you facilitate that? **School choice empowers teachers, parents and students to seek out and access the most effective education for their needs. I supported the bill to put the constitutional amendment on the ballot; it was not heard in the Senate.**

Give examples of capital budget projects you favor spending state monies on. **Infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, transmission lines, dams. Public safety such as fire and police infrastructure (fire stations and equipment, state troopers).**

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. **Budget is unsustainable, this year relying on \$100/bbl oil; oil price during session was \$120-124/bbl but has come down to \$100/bbl and even below. Alaskans will be realizing the fact that all of us are in the oil**

Please email responses to [admin@anchorageparty.org](mailto:admin@anchorageparty.org) by June 22. Thank you for your willingness to serve Alaska!

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*industry, as the effect of our declining production is amplified by this falling commodity price. Budget belt-tightening is inevitable.*

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. *First, for clarification, people have "rights" in the Constitution, states have power and authority. The EPA is most notably over-reaching their authority in Alaska, related the infamous watershed study in Bristol Bay. The National Park Service is overstepping their authority in restricting Alaska sovereignty over our navigable waters, essentially prohibiting Alaskans' access to state land. John Sturgeon, constituent in my district, is the citizen who has filed a public interest lawsuit against the federal government related to navigable waters issues; the State has joined in Mr Sturgeon's lawsuit. NPS and BLM are also attempting to change designations in NPR-A and ANWR, which would limit or prohibit resource development in sections of these areas that were set aside for development.*

Name four things Alaska can and should do to reduce health care costs. *There are no easy answers to the complex and convoluted healthcare system that has evolved. The US leads the world in innovation and quality, but the cost is rising faster than our ability to pay for it as consumers. The expansion of "health insurance", from a buffer against catastrophe to something that pays for routine care, has resulted in consumers being shielded from the real costs; result is that consumers do not demand cost transparency and, in some cases, overconsume. I believe that we over-regulate healthcare providers, bowing to "turf" demands by some professions, preventing other qualified providers from entering the market, restricting competition. Fear of lawsuits causes "CYA" care, ordering unnecessary, expensive testing and treatment regimes. Personal responsibility would significantly lower healthcare costs to individuals and to government entitlements, like Medicaid and Medicare, through the mechanism of prevention, as majority of illness is related to lifestyle choices and obesity. This is something "Alaskans" need to embrace, not by government mandate or regulation. None of this is easily solved but we need to start somewhere.*

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Do you support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions? Why or why not? **Article 4, section 5 of the Alaska Constitution gives significant power to the Judicial Council in choosing what 3 names to allow the Governor to choose a judge from. This is a profession controlling a system that should serve the public, not the profession. I would be interested in correcting this. Retentions are a public process which, unfortunately, voters don't seem to focus on.**

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 comply with APOC law related to campaign contributions. Several private sector PACs have contributed to my campaign in the past, such as builders, realtors, dentists; I assume their motivation is support for my pro-economic, free market, limited government views on issues. Public sector unions have opposed me in the past, making independent expenditures for the benefit of my opponents.**

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