

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: Lora Reinbold _____ House or Senate District _____26_____

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?

Rotating the legislature would improve access to State government, and for that reason I support the concept. However, we would need to implement the plan with consideration of its long term cost. One location on the road system should be designated for legislative meetings. At a minimum, the location where the legislature meets must be connected by road, which is a qualification, not currently being met. I believe it is very important for the citizens to have access to their government.

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

The ACES tax structure, imposed by the Palin Administration and a previous legislature has caused Alaska to be a less attractive environment for key investors. We must reduce the high taxes on the industry (i.e. pass House Bill 110) to provide a stable, predictable, and competitive tax structure. Further, the State should work as a partner with the industry to promote the industry as a responsible and valuable asset to the State of Alaska.

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

Tort reform is a large part of the reason Texas has such a strong business environment. Texas does not have especially low taxes, but the tort reforms that Texas has put in place have so reduced the cost of doing business, it continues to attract businesses that grow their private sector economy.

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

Competition breeds excellence. I do support public education, however, I am also a strong proponent for School Choice. School Choice has proven to be successful in many areas around the world, and has strong potential to

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create a more competitive environment in Alaska. In the public sector, good teachers need to be rewarded not simply by seniority, but by their contribution to educational advancement through innovation and excellence. More resources need to be put into the classroom to improve educational outcomes and not consumed by overhead and/or administration.

I believe parents have a stronger responsibility in ensuring their children be educated, therefore, school choice would provide more comprehensive options to parents. I have substitute taught in the (ASD) public school for 10 years, piloting my children through the public schools. As a legislator, I would bring first hand classroom knowledge to Juneau, which could foster education reforms and improve educational outcomes in Alaska.

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

Currently, tens of millions of government dollars subsidize the Alaska Ferry System. One way to reduce ferry system costs is by connecting communities by road and reducing ferry stops, for example Hoonah, Pelican, and Tenakee are all on Chichagof Island. By connecting these three communities by road, all three communities could be served by one ferry stop instead of three currently. Juneau can be connected to Skagway by road eliminating the need for a ferry up Lynn Canal.

Additionally, if the State Capital is going to remain in Juneau, we must provide more ready access to the legislature. It makes sense to have the Capital on the road system. Businesses need infrastructure to prosper and infrastructure capital spending often makes sense. Therefore, I support economically viable infrastructure investments that lead to better access of our valuable natural resources. Finally, I support road projects/upgrades that reduce risk of injury and/or provide safer roads for the public.

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. Alaska spends approximately \$13,380 for every man, woman and child. The next closest state which has a high per capita spending rate is Hawaii, which spends approximately \$7,806 per capita. Alaska spends nearly double per capita of any other state; obviously we are spending too much money on State government. One of the highest areas of spending in the State is Medicaid. We need to take a hard look at State Medicaid reform. Proposed changes could include some form of market based reform similar to health savings. Please email responses to admin@anchorageteaparty.org by June 22. Thank you for your willingness to serve Alaska!

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accounts (which my own family utilizes). Bringing market forces to bear on medical costs can help drive some of the cost out of the system.

Costs can be managed within the education system, as well. The University of Alaska is a land grant college - they need to monetize some of that land to fund their programs instead of depending on the state for so much funding.

Finally, significant operating expense savings may be realized with the creation of a school choice program, which also has great potential to improve the state's outcomes in education.

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 amendment was written by the founders very clearly: "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." If the Constitution does not specifically give the federal government a power, then they may not exercise it.

The Alaska Governor and Attorney General have been aggressively pursuing litigation against efforts by federal bureaucrats' regulations that harm Alaskan's freedoms. I would support their continued efforts and would provide the Attorney General's office any support they need in continuing to fight for our states rights. One example of their efforts is Alaska's participation in the fight against Obamacare. Another example is the State's involvement in Sackett vs. EPA, in which the EPA asserted a right over a landowner's property, and the State along, with several other states and the Pacific Legal Foundation, sued the EPA, and won.

(Reference: <http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/press-room/full-press-release.html?pr=6162>)

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

The state can encourage HSAs (Health Savings Accounts) and other market based reforms that bring market forces back into the health care industry. We need to decouple "Health Insurance" from "Health Care". Health care is providing medical care for injuries and sickness. Health insurance is a financial tool to manage the financial risk associated with expensive medical procedures. As an example to illustrate this concept you wouldn't call your car insurance company, every time you needed to pay for an oil change, so why do we expect insurance to cover every doctor's visit? I strongly encourage education and prevention coupled with personal responsibility. Until we can start Please email responses to admin@anchorageteaparty.org by June 22. Thank you for your willingness to serve Alaska!

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changing the hearts, minds, and perspective on the American people on health care vs. health insurance, and as long as we have a third party payer for all medical costs (insurance companies), medical costs will continue to spiral out of control. Last, we need to help reduce the “10,000 dollar headache” scheme in Alaska where many come in from outlying areas to get basic medical treatment, costing the state millions of dollars annually. If we selectively increase the number of providers such as Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners in key remote areas, we can help reduce the travel costs associated with the state healthcare costs.

Unfortunately, the federal tax code essentially mandates many of the rules overseeing Medicaid in the current system, so change will be difficult however; we should investigate the possibility of putting market forces back into state Medicaid spending. I have nearly 15 years of experience in the healthcare industry. I plan use my knowledge of the industry, to help initiate healthcare reform in Alaska.

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

No, I do not support the current processes for Alaska judicial appointments and retentions. Lawyers selecting lawyers is not a well rounded, comprehensive way to select judicial appointments. The views of many lawyers may not reflect the values of Alaskans as a whole. Often, lawyers are liberal and this tends to breed bias in the judicial system. We need to consider eliminating the Judicial Council and allow Governors, coupled with a broad citizen-based council, to select, whoever they think will best serve justice (with Senate confirmation). In addition, I think the citizens should have full disclosure of all the appointees and a comprehensive history of their background, including a comprehensive list of cases they have resided on. In addition, political and philosophic views should be made public by all judges who will be on the ballot, prior to all elections where the people are being asked to “retain judges”.

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.

Obviously, State Law applies. It limits contributions to \$500 per person per calendar year, prohibits contributions from corporations, and limits out-of-state contributions.

My campaign has not, nor plans to take any contributions from public unions or their PACs.

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