

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 Kim Skipper 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?

I support moving the legislature to a more accessible location. Special sessions have been held in Anchorage and I support that when specials session are called during the interim and not immediately following the regular session. I support holding hearings in locations that are directly impacted by particular legislation.

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

We must revise ACES (oil tax structure) - reduce taxes to incentivize production. Be competitive in the global market. High oil prices have masked the production decline but as oil prices drop we will see a significant impact on revenues and budgets.

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

I support – tort reform is long overdue. Litigation drives up the cost of everything. Those wanting to file lawsuits would take a more deliberative process before filing – perhaps seek mediation instead of lawsuit.

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

I believe we need competition in education. I support school choice (I supported HJR 16 – constitutional amendment, and HB 145 that was introduced during the 27th legislative session. School choice enables parents to make the best decisions about their child's education and it also introduces

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competition (which will ultimately strengthen education all around.) I support more vocational/technical opportunities for students – not all students are college bound.

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

Infrastructure – roads, bridges, airports, ports and energy transmission and security. Public safety infrastructure – police and fire stations and equipment.

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 believe the operating budget is too high and unsustainable. Lately the high oil prices mask the decline in production – as oil prices decline along with our decline in production our state will have to use our savings to meet the budget. We should and need to find efficiencies in each department, eliminate any duplication of services and programs that are not effective. Unfortunately about 55% of the budget is based on formula driven programs mandated by the federal government – and continue to grow while federal matching declines. These programs will have to be reviewed if our state can't attract more business investment and oil production continues to decline.

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 was included in the Bill of Rights to define the balance of power between the federal government and the states. The sovereignty of each state/people should be protected from the overreach of the federal government. For example ~ EPA's overreach in trying to stop natural resource development (ie Pebble Mine); management of fish and game; access to navigable waters.

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

Tort reform (malpractice insurance is expensive and drives up the cost of services - doctors ordering tests that might be considered unnecessary or overreacting for fear of lawsuits); Federal and state

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mandates/regulations drive up cost of services; review potential over use of emergency room visits for non-urgent care – direct and assist patients with appointments to primary care;

preventive care – personal responsibility; other states have issues with dual eligibility of medicare/Medicaid patients and how they are not aligned on care - suggest we review to see if Alaska has the same issue.

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

No - on the process for judicial appointments. Currently the Judicial Council (made up of attorneys) provides names to the Governor – I support changing to allow non-attorney public members should be included on Judicial Council or I would support partisan elections for judges (including retention.)

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 follow the campaign finance/ethics laws – APOC on campaign contributions. I have no restrictions as long as contributions are within the law. I will vote according to my principles and what is best for my constituency and not cast a vote based on a contribution.