



2018 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Please return by Friday, August 31 to:

Sorr@ACLUAk.org

For more information, call 907-263-2015

Candidate Name: Matt Claman

Employer:

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Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Occupation: Attorney

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1. What elements of Alaska's criminal justice reforms passed from 2016 to present do you support?

Response: I have been an advocate for the justice reform measures that passed in 2016, 2017, and 2018. I was the sponsor of HB 312, the comprehensive criminal justice reform bill that passed in 2018. I currently serve as Chair of the House Judiciary Committee and serve on the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission.

2. What elements of Alaska's criminal justice reforms passed from 2016 to present do you believe should be amended further?

Response: I will continue to work to improve public safety and for wise use of our public safety resources.

3. Would you vote to keep the following elements of Alaska's justice reforms?

- **Tougher penalties on violent crimes like 1st and 2nd degree murder**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes.

- **Improved services for victims of violent crimes**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes.

- **Strengthened community supervision of those on probation and parole**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes.
- **Expanded crime-reduction programs like violence prevention and substance abuse treatment**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes.
- **Expanded eligibility for parole to those with a record of good behavior who present minimal risk to the community**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes.
- **Establishment of an oversight committee and mandatory data collection and reporting requirements to ensure the law is working as intended**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes, so long as the data collection costs are reasonable and consistent with wise use of our public safety resources.
- **Limited jail time for people convicted of misdemeanors**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes.
- **Making drug possession a misdemeanor offense, while maintaining felony penalties for drug dealing and distribution**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes.
- **Placing non-violent, low-risk defendants awaiting trial under community supervision instead of prison**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes.

4. **Under Alaska state law, inmates are required to be returned to the place of arrest, but this is rarely communicated to them and those from rural are often released from prison in urban areas without the means to return to their communities. This contributes to homelessness in urban areas as well as statewide recidivism. Do you support funding to ensure that parolees are returned to their place of arrest at the time of their release?**

Response: The state should improve its communications with both victims of crime and people who commit crimes so that all are reasonably informed of their rights under state and federal law. I support responsible funding for public safety, which includes funds to return inmates to their place of arrest.

5. **In 2015, President Obama removed the box requiring disclosure of prior criminal conviction from federal job employment applications. Do you support or oppose similar measures on the state level to increase employment opportunities for citizens who have paid their debt to society and want to lead productive lives?**

Response: Depending on the position under consideration, I support efforts to employ individuals with a criminal history, which may include not requiring disclosure of certain prior criminal convictions.