



2018 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Please return by Friday, August 31 to:

Sorr@ACLUAk.org

For more information, call 907-263-2015

Candidate Name: Bill Johnson

Employer: Self

Office Sought: Representative District 9

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Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Occupation: retired

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

Response: SB 91 was a non-partisan effort to solve a real problem. We need to give it time to work.

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

Response: **Once again, time.**

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, especially for rape.
- **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. Keep the whole community involved.

- **Expanded crime-reduction programs like violence prevention and substance abuse treatment**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes. Stop it from happening rather than punish later.

- **Expanded eligibility for parole to those with a record of good behavior who present minimal risk to the community**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes. Prison is expensive so if it is not necessary we should look at alternatives.

- **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. Monitoring is essential to know what works and what doesn't.

- **Limited jail time for people convicted of misdemeanors**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes. Again, prisons are expensive.

- **Making drug possession a misdemeanor offense, while maintaining felony penalties for drug dealing and distribution**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes. Use of drugs is illness, not a crime.

- **Placing non-violent, low-risk defendants awaiting trial under community supervision instead of prison**

Yes or No? Explain: Yes. Again prison is expensive. And it doesn't work.

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: Yes

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?**