



2018 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Please return by Friday, August 31 to:

Sorr@ACLUAk.org

For more information, call 907-263-2015

Candidate Name: Lyn Franks

Employer:UAA

Office Sought: State Representative, HD 15

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Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Occupation: Adjunct History instructor

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

Response: I support SB91, with reservations.

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

Response: **SB91**

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, because too many criminals are given the benefit of the doubt and not given the rehabilitation that is required for release. The standard for incarceration has been watered down.

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

Yes or No? Explain: Yes, victims should be provided with resources to heal and get back their lives.

- **Strengthened community supervision of those on probation and parole**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes, I think that we are on the right track with supervisors who keep tabs on those who need accountability.
- **Expanded crime-reduction programs like violence prevention and substance abuse treatment**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes, we need professional people involved in broken lives to facilitate meaningful reform. Additionally, we need more beds in treatment facilities.
- **Expanded eligibility for parole to those with a record of good behavior who present minimal risk to the community**
Yes or No? Explain: Yes, however, there must be a narrower definition for “good behavior.”
- **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, there must be accountability for the system to work properly.
- **Limited jail time for people convicted of misdemeanors**
Yes or No? Explain I think that the standard for what constitutes a felony has been has shifted (in some instances) to become a misdemeanor. Therefore, I cannot answer this question with a definitive yes or no. I would like to talk more about this issue with you and understand your perspective.
- **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: Yes, unless it would put their physical life in danger.

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: If SB91 was implemented correctly, with rehabilitation as step one, then potential employees would be more apt to hire ex-felons and a check box would be less necessary.