



## 2018 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Please return by Friday, August 31 to:

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For more information, call 907-263-2015

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

Response: I support a focus on rehabilitating non-violent offenders, including those convicted of possession (not distribution) of drugs, as well as those suffering from mental illness. For too long, in Alaska and across the country, we have locked people up and set them on a path for reoffending without addressing the real core issues of their crimes. Those suffering from drug addiction or mental illness need treatment, not longer jail terms, to be able to return to productive society. I also support the increased sentences for the most violent crimes, like murder in the first and second degrees.

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

Response: As we continue to see the real-world impacts of criminal justice reforms, it's important that we respond to facts and data – that means that certain crimes may need sentencing increases. But most importantly, recent criminal justice reform claimed to support drug and mental health treatment instead of just jail time, but the administration and legislature failed to include adequate resources to make that a reality. That's something that must be addressed going forward.

**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? Yes.

Explain:

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

Yes or No? Yes

Explain:

- **Strengthened community supervision of those on probation and parole**

Yes or No? Yes

Explain: The new pre-trial enforcement division needs to have adequate resources and training to ensure that they can effectively do their jobs, including in-home visits and appropriate electronic monitoring based on an offender's charges.

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

Yes or No? Yes

Explain:

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

Yes or No? Yes, for the most part

Explain: I would not support expanding eligibility for those who have committed violent crimes, including crimes of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other serious offenses.

- **Establishment of an oversight committee and mandatory data collection and reporting requirements to ensure the law is working as intended**

Yes or No? Yes

Explain:

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

Yes or No? Yes

Explain: For the most part, I support limited jail time for non-violent misdemeanors. But I don't support reducing jail time for violent misdemeanors, including forms of

domestic violence and battery, as well as crimes like stalking that have such drastic impacts upon victims.

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

Yes or No? For the most part, yes

Explain: I support making drug possession a misdemeanor in most cases, except where the amount of drugs clearly indicates an intent to distribute them rather than a personal addiction. I would also not support making drug possession a misdemeanor for repeat offenders.

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

Yes or No? Yes, for the most part

Explain: I would not support expanding community supervision before trial for those accused of sexual abuse, stalking, and other serious offenses where victims could be seriously impacted by possible interaction with the accused.

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 areas 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. It's important that, while preparing for their release, inmates are provided the treatment and services necessary to make sure that, once they have re-entered society, they don't re-offend and end up back in jail. Recidivism not only ruins lives but costs all Alaskans more, including the damage done by crime and the increased jail costs.

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: I support similar measures to ban the box at the state level. It's important that we give people who have done their time and paid their debt to society the opportunity to get back on their feet and lead productive lives. Ban the box doesn't require employers to ignore whether someone has been convicted of crimes – they can still decide not to hire someone for that reason. But ban the box makes sure that a job application gets a fair first look and isn't just thrown in the garbage because the applicant has a record.