

Name: **Care Clift**

District: **Senate District N**

1. The State of Alaska continues to face significant budget challenges, how will you address the State's budget and revenue issues? Please provide details.

A1: Reduce SOA expenses, ease burden of regulatory hurdles to doing business

2. In 2017, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) ranked Alaska as having a C- with respect to the condition our state's infrastructure – see following link: <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/alaska/> Do you support taxes and user fees, such as increased gas taxes, to help provide funding for these needs? If not, do you have another plan for maintaining our road system?

A2: Connectivity between communities is a central concern for rebuilding our state's economy, I would explore outside the box strategies such as community sharing and collaboration to enhance the linkages not only on the road but in the public sphere.

3. Alaska is eligible for federal funds through the Lands and Water Conservation Fund for design and development of parks and cultural facilities. See following link: https://omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/21_budget/DNR/Proposed/2021proj32552.pdf Do you support the state receiving these funds? If not, why?

A3: I support the SOA receiving any and all funds available for the purpose of in-state investment

4a. The University of Alaska (UA) system has faced severe budget reductions over the past several years. Do you support current funding levels, further decreases, or efforts to reestablish funding that has been cut in recent years? If increases, where do you see that funding coming from?

A4a: I support using funding more intelligently. To focus on the programs which give a maximum return to the community and attract the most outside interest. Alaska should be a place that people all over the country respect for our educational opportunities. But you cannot do everything right all the time, sometimes you have to refine your services in order to truly be a truly exceptional provider.

4b. As a follow up, if cuts are maintained or deepened, which programs within the UA system should be prioritized over others and where does the engineering curriculum fall in the priorities list?

A4b: Alaskan engineering provides a truly unique opportunity for North American students

Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

to test their abilities against easily the most demanding natural environment in the United States. But Alaska is not alone in this environment, we need to be looking to enhance opportunities for collaboration with Canada. Particularly in the cold climate architectural realm, where we lack an in-state program for students.

4c. Architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design programs are not offered within the UA system. What are your thoughts on strengthening opportunities for Alaskans through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program to make attaining these professional degrees more feasible so Alaskans can return home to our state to fill the need for design professionals?

A4c: My son is an Architect who participated in the WUE system. He is a proud graduate of University of Idaho's Architecture Program. WUE is a successful program that must be maintained and enhanced.

5. Several states have sought to reduce or eliminate the scope of professional licensing (Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architect) within their states. What is your stance on Alaska's current requirements for these professions: should the state's laws remain the same or be subject to change, and if changed, would you support decreasing or increasing the projects that require professional licensure?

A5: Currently the State requires licensure in many of the Architectural and Engineering fields, but enforcement in the State Fire Marshal's jurisdiction is uneven. I support demanding requirements for our design community, I support enforcing those requirements in plan review and statewide and in deferred jurisdictions. I also support lessening the plan review burden and scope in the Fire Marshal and local jurisdictions. There is no reason we should hold architects and engineers to high professional standards and then insist that their work be redesigned by Plan Reviewers both in the State, but particularly in the Municipality of Anchorage, which is a deferred jurisdiction.

6. The "Industrial Exemption", found in Alaska Statute 08.48.331(a)(10), allows certain infrastructure, systems, and structural projects to be designed without the requirement of a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) IF the project is such that the risk to human health, safety, and welfare is limited only to employees of the company doing the work and not the "general public". It has been suggested that some very significant engineering disasters in our nation's history, such as the Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster of 1986 and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of 2010, may have been linked to similar "Industrial Exemptions" and might have been averted had a licensed PE been the ultimate steward of safety in those examples. Do you feel it is appropriate or inappropriate to maintain Alaska's Industrial Exemption?

A6: This is a new insight to me. Employees and the environment should not be exposed to

unnecessary risk. I will have to study this topic further to develop a more thorough response.

7. State law requires that all new buildings larger than a triplex are to be designed and constructed to the latest approved edition of the International Building Code. However, engineers performing earthquake damage assessments after the November 2018 earthquake found that a large portion of buildings are not being built in conformance with the code where there is no formal enforcement. This led to more structural damage in Eagle River and the Matanuska Borough, where there is no code enforcement, compared to Anchorage, where there is code enforcement, even though ground motions were similar. What would you do to bolster adherence to and enforcement of building codes in the vulnerable and growing population centers around Alaska that are not currently under the purview of a local code official?

A7: Currently the State Fire Marshal does not even do inspections of buildings that do not include large gatherings of individuals such as Churches. Which puts designers, who are required to conform with code, in a potential conflict with unscrupulous contractors. On the other hand, I find the level of inspections in the Municipality of Anchorage to be on quite extreme and to cause more harm than good. Perhaps there is a point somewhere between these two extremes that provides a happy medium.

8. Do you have any plans to help reduce greenhouse gasses in order to mitigate the effects of climate change in Alaska?

A8: Generally, I believe that it is incumbent on each individual to make decisions on every level of private and public work to make decisions in an environmentally conscious fashion. Alaska State Statutes shall do nothing to improve our relationship to the environment unless we foster a culture of environmental awareness through our educational system. Preserving the environment requires the spirit to do so, not a rule book.

9. Is there anything you would like our organization to know about you?

A9: That I support the emerging professionals of this state and I would have the Professionals of Alaska be the envy of the world in science, engineering, and business practice. To do this, we need to promote within our state and not look outside for our answers.