

Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: **Greg Madden**

District: **Senate District P**

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: No income tax, reduce government spending, prevent the reverse sweep

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: Our infrastructure is one of the Constitutionally required expenses and should thus be given priority.

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](https://omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/21_budget/DNR/Proposed/2021proj32552.pdf) Do you support the state receiving these funds? If not, why?

A3: Federal money often comes with conditions and I do not know what those are for this funding. I'd love to see funding for the Alaska in any and every way, but we have to know what the conditions are going to be before accepting that money. I would rather see Alaskan land belong to Alaska than to have it claimed and overbearingly controlled by the Federal government. Federal overstepping of power is unacceptable and we need to peel that back as we can, not encourage or allow it.

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: Half of next year's budget is missing with no agreement on what to do to fill the gap. Everything is on the table to some degree. It's time to turn the land grants into revenue streams and become as self-sufficient as possible.

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?

## Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

A4b: Certified programs rank well above non-certified. Engineering, nursing and other programs that are sustainable economic engines for graduates are my focus.

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: I need more information on that.

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: I want to keep our high standards for professionals, but reduce the bureaucratic webs of paperwork and expense where possible.

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: Less government is better government. Every action has risks. If you don't want to work for someone in wretched conditions or a shabby building, find elsewhere to work. Choices and consequences let us decide what level of safety we want, but as we saw with the Challenger disaster, even in having an army of engineers working on a project may not keep a deadly flaw from turning up.

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

## Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

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: If a contractor agrees to build to code and it is later shown that it was not to code, the contractor should be held accountable. This does not warrant another layer of governmental oversight and expense. Once a few contractors are held to account and forced to repair their previous work for cutting corners on building to code, the self-enforcement will really pick up.

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

A8: I'd like to see a private sector pipeline to bring natural gas from the North Slope to Fairbanks. This burns clean and would eliminate the endless stream of trucks currently used to transport it, while making Natural Gas much more affordable in Fairbanks. The private sector could then extend this pipeline further south to more population centers if viable. Also, the A2A (Alberta to Alaska) Rail Road system could make more efficient transport of goods. My information is very limited so far, but the idea sounds good so long as it respects property owners.

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

A9: As a Chiropractic Physician I ran my own practice for almost twenty years, I know the troubles of running a business, the responsibility of having employees, and the struggle to maintain profitability. I want responsible government with responsible spending as it promotes responsible development of our great land and its vast mineral wealth. Historical PFD, smart ferry system and ALASKANS FIRST!  
[www.GregMaddenForAlaska.com](http://www.GregMaddenForAlaska.com) I hope to earn your vote. Thanks!