

Name: **James Canitz**

District: **House District 13**

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: People issues first; Health, Education, financial support. No new state income taxes or sales taxes. A robust PFD check, if possible while protecting the health of the PFD for the future. Hopefully, Proposition 1 will pass and provide some increased revenue. Postponing of currently unfunded capital projects.

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: No one individual can be an expert on everything. You are the experts on problems you identify. You should have the best ideas for possible solutions. It's not right that you simply task your representative, "Here is a problem. Fix it." My job as your representative is to bring problems identified by constituents to the attention of the legislature, be a consensus builder to determine the best solution and a facilitator to gain support to take action. That being said, you have identified a problem, what are your suggested solutions?

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: Sure. Free money for funding new projects in our local communities. Providing jobs and income. Perfect. Where's the catch?

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: People are the critical issue this year. Funding the state budget with available revenues is crisis. I would like to see funding for UA remain at current levels until we find solutions to revenue shortfalls.

Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

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: Hard sciences, engineering, nursing, teaching should be given priority over other areas of study. We are resource rich state. We need to train the individuals in our University System that will have the skills to obtain those resources.

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: 80% of students that leave the state for their higher education, do not return to Alaska and make it their permanent home. How do we solve that problem and the problem you identified?

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: Again, you are the experts. What is your position on this subject? What are the best possible solutions? What would you recommend that your representative do for you at the State Legislative level to solve your problem.

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: No lives are worth risking due to lack of diligence, proper planning, or oversight. Are any avoidable deaths rightfully considered acceptable? This is a callous measure of our pursuit of profit at the expense of human life. I find this statute reprehensible. I will take action to repeal this "Industrial Exemption" as found in AK Statute.

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: Where there is no oversight provided by local code officials, AK State Constitution makes provision that the State should act to provide those necessary functions.

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

A8: I support power production from sources such as geothermal, wind, wave/tide and solar that are not environmentally harmful.

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

A9: I am a graduate of the US Air Force Academy. My core academics there included mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, astrophysics, civil engineering, aeronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and more. I consider myself to be a scientist. I endorse the advancement of human knowledge through use of the scientific method. I base my decisions on known facts and fact based probability. I am a skilled pilot and aircraft mechanic. I hold FAA Certificates as an Airline Transport pilot and Aircraft Mechanic with Airframe and Powerplant endorsements. I know some things. I don't know everything. I need your expertise, knowledge and input to assist me and help me stay current and informed. I apologize for any appearance of being flip or disrespectful. I am dead serious in asking for your input, because I don't know the answers. Sometimes, I don't even know the questions. Respectfully, James A. Canitz, Sr., Candidate AK State House District 13, Chugiak-Eagle River-JBER