

Name: **Josh Revak**

District: **Senate District M**

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: Government has ignored the economic reality all of us operate under in our own lives. You can't spend more than you make. I support and will work to put a spending cap in place to control state spending. We need to encourage further resource development to offset our deficit. There are a number of programmatic efficiencies and reductions that can also be made to help reduce our budget gap.

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: I have supported the motor fuel surcharge increase and am open to hearing from user groups for user fees where appropriate. I also see the possibility of bonding to build shovel ready projects, particularly as it applies to providing energy at a reduced cost.

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: Yes by all means.

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 keeping the levels current until the recommendations from the Board of Regents is provided as how to prioritize spending for the university. Since the university is a land grant university, innovative ways to utilize those lands to provide additional revenue might supplement university funding. Also, we need to work with our congressional delegation to finalize the remaining lands that are owed to the university system.

4b. As a follow up, if cuts are maintained or deepened, which programs within the UA system

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should be prioritized over others and where does the engineering curriculum fall in the priorities list?

A4b: Again, that is under the purview of the Board of Regents. However, engineering and nursing are two fields where there are personnel shortages.

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: The WUE program should be supported so courses such as those mentioned are provided to those who wish to continue their education in those particular fields.

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: Any and all of our laws should be subject to change to fit the times. I usually support lessening regulations and laws that are detrimental to our ability to earn a living. However, in cases of specialization, I believe the boards provide a useful service to the state. I would have to listen to those involved in those professions you mentioned to determine if these boards are useful or necessary.

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: If the general public is negatively affected by this law, then by all means yes, it seems inappropriate.

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,

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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: I would be open to exploring a uniform statewide building code with some exemptions, especially in rural areas and cabins that are not used for a full time living situation.

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

A8: Not at this time, but again, I am willing to listen to recommendations from those who provide scientific evidence and scientific solutions.

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

A9: Developing our natural resources has paid the cost of over 90% of all government services, created our Permanent Fund, and created jobs and opportunities. Natural resource development such as oil and gas, mining, and fishing can continue to contribute to the state's economy. What Alaska needs is leadership to clear obstacles that Democrats have placed in the path of resource development. We have 52,000 pages of restrictions and regulations that are strangling responsible development. I will work to clear the path to the creation of new wealth for Alaska.

I would appreciate your support.