

Name: **Paul Bauer**

District: **House District 16**

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: Since the Gov Walker Administration, Alaska politicians like my opponent who was appointed to the House, do not have the intestinal fortitude to get their hands dirty to solve our budget issues. They do, however, meet the Constitutional mandate for having a balanced budget and know how to spend for votes. Balancing the budget to my opponent is to increase the revenue to meet the expenditure. She did that by taking it out of the people's money.

The FY 2021 Operating budget for Agency totals are astronomical. The largest is \$3.45 Billion for Health and Social Services, \$1.66 Billion for Education and Early Development, and \$832 Million for the Alaska University system. An Agency spending total per capita, it is \$4,717; \$2,265; and \$1,139, respectively. State Agencies need to have business plans that have performance-measure outcomes. We are at the bottom, #47 in a national education survey, for example. We have been a welfare state for many decades. People come to Alaska from Seattle to get free Health care.

COVID-19 should wake us up. We need to diversify our business and seek a new industry. Take Communist China's industry from them and put Alaskan's to work. Invest in the future. Moreover, the challenge is planning and implementing a sustainable budget that shows we are business-friendly and sensitive to our workforce needs. Invest in highly skilled trades by focusing on vocational education for Alaskans. Invest in education for small business development and sustainability. Alaska is a natural resource state, it needs skilled labor, reduce liberal arts studies, it is a waste of dollars. Working as a contractor with the US DOL as an Employment Facilitator, I help outgoing military personnel from enlisted to Colonels the fundamentals of the employment process. This also includes finding their skills and abilities for the vocational trades. Service members are oblivious to the skills needed to gain a quality paying job. As a businessman for 20 years, I saw the lack of employment skills from our youth coming out of school, and now our service members. We need to invest in vocational education for skilled workforce coming from our state and teach us the fundamentals to get a quality job.

You need to invest in me, and people like me to move Alaska out of being a welfare state. Let's transition to a business-friendly state for jobs and security.

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:

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<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 to direct taxes on the working people. The high cost-of-living in Alaska makes it hard enough to live here comfortably. The high cost is attributed to freight and handling.

I would support building a sufficient rail system throughout the state and to the Lower48 and lobby the federal government for infrastructure funding.

A yes vote to fees for using our road system. Currently, those fees come out of vehicle registration, which is already a tax.

Again, budget priorities, find efficiencies, reduce government administration, and support substantial projects and services.

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: Yes, as a past sponsor and member of Ducks Unlimited, I support getting federal help for waterfowl conservation. However, I will support the land use for the development of critical infrastructure and capital improvements if needed.

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: The University leadership needs to change from administrators to managers. Centralize the university from its 13 campuses, using digital technology and business sense. Refine the curriculums and reduce the need for liberal arts education. Focus more on associate degree and specialized certificate completion of trades. Alaska needs skilled labor and home-grown training. It is more important for Alaska's to have jobs for a better economy.

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: As stated in 4a, the engineering program is part of the vocational education and training needs for Alaska. Oil, gas, mining, and infrastructure builds an economy Alaskan style. My vision is Alaska becomes the Education in Trade Capital of the world.

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: Support for the WUE program given that a refocus of our University system toward the trades would help, but with programs mentioned on a scale-down basis.

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: Safety and quality are most paramount in any building project. I suppose your Association of Professionals would not like to be associated with unlicensed, ill-prepared, and shady engineers, etc. I leave the licensing requirements to the professional private sector organizations to "police" themselves, make the recommendations to the state for any regulation if even needed. The state's input would be only to ensure public safety.

Still, I believe the liberty and freedom for one to make his/her occupation is fundamental for our economy, self-interest, and family. Let the public decide on who to hire a professional, licensed, or not.

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: It is appropriate to require some regulation for [highly] dangerous projects for the welfare of public safety. For others, I can see some "leniency" in mandating regulations from the government on [minor] projects or for owners, executives, and other management.

Again, my openness requires information and recommendation from the professionals before preceding going forward.

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: The issue of code enforcement would be at the Executive level. If the issue becomes a funding problem, the Governor may request and Legislature approves is no problem for me. Of course, another review of the current statutes would be advantageous and may require a stricter law.

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

A8: In jest; on a "big picture" and callous scale of ideas, it might be a tactless plan to de-populate places on the planet like Communist China and India, or invest into Space exploration to find new living space, or simply make COVID-19 very, very scary virus to stay inside.

Seriously, if greenhouse gases are proven to be scientific without political influence, I would be in support of an agenda to force nations that create the most pollution to follow environmental laws. The winds come from the Far East, the Arctic and Alaska receive the impacts of those polluted nations. Alaska may lead the charge to help political change for the environment.

On a smaller scale, like Alaska, I do not believe we are the problem. Not being the Governor, I vision major investments into electrified rail transportation and support efforts to link up with the Lower48. Jobs, jobs, and economic boost.

Implement state highway requirements for HOV lanes.

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

A9: Having served our nation for over 20 years, served my East Anchorage Community as an Assembly Member, business and operations manager for 18 years in the private sector, and managed a large cadre of team leaders helping Alaska's At-Risk-Youth at the Military Youth Corp, I know I bring lots of experience and leadership to the "Table."

My current interest is putting together all my wisdom, worldly experiences, and knowledge to serve the District that I lived in for 30 years and the State of Alaska.

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My main concerns for our State are following the Alaska Constitution, the current formula that provides the FULL-PFD to the people first, establishing employment fundamental education training for our youth in secondary school, mandating civics education and awareness, helping our Alaskan Veterans, and work on a budget that will be sustainable for years.

Working in the Legislature, I will not be part of the Caucus's that sell my votes, called Binding Caucus. I will only vote after the debate, careful consideration of the measure, and input from the District and professionals.

I support working toward a better sustainable budget using SMART goals and an economy that brings jobs for Alaskan's.

I am conservative, independent, and reasonable. I have been a Republican and independent thinking conservative for many decades.

Those that know and worked with me, including old-school Democrat Max Gruenberg, know I am fair, respectful, non-judgmental, and open as he said.

My opponent is today's closet radical Democrat. My opponent is deceitful, unsafe, and untrustworthy. Given the chance of a being in the majority, their radicalism will be revealed. You all will be heavily taxed and licensed more for the "sake of the people".

My opponent has shown injurious behavior in the last House Session. Crushed Judge Johnstone from his reappointment to the Board of Fisheries by bringing unfounded last-minute sexual harassment allegations.

Nobody came forward and the Judge had no opportunity of due process.

Support for my opponent is a vote for socialist radicalism. Alaska is not immune to the West Coast agenda.

Please join me in supporting a change in the Legislature, voting, and donating for our cause.

Web:: [PaulforAlaska.com](http://PaulforAlaska.com), FB: [facebook.com/pbauerak](https://facebook.com/pbauerak); LinkedIn and Instagram.

Thank you for this opportunity.