

Name: **Stephen Trimble**

District: **House District 22**

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: We need to be encouraging new industry investment and job creation in new business sectors. Our economy is changing and we have an opportunity to position ourselves for the future, now. We should be open for business before we look at additionally taxing Alaskans.

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: We should be looking at bonding, where appropriate, before considering additional taxes during a time of economic recovery.

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: Absolutely. We should be leveraging all of Alaska's federal funding opportunities.

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: No. We need to reestablish and restructure UA funding. The administration is bloated, we should be under one single accreditation, and funding should be on a per-student capita basis.

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: We can't afford any more cuts to our University. It is devastating and the talent loss is immense. We must ensure that job creating degrees stay protected and are considered ita

to Alaska's economy.

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: We should do this. We need to be encouraging these professions and this is an efficient way to do it without those programs being directly offered through UA. We need to contain the outflow of our people.

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 believe they should stay the same. While detailed, ensuring that we have credible professionals in these fields is critical to maintaining a high quality of work.

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: These should go away. Safe and quality work is paramount.

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: Code compliance is a big issue in Anchorage (and Alaska). So much of it either currently isn't enforced or is difficult to enforce. If we cannot ensure that things are being built properly we risk safety, additional costs, poor reputations, and lower quality of work. We have to do better on this.

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

A8: Absolutely. I own and run the largest solar company in Alaska and we do this each and every day. We have turned the non-existent grid-connected solar industry in Alaska into a quickly-growing multi-10's of millions of dollars annual market sector. We've brought online more than 2 megawatts of grid-connected, clean operating, solar power in southcentral Alaska since our founding in 2015.

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

A9: That I support you. That you're vital to Alaska and to our industry.