Cover Letter

Dear Candidates,

On behalf of The Alaska Center board and staff, I’d like to invite you to submit a questionnaire to be considered for endorsement from The Alaska Center.

The following questionnaire contains 5 short-answer and 1 Yes/No questions, as well as a Candidate Code of Conduct for your signature. Please answer each written question fully, but keep your responses brief (less than 500 words each); also please note that a few questions have assigned word limitations. Responses can be sent via email attachment in PDF, Word, or Google Document to jennymarie@akcenter.org. Please ask for a confirmation receipt email. Responses must be submitted by 5pm on August 11th. The Alaska Center reserves the right to make the first question of your responses public to use for promotion. Lastly, please note that candidates must submit a questionnaire by the deadline in order to be considered for endorsement by The Alaska Center.

You will be notified of a decision regarding your endorsement before August 25th.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful responses, and for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jenny-Marie Stryker
Political Director
The Alaska Center
Questionnaire

A. Candidate Name:
B. Candidate Phone:
C. Candidate Email:
D. Campaign Manager name:
E. Campaign Manager phone:
F. Campaign Manager email:

Questions (Public):
1. Please describe what has motivated you to run for and serve in public office. What is your vision for your community? How does that vision intersect with issues like clean water and air, healthy salmon habitat, climate change, and a strong democracy? (150 words or less)

Confidential Questions

1. The climate crisis is one of the most pressing crises facing our planet, and communities in Alaska statewide are already experiencing its devastating impacts. Severe increasing temperatures, road washouts and damage, record-breaking forest fires, winter storms and floods, melting permafrost, devastating salmon returns have and will continue to threaten the health and safety of this and future generations. Do you acknowledge that human actions are a significant contributor to climate change? Will your actions to stop climate change match the urgency of its effects in Alaska?

2. Transitioning to a 100 percent clean energy economy is necessary to avert the worst impacts of the climate crises while rescuing our workforce, diversifying our economy, saving Alaskans money, and protecting our health and well-being. Clean, sustainable energy continues to grow rapidly as technology prices have plummeted. However, Alaska’s economy and government services are still heavily dependent on oil extraction, the emissions of which are a major contributor to climate change. Do you support transitioning to 100 percent clean energy no later than 2050 to help build pollution-free communities?
   (mark one) YES / NO
   Optional: Why or why not? (100 words or less)
3. Fairbanks has undergone extreme, record breaking winter storms and snow accumulation, flooding, intense forest fires, lack of employee protections and training, healthcare resources, and supply chain issues. All of which have impacted our economy, workforce, transportation, housing, water and air quality, and first responder and emergency services. Currently, our municipal governments are taking steps to address and adapt to these unpredictable detriments. For example, the Assembly Climate Action Committee (ACAC) was established to help develop a Climate Action and Adaptation plan (CAAP), with support from a consultant planning team, RESPEC. The Borough is also helping to support the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 plan that will address the development and quality of life of City residents and businesses. 

With the upcoming Climate Action and Adaptation plan (CAAP) and other plans in mind, what specific policies at the city and borough level do you support to reduce our emissions, promote the wellbeing of residents, and slow the harm of the climate crisis?

4. Racial equity and social justice are intertwined and necessary to advance environmental protections and democracy. From the Manley Hot Springs floods, the Clear and Minto Lakes fires, devastating salmon returns in Tanana and Yukon river communities, the snow and ice storms that snowed us in over the holidays, to the recent wind storms this past June. Interior Alaskans continue to face the brunt of the climate crises with little resources or relief. We must elevate that the communities on the frontlines of the climate crises, pollution, environmental racism and injustice are often the same communities continually excluded from the democratic processes needed to provide live-saving resources and adaptations to these detriments: Alaska Native communities, Black and Brown communities, LGBTQ people, Disabled people, Immigrant and First Generation American families, rural communities, Women and Femmes, and Youth and Young Adults under 35. We believe that access to free and fair elections is one of the core democratic values we hold dear as Alaskans, and that all Alaskans have the right to meaningfully engage in, and influence the decisions impacting their rights, resources, and livelihoods.

How would you pursue policies to promote equity and justice for marginalized communities, most directly impacted by the climate crises, and most often excluded from our democratic processes? Please also describe how you would act and prioritize issues and invitations from impacted communities, including tribal entities and communities of color, while protecting our environment.
5. We believe that investing in the education, leadership, and civic engagement of our young people is critical to the long-term health and sustainability of our state. How would you inspire or encourage young Alaskans to participate in the political process? What efforts will you make as a candidate and as an elected official to reduce barriers for residents and young Alaskans to engage in our local democratic process?

6. Have you read and signed our expected Code of Conduct (below)?

**Code of Conduct**

**Purpose**

The Alaska Center is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment, regardless of an individual’s race, ethnicity, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, ancestry, pregnancy, or any other characteristic prohibited by law. As such, The Alaska Center will not tolerate discriminatory, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior in the workplace or at any of its activities, events or meetings. It adopts the following code of conduct, and expects everyone in the workplace and those who participate in any of its activities, events or meetings to abide by it.

**Discriminatory Harassment**

Discriminatory harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, national origin age, or disability, or that of her/his relatives, friends, or associates, and that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance; or (3) otherwise adversely affect an individual’s employment opportunities.

Discriminatory harassment conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts and/or (2) written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group, because of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, age, physical or mental disability,
marital status, sexual orientation or pregnancy, and that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, or elsewhere on the employer’s premises, or circulated in the workplace.

**Harassment**

Harassment consists of unwelcome verbal, visual or physical conduct that is based on another person’s race, ethnicity, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, ancestry, pregnancy, or any other characteristic protected by law. It may include, but is not limited to, actions such as the use of epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, jokes, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to sex, race, age, disability or other protected categories. Harassment also may include written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual or group based on protected characteristics, whether that material is sent by email, or placed on walls, bulletin boards, computer screens or other devices, or elsewhere on the premises of an activity, event or meeting.

**Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment can involve unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can involve conduct by a person of either gender toward a person of the same or opposite gender.

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, use of sexual remarks, display of indecent pictures, crude and offensive language, uninvited and unwelcome sexual advances, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating hostile, or offensive working environment.

**Expected Behavior**

The Alaska Center expects everyone in the workplace and all participants in Alaska Center activities, events or meetings to conform to the following code of conduct:

- Respect others and their views
- Recognize and value individual differences
- Be sure you do not engage in aggressive, bullying or intimidating behavior
- Do not engage in discriminatory or harassing behavior
I acknowledge that I have read The Alaska Center Code of Conduct and will adhere to these expectations

______________________________
Signature and date