



## 2024 Legislative Endorsement Cover Letter

Dear Candidate,

On behalf of The Alaska Center board and staff, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to submit this questionnaire. We appreciate your thoughtful responses.

The following questionnaire contains 6 short-answer and 4 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](mailto:jennymarie@akcenter.org). Please ask for a confirmation receipt email. **Responses must be submitted by 5pm on June 28th.** 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.**

Our future is dependent upon the health of and equitable access to the renewable resources that sustain our diverse cultures, livelihoods, and local economies.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire, and for your interest in endorsement from The Alaska Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Marie Stryker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jenny-Marie Stryker  
Political Director  
The Alaska Center



## **Legislative Endorsement Questionnaire**

**Candidate Name:**

**Campaign Name:**

**Candidate Phone:**

**Candidate Email:**

**Campaign Manager name:**

**Campaign Manager phone:**

**Campaign Manager email:**

### **Questions (*PUBLIC–TO USE AS A PROMOTION BLURB ON THE WEBSITE IN THE CASE OF ENDORSEMENT*):**

- 1. Please describe what has motivated you to run for and serve in public office. What is your vision for Alaska? 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)**

### **Questions (*CONFIDENTIAL–ONLY SHARED WITH BOARD, STAFF, ADVISORS*):**

- 2. Climate change is one of the most pressing crises facing our planet, and communities in Alaska statewide are already experiencing its devastating impacts. Severe increasing temperatures, droughts, record-breaking wild fires, melting ice and permafrost, species migration and decreasing salmon returns, and sea level rise and erosion 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?**
- 3. Transitioning to a 100 percent clean energy economy is necessary to avert the worst impacts of climate change while creating good jobs, boosting our economy, saving consumers money, and protecting our health. Clean energy has grown rapidly as technology prices have plummeted. However, Alaska's economy and government services are 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)**

4. The Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team in 2018 stated that “*The changing climate offers Alaska both challenges and opportunities to innovate and develop a vision for a sustainable and vibrant future. To increase Alaska’s resilience, the State must develop solutions that account for and respond to the scale and speed of change, while working to stop or slow the negative impacts on water, land, and human systems.*”

**With solutions in mind, what specific policies at the state level do you support to reduce our state’s carbon emissions and slow the harm of climate change? If applicable, please mention any achievements you’ve made in this area.**

5. We understand that issues of racial equity and social justice have a direct correlation to issues of environmental protection and democracy. Climate impacts our health, our safety, and our livelihoods. Climate change’s impacts hit rural Alaska Native communities the hardest, exacerbating racial and economic inequities. Villages like Shishmaref, Kivalina, and Newtok/Metarvik are facing relocation and negative impacts on subsistence hunting and gathering, building infrastructure loss from permafrost melt, dangerous unsteady ice pathways, river erosion collapsing homes, and more. Additionally, the communities most affected by climate change, pollution, and environmental injustice are often the same communities that have been traditionally left out of the democratic process: Alaska Native and rural communities, people of color, women, and young people 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 resources and communities.

**How would you pursue policies to promote equity for communities most directly impacted by climate change and most often left out of our democratic processes?**

6. Alaska has a unique open primary and ranked-choice general voting system. The Alaska Center believes that in a ranked-choice environment, it is critical for voters to rank multiple candidates that share their values. This helps prevent a “spoiler effect” that could otherwise help unacceptable candidates win. The Alaska Center may choose to make ranking recommendations in addition to an endorsement for the general election.

**I understand that The Alaska Center may issue ranking recommendations or an endorsement of other candidates in my race.**

**(mark one) YES / NO**

**I will encourage voters to rank other AKC-endorsed-candidate(s) in my race after me.** (*We will ask any other candidate that we endorse to also commit that they will advocate for ranking YOU second*)



**(mark one) YES / NO / MAYBE**

7. Alaska has a robust early and absentee voting program that allows hard-working Alaskans to vote on weekends and in advance of election day, and we overwhelmingly passed the 2016 Permanent Fund Automatic Voter Registration Initiative to help make registering to vote or updating registration accessible.

However, voting rights are under attack recently. Like many other states, Alaska has seen an increase in public skepticism over the security of our elections – and in particular vote-by-mail - fueled by rhetoric from the 2020 national election. We believe that the more Alaskans get involved in the decisions affecting our home, the better the future will be for everyone. Increasing the number of Alaskans who vote is at the core of our strategy to promote a strong and healthy democracy.

**What will you do to protect or expand voting rights for all Alaskans? Would you support the Alaska Division of Elections moving to a vote at home (also known as vote by mail) process in order to increase access to voting for many Alaskans?**
  
8. We hear from Alaskan youth that they are particularly concerned about the future of our state, especially when it comes to issues like education, substance abuse, mental health, the protection of resources like salmon, and the way that climate change is impacting and will continue to impact their communities. We believe that investing in the education, leadership, and civic engagement of our young people is critical to the long-term sustainability of Alaska, and in doing this, that it is important to center the voices and leadership of young Alaskans.

**What will you do to address issues impacting youth and young Alaskans? In addressing these issues, how will you work to listen to youth perspectives and encourage young Alaskans to participate in the political process?**
  
9. **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**

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Signature and date