

Cathy Giessel

State Senate district E (House districts 9 & 10)

1. I would like to citizens be more aware of the problem, agree that it needs fixing, then participate in the solution. The vision is to see the numbers drop significantly.
2. This is a problem that is everyone's responsibility. Yes, the Legislature writes laws, elected officials support those efforts and public employees (police officers) enforce the laws. But laws don't prevent crime. It takes a culture change that comes from the citizens in communities.
3. I agree that, when things have to be cut, victim services are on the list to delete. These services are important to recovery for the victim/survivors. This is why we must constrain the portion of the Permanent Fund earnings that goes to Dividends. Handing out large dividend checks to individuals does nothing to ensure critical services such as this example of victim/survivor services. When V/S services are adequately funded, we all benefit with a healthier community.
4. The only realistic solutions must look to Alaska Tribes for involvement and response. This is similar to the Tribal compacting for education; local communities know best how to respond to needs.
5. I am a supporter and part-time volunteer at Beacon Hill, Safe Families for Children. This private, faith-based organization works hard to help stressed families find solutions to prevent bad outcomes for the children. Beacon Hill also partners with the Office of Children's Services. I have a focused heart of concern for children. Prevention is my focus.
6. This is a crime.
7. You are asking about abortion.
8. Broadly, I believe: Contraceptives should be widely and readily available. Treatment for ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages should be provided without hesitation. Increased demand for vasectomy procedures is a good thing. Alaska should establish abortion and contraceptive policies for our own state, not handed down from the federal government.
9. Abortion is a very difficult, individual decision. It is made even more difficult when pregnancy is the result of incest, sexual and/or domestic violence. Laws will never be perfect and should be made carefully, with wisdom and compassion. Medical care for pregnant women, regardless of the circumstances, should never be denied.
10. I have no specific ideas.
11. Clearly counseling is part of the response.
12. I have no ideas to engage these folks, other than removing them from proximity to their families. Government has proven to not be good at social issues. This would be far better served by private sector efforts.
13. I am aware of STAR. That's about it. My focus has been on behavioral and mental health, for adults and children.