

Q1

Please provide your name:

Löki Gale Tobin

Q2

Which office and district are you running for?

Senate District I

Q3

What is your vision for Alaska when it comes to reducing sexual assault and domestic violence? What steps are you prepared to take to get there?

As well articulated by the CDC, prevention is possible. Of course, this involves significant societal change, education, and empowerment with strong emphasis on helping young people develop strong communication skills, healthy relationship role modeling, and age appropriate sex education throughout a young person's academic career.

I strongly support Senator Gray-Jackson's mental health in school legislation and her legislation on health and personal safety education in schools. I also strongly support expanding our state's protections against discrimination of gender expression and identity and I am hopeful the upcoming changes to Title IV make meaningful inroads into future dialogues that support every person being who they are where they are, safely and authentically.

I recognize there is a public safety component that must be included in addressing the high rates of sexual assault and domestic violence in Alaska and I fully support proven law enforcement strategies that affirm tribal self-determination.

Q4

What responsibilities do you believe the Legislature and other elected officials hold in advancing efforts to intervene in and ultimately eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in the state?

The legislature is most effective when it invests in evidence-based prevention strategies and upstream solutions to downstream problems. I strongly support legislation that focuses on educating our young people about healthy relationships, building strong communication skills, and provides age appropriate, medically accurate sex education. I also strongly support legislation that is proactive in prevention policies that protects employees from sexual harassment and interpersonal violence.

I also am an advocate for, where appropriate, innovating in the practice of community-based, culturally competent, survivor-focused options that acknowledge intergenerational trauma and ensure Indigenous traditions and values are centered in a justice approach.

Q5

Victim/Survivor services in Alaska have been flat funded for many years and are facing a potential shortfall in future years due to decreasing federal funds. What are your thoughts on state funding to provide support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence?

I support appropriate and adequate funding for victim/survivor services.

Q6

Alaska Native women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. What are your thoughts on supporting Alaska tribes' ability to strengthen local responses for survivors?

I strongly believe we must be leaders in developing a practice of community-based, culturally competent, survivor-focused options that acknowledge intergenerational trauma and ensure Indigenous traditions and values are centered in a justice approach. This must be rooted in Indigenous self-determination, accountability, and knowledge.

Q7

Children are a particularly vulnerable population and may be traumatized by living with an abusive person and witnessing violence perpetrated against a parent or caretaker. What remedies might you suggest to provide protection for these children?

By no means am I an expert in this space and I would rely heavily on those whose lived and professional experience vastly exceeds mine. I worked with stakeholders to expand the definition of mandatory reporter to include pre-K educators and if there are other places where I can provide advocacy and assistance, I want to aid in this work.

Q8

What is your opinion about an adult over the age of 30 having sex with someone that is only 16 or 17. Should it be a crime?

The State of Alaska recently updated its marriage laws to make it illegal for someone who is between ages 16-18 to marry someone 3 years older than themselves. Thus, it seems like Alaska's statutory rape laws need to be updated as well.

Q9

Do you believe reproductive rights should be the choice of an individual? If you do not, do you believe there should be choice for victims of incest, sexual and/or domestic violence?

I am a pro-choice/pro-privacy candidate.

Q10

The state of Alaska is experiencing a housing shortage statewide. This is impacting domestic and sexual violence survivors' ability to move forward with their lives. What would be your ideas to address this?

To address our housing situation, Alaska needs to fund the immediate and long-term solutions that community advocates have put forth to address the impending housing crisis. I recognize it is a complicated, intergovernmental issue, but we need to address deferred maintenance in our Pioneer Homes and build more ADA accessible senior housing like Centennial Village. Expanding Housing First models, like Karluk Manor, will help address those in need of low-barrier housing. I am a strong advocate of the State making strategic partnerships with places like Merrill Crossing, Centennial Village, Elizabeth

Place, and Mountain View Village because they provide affordable transition and stable housing options for many in our communities and stabilize housing for our vulnerable populations.

I am also in full support of appropriating the right amount of funds to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's rental assistance programs, including their housing vouchers for those experiencing domestic or sexual violence, and first-time home buyer loans. Finally, working with local governments to address barriers created by housing permitting processes and building code enforcement to help increase housing stock helps everyone. I am all for property-tax holidays and other incentive programs that help Alaskans think outside the box to create more housing density in urban areas.

#### Q11

Currently, the domestic violence response is largely a criminal justice response. Please share any ideas you have of other types of responses.

It is more advantageous for Alaska to take a preventative approach rather than a responsive one. I believe legislation like the two bills I mentioned previously are great examples of other responses to domestic violence. I also believe community-based, culturally competent, survivor-focused options with regard to justice will ultimately be more effective than the current response options.

#### Q12

Currently there is no dedicated funding for programs to provide services to engage individuals who have abused their families. What would be your ideas to address how to provide services to people who choose to cause harm to their partners? Do you feel this is the responsibility of the government?

Again, I am not an expert in this arena; however, I fully expect and anticipate a portion of Alaska's domestic violence endemic is directly related to intergenerational trauma, which is 100% linked to the actions of the United States and State of Alaska governments. I am intrigued by the Center for Court Innovation's papers on how restorative Justice might be incorporated into community-based, culturally competent, survivors-focused options and I think it is the government's responsibility to identify resources and hear from stakeholders in developing a more holistic approach.

#### Q13

Are you familiar with local programs that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services to victims across Alaska? Have you recently visited your local domestic violence/sexual assault shelter or victim services program? What is your plan to support these programs?

As a former nonprofit fundraiser for the Alaska Community Foundation, I am very familiar with the local shelter in my community. As Senator Begich's former policy director, I am also familiar with funding needs for AWAIC and other shelters in our community. If elected, I plan to continue advocating for these community resources.