

Q1

Please provide your name:

Alyse Galvin

Q2

Which office and district are you running for?

House District 14

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?

With the highest rates of sexual assault and domestic violence in the nation, Alaska has a long way to go to improve our performance in bringing justice for victims and protecting potential future victims. That begins with aggressive and sensitive investigation of claims followed by effective prosecution. It includes providing safe alternatives for those in vulnerable situations and facing threats. Also, it includes a comprehensive approach to dealing with substance abuse which is often a contributing factor that leads to instances of sexual assault and domestic violence. Finally, education and public awareness are key to eliminating the stigma experienced by victims and bringing these social problems into the light so they can be eliminated.

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 Alaska Constitution gives authority to the legislature in the areas of education, public safety, and public health. Therefore, it is absolutely the responsibility of the legislature to address these problems. In particular, the legislature needs to use its oversight power to ensure that public safety, other law enforcement, and prosecutors have all the tools they need, are aggressively pursuing cases, and fulfill their obligations to victims and potential victims. In addition, the legislature needs to support education, public awareness, intervention, mental health, substance abuse, and victim advocacy programs focused on eliminating domestic violence and sexual assaults in Alaska.

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?

In principle, I support funding for these types of programs. However, I would need more information on the past effectiveness and outcomes of Alaska's program to support substituting State funds for decreasing federal funds. What I also support is ensuring that these programs have consistent and

reliable funding to maintain their programs. Relying on annual or short-term grants makes managing these programs very difficult.

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 fully support strengthening tribes' ability to respond to these cases.

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?

As a child, I witnessed domestic violence in my home, and will always look for ways to protect children in similar situations. Taking the actions I discussed above will provide a way for victims to confidently report perpetrators and find safety and security for themselves and their children. To prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences, we also need to look at ways of supporting young families in or just above poverty. In addition, Child Protection Services needs the support and capacity to competently take necessary actions to protect vulnerable children without doing more harm than good. Finally, we need to ensure our education and healthcare providers have trauma informed training to identify the signs of trauma among the children they work with and treat to provide early intervention.

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?

Yes, it is just wrong, it should be a crime.

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?

Reproductive rights should be the choice of an individual.

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?

Low-income housing is a critical need at this time, and we need to build more. I will support it as a legislator.

Q11

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

Unemployment, poverty, mental illness, childhood trauma, and substance abuse can all play a part in domestic violence. Addressing domestic violence requires a comprehensive approach to all of these social problems.

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?

I would need more information to decide if such services are worthy of public funding. My understanding is that ANTHC has a successful program along these lines, and I would look for ways to expand their success to state-funded programs.

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?

Yes, I am very familiar with these local programs. I have visited many of the local providers and I feature them regularly on my social media. As a legislator I will continue to get the word out about the value of these programs, encourage my colleagues to support them, and vote to increase State funds to enhance and expand these programs.