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Page 1: 2018 Candidate Survey

Q1 What is your name? Which office are you running for and which district do you hope to represent?

Andrea "Andi" Story. Running for

Q2 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?

I am familiar with some of the programs. My background is in social work. One of my first jobs in Juneau was working as a co-facilitator in my job with the Parent Aid Program and AWARE, to do the parent education group on Tuesday mornings. The last time I was at AWARE was this spring to drop off some children's books. I am a member of AWARE. I know there are similar programs across the state in Anchorage, Cordova, Eyak, Homer, Ketchikan, Bearing Sea, Seward, Valdez, Barrow, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Palmer, Sitka, Bethel, Dillingham. There are also Domestic Violence Councils and Tribal entities working on these causes.

Alaska's domestic violence rates are among the highest in the nation, which illustrates the need and importance of relevant services and adequate funding to support these services.

My plan to support AWARE and other programs is to become informed of the current needs regarding services and legislation and look to the stakeholders on how to address the needs of the people that they serve and educate our community. My plan is also to work with my colleagues up at the Capitol to be a united in combating this epidemic through supporting prevention and intervention efforts.

Q3 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?

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Q4 What responsibilities do you believe the Legislature and our elected officials hold in advancing efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault? Would you be willing to maintain or increase the current level of funding for prevention and victims services?

It is everyone's responsibility to create a safe Alaska, where families feel safe, thrive, and grow. State legislatures should be involved with providing infrastructure and resources necessary to provide for the health and safety of its citizens. The Adverse Child Experience (ACE) research shows clearly the importance of healthy and violence-free families, not only in regard to building healthy and creative children to meet their potentials and be contributing members of their communities, but also the direct and dramatic impact abuse has on healthcare costs. Legislators have a unique opportunity to participate fully in supporting services and advocating for funding to prevent violence and to support those who have been victims of violence. Part of public safety includes restorative processes that reduce and prevent violence. I am in favor of maintaining and increasing, if possible, the current level of funding for prevention and victim services.

Q5 Alaska's 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reports that 1 in 10 Alaskan students had experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual acts) during the past year. Do you feel that sexual assault, sexual abuse, and dating violence prevention education should take place in our schools and in what way would you suggest enhancing efforts to educate Alaska's youth on these important subjects? Who do you think shares this responsibility?

Yes, we all share the responsibility for educating our youth, both boys and girls, young women, and young men. Again, ACEs research is clear about this, as well as the national statistics on domestic violence and sexual assault and the Alaskan statistics. Our first responsibility is to protect our children. I support the educational and support efforts of our local domestic violence and sexual abuse programs, who understand the dynamics and are in the best position to work with our youth. I also support those individuals who have been victims and are at the point in their lives where they wish to speak out, to do so. I would be open to hearing what others have to say about how to enhance efforts to educate our youth on these very important issues. As an elected Juneau School Board member of fifteen years I was supported in having these helping agencies partner with the school district to address prevention efforts. As I said earlier, I was disappointed that districts received an unfunded mandate in supporting Bree's law. I will be monitoring how districts are providing the services of Bree's law and looking to make other legislators aware of the limitations of this bill, especially if there is not any revenue to provide the outcomes that we want to see from this bill.
