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**Email:** landlshaw@gci.net  
**IP Address:** 206.174.29.180

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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?

Laddie Shaw, State House District 26

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**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?

We need a strong partnership within the law enforcement community to focus on resources in prosecuting sexual assault cases. There is a need for more prosecutors and additional resources within the police agencies directed at combating domestic violence and sexual assault. The sexual offense laws need to be reviewed to identify loopholes and make the criminals fully liable.

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**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?

I am aware of STAR, but have never visited a shelter or had an introduction to a victim service program. Considering that Alaska has the highest rate of sexual violence in the nation it is imperative that as legislators we demand comprehensive sexual offense laws.

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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?

Legislators need to partner with the Department of Law, the Council on Domestic Violence and law enforcement agencies to better define definitions and existing gaps in state law regarding sexual assault. Considering the level of domestic violence at present, in our great state, is the highest in the nation, I absolutely see a need to increase resources for victims services.

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**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?

It is imperative that we enact preventive education regarding sexual assault and dating violence into our schools. Adding subject matter experts from the Council on Domestic Violence and related victim services to the educational resources would be a start as well. We all should share in the responsibility to help resolve this tragic dilemma and support all efforts to make Alaska a safer place to live.

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