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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?

Sarah Vance for State House in District 31

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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?

My vision is for Alaska to be ranked the lowest in cases of sexual assault and violence. I plan to encourage the administration to continue the Choose Respect campaign and strengthen laws against our most vulnerable.

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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 vaguely familiar with our local Haven House and regularly donate to Homer Thrift that helps support it.

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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 hold a huge responsibility in creating accountability within the systems designed to aid our most vulnerable populations. Alaska statutes need to be clearly defined regarding sexual assault, and stronger penalties enforced upon those who perpetrate those crimes.

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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?

Education and empowerment is key to ending sexual assault, abuse and violence. Teaching our children to respect and defend is the first step. Respect and self defense training has been known to decrease the rate of rape in African nations by 40%! It is time we teach our kids to respect one another; beginning with ourselves.

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