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**Collector:** Email Invitation 1 (Email)  
**Started:** Monday, October 22, 2018 4:42:52 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 22, 2018 4:45:31 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:38  
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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?

My name is Tim Lamkin. I do not subscribe to party politics. I decided to run for the open seat in House District 4, defined as the north Fairbanks area, as a non-partisan candidate because I am the most qualified, least politically motivated person offering to fulfill this important civic duty. I have been legislative session staff, working behind the scenes, for the past 21 years. I know the nuts and bolts of our state government and how it works very well. I want to be a representative for the common good of all of Alaskans, not a political party, not a special interest group, nor be driven by Outside Money. I support term limits, so this is literally a limited-time offer. This is a public service and a civic obligation, for which I am compelled to offer my services as the most qualified. I ask for the honor of your vote and will serve this district and Alaska effectively and proudly.

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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?

The sad extent of sexual assault and domestic violence is finally beginning to receive the attention it deserves. This is a systemic problem pervasive in our society and it is time to be having open and constructive conversations about how to bring immediate and lasting efforts for victims to heal, perpetrators to meet more swift and appropriate justice and rehabilitation, and our youth to be better educated about sex, healthy relationships, the meaning of consent, and setting healthy boundaries.

One thing our state Legislature can do to contribute to this dialogue includes improved staff training at the capitol for all "in-house" staff associated with the Capitol, and to invest in community-based organizations, who are the best, most direct care givers of support, networking, and awareness for these social issues.

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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 somewhat familiar with various programs around the state, to the extent they are advocated to and funded through the state legislature and the legislative briefings I have received over the years. I admittedly have not recently visited a shelter or victim services program. However, I have visited the local Fairbanks shelter for vulnerable youth, "The Door," who may have related clients. I have deep respect and compassion for this type of community-based program and will make every effort to support these programs legislatively.

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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?

The Legislature provides one example of role modeling for our community and can contribute to the dialogue by bringing more awareness to these issues. Staff and legislator training is just the beginning. This is a huge complex issue and must be approached from several angles, a big one of which is how we are approaching mental health services as a whole.

During my involvement as legislative staff, and for the past 20+ years, I have helped organize a 50+ year annual (traditional) event known as the Legislative Skits, a political parody of the Alaska Legislature, performed in Juneau during session. I have been directly involved in seeing that the net proceeds from that event go to support the local rape shelter in Juneau, AWARE (Aiding Women of Assault and Rape Emergencies). I would personally like to see that support continued locally, but also to see state funding maintained, if not also increased, to support such services in Fairbanks and statewide.

I would like to see us invest in existing community service organizations, not just those working with victims, but also those working in drug rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, and mental health assistance. We can and should rely more on non-profits with the mission and determination to bring more awareness to our communities about these issues and foster both the love and support needed to help victims of these 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?

I have spent much of my work in the legislature tracking and contributing to improvements to education funding and policies in Alaska. I have come to the conclusion that no amount of state funding appropriated, or laws passed, can supplant the success of a child's overall education and health without good parenting. Period.

I believe the same applies to mental health, which in turn applies to how we approach our relationships. I find the mental health of our children to be in increasing need of loving attention.

I very much support the idea of improving mental health awareness and in fostering a way for us as a people, as a society, to care for each other more, to maintain empathy and grace, and to find ways bridge the darkness and bring in the light. That effort should of course include an educational component in our school system.

Everyone has a different opinion as to what is or is not an appropriate sex-ed program in school. Parents should have a voice in that process, as the responsibility ultimately falls on them, but meanwhile it is critical for our schools to be provided with the tools necessary to at least offer the program.

I believe one way the state might contribute better is by embracing and investing in local, community organizations, local groups or projects, people who are motivated to help with treatment and who can provide the resources we need to address these issues and others, ranging not only for sex-ed, but also for mental health, vocational rehabilitation and job training, drug rehabilitation, and respective support groups.

A motto I like to utilize is "happy healthy people make happy healthy choices." Improving the current state of these issues starts with more awareness. I want to thank you, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, for being a champion in the cause to bring more awareness, support, and prevention to these sensitive issues.