

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Sunday, October 21, 2018 2:24:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 21, 2018 2:29:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:39
Email: scott.kawasaki@gmail.com
IP Address: 66.223.168.13

Page 1: 2018 Candidate Survey

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

Scott Kawasaki, Senate District A

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?

Alaska has been #1 in sexual assault and domestic violence for far too long -- that is unacceptable. We need to review the programs in place -- what isn't working? What needs to be improved? What needs more funding to be effective? For example, I am working closely with CDVSA to review Batterers' Intervention Programs (BIPs) to help reduce reoffending. With survey results forthcoming from BIP grantees, I plan to consider recommendations and work with CDVSA and ANDVSA and others to see what the State can do to improve BIPs, just one part of the puzzle to reduce domestic violence. I am also proud of the legislation and funding I supported this year in the State House to improve victims' services and justice. I plan to oversee successful implementation of HB 216 (to ensure Alaska prisoners' PFDs go to victims first) as well as finally addressing the rape kit backlog, which I was proud to support the first steps this year.

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?

Yes. My staff and I have toured the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living several times during my tenure. I've worked closely with Brenda Stanfill over the years and I appreciate her tireless advocacy and transparency. She and others with ANDVSA have been especially helpful in their advocacy in Juneau to stand up for CDVSA's budget -- which is housed in the Dept of Public Safety, which I chaired these two years in the House. It is my goal to ensure these important programs and facilities get the support they need to assist victims statewide so they can lead safe, healthy and happy lives.

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?

Elected officials have a responsibility to lead by example: treat others with respect and practice healthy conflict resolution. The Legislature can introduce new programs or revise existing programs. They have the power to appropriate state-funded programs that support victims, reduce reoffending of domestic violence & sexual assault, treat mental illness and substance abuse, and much more. We must treat the root of why people hurt people: our response cannot only be for victims' services alone, we must prevent these crimes in the first place. In terms of funding, I was disappointed CDVSA's budget was cut in conference committee in 2017 after I worked to protect it that year as Chair. While I'm glad some was restored this year, more must be done.

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 absolutely believe dating violence prevention should be taught in our schools. I was proud to support the Bree Moore Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program, which will begin in Alaska schools next year. Parents, teachers, school administrators, coaches and other mentors must learn to recognize when teens are at risk for behaving violently and those who may be in an unhealthy relationship and to get them help. We must all look out for each other and encourage healthy communication and self-confidence at all times, particularly for young people who are still finding their own voice. And sometimes, young adults react violently because that's what they were taught at home. We must teach kids to be comfortable to seek help—whether it's to seek a safe place to live or effective counseling or substance abuse treatment—so we can stop the cycle of violence. In the Legislature, lawmakers can help get the message out by supporting many programs for victims and offenders and those at risk for violent behavior, such as those with mental illness, high ACES scores and substance abuse. There is no one answer to solve this—we all know that. Coming together with a common goal to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault is the only way we can find each solution.
