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Email: akwater@gci.net
IP Address: 24.237.104.132

Page 1: 2018 Candidate Survey

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

Janice Park, Senate District M

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 must implement and fund more support services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. There are not enough beds for women in safe houses for all the women who need them.

I am prepared to bring forward the bill to fund these services. I also believe that our drug and alcohol policy directly impacts abuse towards women and children. I support increased funding for mental health and recovery beds in inpatient programs where needed.

Pre-K and early childhood education are essential for identification of families at risk. We need to increase public health nursing where substance abuse or domestic violence issues are identified, and early intervention should be implemented. Part of our current problems are resultant from these programs being ignored for far too long.

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 a domestic violence and rape survivor. I am well aware of services that are available and support funding and increasing these services. I was subject to financial abuse during my divorce, evicted from my own home and cut off from marital resources. I was compelled to file a lien on my home and an appeal in the Supreme Court of Alaska in order to retain my home.

For several years I provided bottled water delivery to ANDVSA's Anchorage office. As a paralegal, I have also referred women clients to ANDVSA, including one who lived for the maximum time at the AWAIC shelter.

In my work as a paralegal I have been involved in a number of cases requiring protective orders and have helped women navigate paperwork and court system requirements to ensure that they are protected.

Many of our social problems stem from police socialized and educated children for whom this system has not made priorities or time. These are the dysfunctional adults that get caught up in the legal system in substance abuse and domestic violence across all ethnic and income levels. I believe fully funding education addresses many problems at the root.

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)

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?

Because the federal government has failed to re-authorize the Violence Against Women Act, I believe it is incumbent upon the State of Alaska to stand in the breach for women, and enact similar legislation for the protection of women education of law-enforcement and health professionals. It is shameful in our culture that the protection of women and children has so little priority.

The Violence Against Women Act has been instrumental in educating judges, social service providers, and law enforcement about the barriers for reporting domestic violence and the lack of support for survivors. I will bring a bill similar to the federal Violence Against Women legislation to the Alaska Senate floor.

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 support Bree's Law and Erin's law or similar bills for responsible age appropriate sex education in schools to protect our youth from sexual violence. Further, I believe that Planned Parenthood can play an important role in educating teens, who will, like it or not, become sexually active and need to be educated.

It is imperative that early education take place for teens, who will, like it or not, become sexually active. Early education is proven to reduce rate of teen pregnancy in transmission of STDs. Early education, intervention and protection result in more positive outcomes. The state must share responsibility for fact based education of Alaska children for a better future.
