

Candidate Survey

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Return survey by October 9, 2026 to: andvsa@andvsa.org

Complete each answer box and select one response where choices are provided.

Name

CJ McCormick

Office/District Representation You Are Seeking

Alaska State House District 38

Please indicate whether you view domestic violence and sexual assault as an area of primary concern for you.

☒ Primary concern ☐ Secondary concern ☐ Not on my radar

Are you familiar with local programs that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services to victims across Alaska?

☒ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ No

If yes, how often do you interact with the domestic violence/sexual assault shelter or victim services program in your area?

☒ Quarterly ☐ Annually ☐ Other

If other, please specify

1. The Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) found 57.7% of Alaskan women have experienced intimate partner violence (domestic violence), sexual violence, or both. 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?

2. What responsibilities do you believe the Legislature and other elected officials hold in advancing efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault?

What efforts have you made at the local, state, and federal level to address domestic violence and sexual assault?

3. Would you be willing to increase the current level of funding for victims' services?

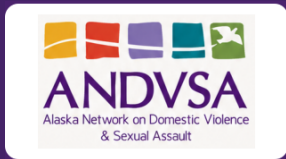
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

4. Would you be willing to increase the current level of funding for domestic violence/sexual assault prevention work?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

5. Would you be willing to increase the current level of funding for legal services for victims?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe



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6. Currently, the domestic violence response is largely a criminal justice response. Do you have ideas for other types of responses? What are they?

7. Do you think the penalties for sexual violence crimes in Alaska are:

☐ Too harsh ☒ Too soft ☐ Just right

What are your reasons?

8. Do you think the penalties for domestic violence crimes in Alaska are:

☐ Too harsh ☒ Too soft ☐ Just right

What are your reasons?

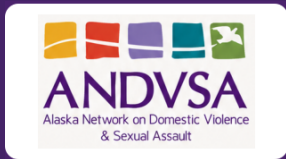
9. Would you support funding through the Department of Corrections to engage individuals who choose to harm their partners/families through batterers intervention programming (BIPs)? Do you think this is the responsibility of the government? Why or why not?

What would be your ideas for providing services to people who choose to cause harm to their partners?

10. Do you believe abortion access should be legally protected for survivors of rape or incest?

☒ Yes ☐ No

11. The state of Alaska is experiencing a housing shortage statewide. This is impacting domestic and sexual violence survivors' ability to move forward with their lives. What would be your ideas to address this?



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12. Children are a particularly vulnerable population and may be traumatized by living with an abusive person and witnessing violence perpetrated against a parent or caretaker. What remedies might you suggest to provide protection for these children?

13. A sunset review is a mandatory, periodic evaluation of an executive board or commission to determine if its public benefit justifies its continued existence, funding, and legal authority. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) in the Department of Public Safety is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2028, and will be reviewed during the next Legislature. Would you support a bill to extend the Council?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

What are your reasons?

14. Please explain any solutions you would propose to support victims and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey.
To keep your answers, use File > Save As (or Download in your browser).

- 1. The Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) found 57.7% of Alaskan women have experienced intimate partner violence (domestic violence), sexual violence, or both. 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 an Alaska where everyone can be safe in their home and community, and survivors can get help wherever they live. In rural Alaska, we require reliable local responders, safe shelter, and services that understand our communities and cultures.

I will support stable funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs, expand VPSO and other local public safety coverage, and advocate for shelter and survivor services closer to our villages. Survivors need access to safe housing, transportation, advocacy, and counseling without having to navigate these challenges alone.

Prevention must also be a priority. I support education about healthy relationships and consent, early intervention, and community-led efforts developed with tribes and local service providers. We need to listen to survivors, hold offenders accountable, and sustain this work beyond the immediate crisis.

- 2. What responsibilities do you believe the Legislature and other elected officials hold in advancing efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault?**

The Legislature has a responsibility to fund prevention and survivor services consistently, strengthen public safety, and oversee whether state agencies are meeting the needs of survivors. Elected officials should seek input from survivors, tribes, and service providers when developing legislation and budgets, and address barriers to getting help in rural communities.

Our responsibility also extends to housing, education, childcare, and access to counseling. Survivors need practical support to leave an unsafe situation and rebuild their lives. Elected officials should speak clearly against domestic violence and sexual assault and follow through with funding and action.

What efforts have you made at the local, state, and federal level to address domestic violence and sexual assault?

As a child, I collected donations for Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) at my birthday parties instead of receiving gifts. In high school, I advocated through student council for more education about consent and sexual assault prevention.

On Bethel City Council, I made the motion to hire an independent investigator to review the city's handling of sexual assault cases following a survivor's public concerns about the response to her report. The review was intended to identify shortcomings, recommend improvements, and provide training for agencies involved in responding to sexual assault. I also advocated for officers dedicated to sexual assault investigations and greater support for survivors.

As a state representative, I supported increased VPSO funding and helped secure funding for domestic violence shelter and services in Akiachak. I voted to make funding for the

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault recurring and supported restoring survivor-service funding when programs faced a substantial funding gap.

I sponsored HB 234, the House companion to the MMIP legislation enacted through SB 151, and advocated for its passage. That law established requirements for dedicated MMIP investigators, Indigenous cultural training for police, a review commission, and improved missing-person reporting. I also introduced HB 235 to strengthen reporting to the national missing-person database.

I sponsored and passed HJR 17, urging Congress to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies to address the abuses and lasting harm of that system. Throughout my service, I have pressed for accountability and better access to safety and justice in rural Alaska.

6. Currently, the domestic violence response is largely a criminal justice response. Do you have ideas for other types of responses? What are they?

Yes. Survivors should be able to get safe housing, transportation, financial assistance, childcare, and confidential counseling whether or not they choose to report to police. Services should respect survivors' decisions and help them establish lasting safety.

I support prevention education, community-led programs developed with tribes, and support for children who have experienced violence at home. Programs for people who use violence should address abusive behavior, require accountability and prioritize survivor safety. Substance-use treatment can be part of the support, but it cannot substitute for addressing the violence itself.

Tribal and community-based responses can also play a role when survivors freely choose to participate and safeguards are in place. Survivors should never be pressured into mediation, reconciliation, or contact with someone who harmed them.

7. I selected "too soft" because I believe survivors are left without justice, and offenders escape meaningful accountability. My concern extends beyond the length of a sentence to whether a case is investigated and prosecuted at all.

Survivors should not have to repeatedly push authorities to take their reports seriously or feel that only the most extreme cases of sexual violence will be pursued. The responsibility to investigate and build a case belongs to law enforcement and prosecutors. Survivors should receive support through that process, rather than carry the burden of securing justice themselves.

I support penalties that reflect the seriousness and lasting harm of sexual violence, thorough and timely investigations, and sufficient resources for prosecution.

8. I selected "too soft" because I believe the response to domestic violence does not consistently provide justice for survivors or meaningful accountability for offenders. My concern extends beyond sentencing to whether reports are investigated, protective orders are enforced, and survivors are protected against further harm.

Survivors should not have to endure repeated abuse or increasingly severe violence before

authorities take their situation seriously. They should not carry the responsibility of continually pushing for an investigation while also managing threats, fear, and their own safety. Law enforcement and prosecutors should take responsibility for investigating reports and building cases.

I support penalties that reflect the seriousness of domestic violence, particularly repeated offenses and violations of protective orders. Accountability should also include intervention programs that address abusive behavior, with continued protection and support for survivors.

9. Yes. I support funding batterers intervention programs through the Department of Corrections. Government has a responsibility to protect survivors, hold people accountable for violence, and work to prevent further harm. Corrections should help people change abusive behavior before they return to their communities and continue that work after release.

Programs should require participants to take responsibility for their actions and prioritize survivor safety. Public funding should include clear standards, oversight, and evaluation of whether programs reduce repeat violence. I support funding this work along with stable funding for survivor services.

What would be your ideas for providing services to people who choose to cause harm to their partners?

I support specialized domestic violence intervention programs in correctional facilities and communities, with continued services after release and opportunities for people to seek help before causing further harm. Programs should address patterns of abuse and controlling behavior, require accountability, and teach respectful, nonviolent ways of relating to partners and family members.

Rural access should be a priority. Tribes and local providers should help develop culturally appropriate services, with trained facilitators and support for transportation or remote participation where appropriate. Cost and distance should not prevent participation.

Counseling and substance-use treatment can address additional needs, but participants must also address their abusive behavior directly. Services should coordinate with survivor advocates, and participation should never require survivors to reconcile or have contact with the person who harmed them.

11. Housing is one of my campaign's top priorities. In rural Alaska, survivors can be ready to leave an abusive home and still have nowhere safe to go. They can be forced to remain with the person harming them or return after a temporary shelter stay. No one should have to choose between living with violence and becoming homeless.

I support a dedicated state housing fund to help tribes, regional housing authorities, and communities build more homes and repair or replace deteriorating housing. That funding should also address the high costs of rural construction and the water and sewer infrastructure needed for new homes. Housing should be designed for our communities and climate, with energy efficiency and long-term durability in mind.

Survivors also need more emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing options. As I mentioned earlier in this survey, I helped secure funding for domestic violence shelter and services in Akiachak. I want to build on that work by supporting tribal and community-led projects closer to our villages, with funding for both the facilities and the staff needed to operate them.

I support rental and deposit assistance, help with moving and utility costs, and housing advocates who can help survivors find and keep a safe home. Programs should protect survivors' privacy and respect their decisions about where they can live safely. Survivors should have opportunities to remain connected to their families, cultures, and communities, and those who need to relocate for safety should receive support to do so.

12. Children need immediate protection from violence and continued support as they recover. Protecting them should not mean unnecessarily separating them from their families or cutting them off from their cultures. We should help a safe parent or caregiver protect the child through housing, transportation, childcare, financial assistance, and services that address the violence. I support shelters and transitional housing that can keep families safely together, with services for children as well as adults.

I am committed to upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and respecting tribal authority in child welfare. When Native children cannot safely remain at home, I support prioritizing safe placements with extended family or tribal families and maintaining their connections to their communities and cultures.

I support funding for school counselors and community providers trained to help children who have experienced or witnessed violence. Teachers, healthcare workers, and other trusted adults need training to recognize warning signs, respond safely, and connect families with help. These services should reach our villages and be developed with tribes and local providers.

Child protection agencies, survivor advocates, and courts should coordinate their efforts while protecting families' privacy. Custody and visitation decisions should take domestic violence seriously and include safeguards against further harm. The person causing violence must be held accountable, and families seeking safety should receive practical help and consistent support.

13. Yes. I support extending the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and providing stable funding for its work. The Council helps fund and coordinate prevention and survivor services across Alaska, including local programs that people rely on for shelter, safety, and support. I want to strengthen those services and expand their reach in rural communities.

I would also be interested in pursuing legislation to remove the Council's sunset date and establish it as a permanent part of state government. Preventing violence and supporting survivors are lasting responsibilities of the state. The Council and the programs it supports should have dependable funding to plan ahead, retain staff, and sustain services.

14. As outlined in my earlier answers, I support stable funding for survivor services, more safe housing, and reliable local public safety in rural Alaska. Survivors need legal assistance, transportation, childcare, counseling, and help rebuilding their lives, whether or not they choose

to report to police. Tribes and local providers should help shape these services to meet their communities' needs.

Law enforcement and prosecutors must take responsibility for timely investigations and building cases. Survivors should receive clear communication and support throughout that process without having to repeatedly push to have their reports taken seriously. I support sufficient investigative and prosecution staff, enforcement of protective orders, and penalties that reflect the seriousness and lasting harm of violence.

Going through the justice system as a survivor can be confusing, daunting, and retraumatizing. The state should fund trained advocates who explain the process, help survivors understand what to expect during interviews and court proceedings, and connect them with legal assistance and counseling. Survivors should have a consistent person they can turn to for answers and support throughout the process.

I also support intervention programs that require offenders to take responsibility and address their abusive behavior. Survivors should have continued protection and support as they rebuild their lives, regardless of the outcome of a criminal case.