



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

Ruby Jones

Office/District Representation You Are Seeking

Alaska State House, District 23 (Eagle River)

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

First-time candidate, no regular contact yet. If elected, I will meet with AWAIC and STAR quarterly.

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?

Every Alaskan should be safe in their own home. More than half of Alaskan women is not a number we can accept as normal. My career is in workplace safety, and the lesson from that field applies here: you don't bring injury rates down only by responding after someone gets hurt. You find the root causes and design them out. For Alaska that means steady funding for shelters and advocates on the ground, much stronger early intervention so kids grow up safe and we break cycles of trauma, and keeping up with new forms of abuse like AI-generated images and online exploitation. I'll work alongside the programs doing this work, because they know what's needed.

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

Our budget shows what we value. The Legislature's job is to fund prevention and victim services reliably, not year to year; pass the policy changes that advocates and survivors tell us are needed; and use its oversight role to make sure the systems that respond, from law enforcement to OCS to the courts, are staffed and working.

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

I'm a first-time candidate, so I don't have a legislative record yet. My background is in workplace safety and operations, where I've spent years building prevention programs and training systems. I'm also a mom of two daughters here in Eagle River, so this is personal. If elected, I'll treat ANDVSA and our local programs as partners and lean on your expertise.

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

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. The criminal justice response matters, but it comes after the harm is done. I'd add prevention that starts early: child care, Head Start, and the Infant Learning Program. I'd also support behavioral health and substance use treatment that people can actually get, and economic supports like housing and child care that make it possible for survivors to leave. These add to accountability for offenders and support for survivors. They don't replace them.

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

☐ Too harsh ☐ Too soft ☐ Just right

What are your reasons?

I'm not checking a box here because I want to look at the sentencing data and hear from prosecutors, advocates, and survivors first. Alaska's sentences for sexual offenses are already long, which is appropriate. But long sentences alone won't bring our rates down if we aren't also preventing abuse and neglect upstream and making sure cases are investigated and prosecuted.

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

☐ Too harsh ☐ Too soft ☐ Just right

What are your reasons?

I don't know enough yet to say, and I'd rather be honest than guess. If there are gaps in the law, I'd value ANDVSA's input on where they are and what fixes would actually work for survivors.

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?

I'd want to learn more about outcome data for these programs in Alaska before committing to a funding level. In principle, yes. Most people who cause harm return to their families and communities, so it's in everyone's interest, and a fair responsibility of the state, to use programs that actually change behavior. I'd support approaches that are evidence-based and measured for results.

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

Addiction and mental health are often part of the picture, so behavioral health services that work are part of the solution. Beyond that, I'd look to the experts on what changes abusive behavior and hold programs to clear, measurable outcomes.

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?

Alaska needs more housing of every kind, and survivors need options fast. I support using AIDEA's existing authority to finance multifamily housing; funding transitional housing and rapid rehousing so survivors can move from shelter into stable homes; and growing the construction trades workforce through apprenticeships so we have the people to build what we need.

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?

Kids who witness violence need protection and support right away. I'd support full funding for child care, Head Start, and the Infant Learning Program; a properly staffed Office of Children's Services; Child Advocacy Centers; and trauma-informed training for teachers and others who work with kids so they can spot the signs and respond. Supporting the non-abusive parent with safe housing and child care is one of the best ways to protect the children too.

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?

The Council is how state and federal funding reaches programs across Alaska, including rural communities with few other resources. A sunset review is a good chance to check how it's working, but letting it lapse would disrupt services survivors depend on. I'd support extending it and using the review to make it stronger.

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

Supporting victims and holding offenders accountable both depend on having enough people in the system to do the work. Alaska struggles to recruit and keep police officers, prosecutors, OCS caseworkers, and advocates, and part of that is the lack of a competitive retirement benefit for public employees. Fixing that is a structural priority. I'd also support reliable funding for shelters and legal services for victims, faster processing of evidence so cases don't stall, and protective orders that are easier to get and enforce. Accountability works best when it's swift and certain.

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