

Name

Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Office/District Representation you are seeking

Governor

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?

Most Alaskans know someone who has been harmed, and we should never treat it as normal. My vision is an Alaska where survivors can get help wherever they live, where people who cause harm face real consequences and have a path to change, and where prevention starts early enough to reduce harm before it happens.

As governor, I will fund shelters, advocacy, and prevention consistently, with particular attention to rural communities. I'll work to close any gaps in the law, as I did in 2022 when I voted to advance updates to Alaska's consent and domestic violence statutes. I'll also partner with tribes and local organizations that know their communities best. And my administration would work hard to track results, so we fund what actually brings these numbers down.

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

The legislature must provide steady, predictable funding for shelters, victim advocates, prevention programs, and the law enforcement and court resources needed to investigate and prosecute these crimes. These resources are especially important for rural and remote communities. As governor, I will set expectations across state agencies, appoint leaders who take these issues seriously, and work in real partnership with tribal governments, Alaska Native organizations, and local communities.

Survivors should be able to count on their government to show up for them, and as governor, I will work to do that.

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

During my time in the Alaska House, I used my position on the House State Affairs Committee, which I chaired or co-chaired from 2017 until 2022, to hear these issues. In 2017 and 2018 I scheduled hearings on resolutions to recognize a statewide Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Survivors and advocacy organizations testified at those hearings, and I wanted their voices on the record.

In 2022, as a member of House Judiciary, I voted to advance HB 5, which modernized Alaska's 40-year-old definition of consent in sexual assault cases. I also voted to advance HB 325, a domestic violence bill. Language from HB 5 was later added to HB 325, and the legislature passed the final bill.

In 2014, I founded the Alaska Fellows Program, a service year program connecting recent college graduates with Alaska nonprofits. The program has supported work on domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. Fellows have taken placements at AWARE in Juneau and SAFV in Sitka. ANDVSA has had 7 fellows from 2016-2024.

Would you be willing to increase the current level of funding for victims' services? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Would you be willing to increase the current level of funding for domestic violence/sexual assault prevention work? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

With Alaska's budget challenges, we should better understand the data-based evidence about different prevention programs/interventions and the reduction of domestic violence and sexual assault. We should prioritize funding towards interventions that are backed by data and evidence.

I believe crisis intervention workers in Alaska should earn a living wage, and would look for ways to increase state support to make that possible.

Would you be willing to increase the current level of funding for legal services for victims? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

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

Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault in the country. A strong criminal justice response and prosecution is essential, but those statistics are unlikely to change without effective, evidence-based prevention, such as healthy-relationships education in schools, bystander intervention programs, and community campaigns like Choose Respect.

Moreover, supporting domestic violence victims means providing them the things that they need to leave a dangerous relationship: emergency and long term housing, legal assistance, child care, and short term income support. Funding shelters and advocacy organizations adequately, especially in rural Alaska where options are scarcest, is one of

the direct ways to help. I also support intervention and accountability outside the courtroom. That means batterer intervention programs, substance abuse programs, and behavioral health treatment. We need to increase access to early interventions that reach people before behavior escalates.

Do you think the penalties for sexual violence crimes in Alaska are: Too harsh **Too soft** Just right

What are your reasons?

The criminal justice response to the level of sexual violence in Alaska is not sufficient. As discussed above, we need more effective prevention and we must hold offenders fully accountable. And if we discover gaps in our sexual assault laws, we must close those gaps. For example, when gaps were in our sexual assault laws, including the Schneider case (2017) and the Flutz case (2025), we closed those gaps.

Alaska has continuing challenges: too many assaults go unreported; many communities have little law enforcement presence; and survivors need housing, legal help, and support. Penalties should reflect the seriousness of these crimes so that we hold perpetrators accountable, and we must be guided by data on what's working. As governor, I will regularly review sentencing and prosecution outcomes with the Department of Law and the Criminal Justice Data Advisory Commission and be ready to make specific improvements whenever needed.

As Governor, I also would direct my Department of Law to prioritize moving sexual assault cases through the system more quickly. It's unacceptable to make victims wait three, four, or five years for a trial. We will work with the court system to ensure that these cases do not sit for months or years awaiting trial.

Do you think the penalties for domestic violence crimes in Alaska are: Too harsh **Too soft** Just right

What are your reasons?

Alaska should continue our work doing more to prioritize domestic violence as a serious threat to public safety. For example, in 2019, I supported HB 14 to make strangling someone unconscious a first-degree assault with stronger penalties for other strangulation offenses. That change was overdue. And in 2022, I voted for HB 325 to update how we define domestic violence because definitions determine which conduct can be charged and punished.

As governor, I will work with the Department of Law to look at the data on repeat offenders, pretrial release decisions, and enforcement of protective orders. Alaska has continuing challenges: many victims never report; many Alaska communities have scant law enforcement presence; and leaving an abuser often risks housing, income, and

custody. Penalties should reflect the seriousness of these crimes and hold perpetrators accountable. Our efforts will work best alongside safe housing, legal help, intervention programs, prevention, and support.

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?

Batterers intervention programming is a public safety responsibility. Many people who harm a partner eventually return to their families or communities. One of the most effective ways to protect victims, including children, is to reduce the chance of repeat violence, and batterers intervention programming is one tool for that. The government must help provide this programming, but government cannot do the work alone. Community organizations and tribal partners are often better positioned to deliver services than state agencies. We should work to increase the number of trained providers across the state who can support batterers intervention programming, including supporting innovative and safe ways to encourage access to these programs for rural offenders.

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

We should hold people accountable for harming their partners and help give them a path to change. If we want fewer victims, we should reach people who cause harm earlier and with more than one tool. Some people recognize their unacceptable behavior before criminal charges occur, but they fear the consequences of asking for help. Confidential, voluntary options, such as a help line or walk-in program, could reach them sooner. We should also train behavioral health, substance use treatment, and health care staff to recognize warning signs and make referrals.

Not everyone who causes harm poses the same danger. Lower-risk participants may do well in community-based programs. People with histories of strangulation, stalking, or threats need closer supervision, coordination with probation, and real consequences. Many participants also struggle with substance use, trauma, or mental health problems, and programming should address those struggles.

Do you believe abortion access should be legally protected for survivors of rape or incest? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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?

As governor, we will introduce a housing plan and direct state agencies to coordinate funding and policy around it. We will work to finish this plan before the end of my first year in office so that any necessary legislation can be prepared before the second session of the 35th Alaska Legislature. One focus of the plan will be making state-administered housing funding simpler and more predictable to access. Competitive grant cycles can

create delays and uncertainty for communities trying to plan and complete projects. A comprehensive housing plan should consider affordability at the community level by encouraging housing development near jobs, stores, amenities, and high-quality transit to help reduce both housing and transportation costs for Alaskans. Our housing plan will identify federal funding sources, including HUD and BIA, that may be available.

My administration will approach housing in an organized and intentional way, with identified priorities, transparent processes, and timelines the public can trust.

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?

Children who live with domestic violence are victims, even if no one lays a hand on them. We should treat domestic violence as a child safety issue, not just a problem between adults. One of the most protective steps is helping the non-abusive parent leave safely and stay safe. That may require emergency and transitional housing, legal help with protective orders and custody, and income support. When removal is necessary, safe relatives and kin should come first.

Our systems should work together. Police, courts, child protective services, schools, and advocates should share information in a robust and confidential manner so children aren't retraumatized by repeat interviews. Kids need trauma-informed counseling, including in schools and through telehealth in rural communities. Courts should weigh a history of abuse in custody and visitation decisions and use supervised visitation and exchanges when needed. Over the long term, early childhood programs and healthy-relationships education, including tribal-led approaches, are important investments.

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 work of the Council of Domestic Violence is important and should continue. As governor, I will support legislation to continue the Council.

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

Supporting victims and holding offenders accountable work together. When survivors are safe and supported, they're more able to participate in the justice process. And when offenders face real consequences, survivors have more reason to trust the justice process.

For victims, I support stable and effective funding for shelters, advocacy, and legal help, especially in rural Alaska. We should expand access to housing to make it easier to leave unsafe situations and improve trauma-informed services for children who live with violence.

We will work with the Departments of Law and Public Safety to enforce protective orders and pay attention to repeat and high-risk offenders. For those who can change, evidence-based batterers intervention programming tied to court oversight with consequences for dropping out can reduce the risk of repeat violence.

Prevention, tribal-led, and community-led approaches should be part of our strategy. Congress

recognized in the 2022 Violence Against Women Act reauthorization that tribes have inherent authority to address violence in their villages, including a pilot allowing designated tribes to prosecute certain non-Native offenders. The State should be a partner in that work. We will continue the work to compact with tribes on criminal justice, especially in rural Alaska.

Finally, we will measure results, track outcomes such as re-offense rates and victim-reported safety, and fund what works.