



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

Andrea "Andi" Story

Office/District Representation You Are Seeking

State House District Three

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?

I envision an Alaska where ZERO Alaskans have experience intimate partner or sexual violence.

In Alaska, we should follow the best available evidence and implement the tools known to improve sexual assault and domestic violence prevention, response, and support services. These include teaching safe and healthy relationship skills (rejection of partner violence, emotional regulation & conflict management); engaging influential adults and peers (upstander empowerment, family-based programs); Early childhood programs (that disrupt developmental pathways toward partner violence, such as Head Start, Pre-K program investment, and parenting skill & family relationship programs); Building protective environments in schools & organizations; strengthening economic support for families; building up survivor support programs; and, finally, ensuring our public safety system is functional from start to finish so that victims receive closure and perpetrators are held accountable for the harms they have caused while being able to readily access reformatory programs. Access should be equitable across every corner of our state. Early and age appropriate education is key.

Alaskans should know that most sexual assault and abuse comes from people known by the victim.

This change will come through a combination of cultural norm adjustments, education, and Legislative funding of the necessary tools & resources to follow through with a "Vision Zero" for domestic violence and sexual assault, ex. sex offender treatment programs, victim support services, shelter funding, and first responder training.

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

1. Be outspoken in our efforts to reduce cultural tolerance of domestic violence and sexual assault.
2. Fund the state programs, like the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, CDVSA, and others that allow for action to be taken against these issues.
3. Improve the policy frameworks that interact with accountability, victim support, and evidence-backed responses to these situations.

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

This session, the legislature passed the omnibus crime bill HB 239. Among other things, it addressed a sexual assault by healthcare workers loophole and raised the age of consent to 18. I was proud to support concrete steps to improve accountability and protect those in vulnerable positions, due to (in this case) the medical setting or a youth's developmental stage. It also expanded confidentiality agreement coverage to tribal organizations that provide victim services and implemented sexual assault kit tracking. I support further reforms to address DV and SA issues, as identified by partners such as AWARE.

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

- ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

I supported a partial inflationary adjustment in the budget, but know that there is more to do once our fiscal house is in order.

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

- ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Yes. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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

- ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Yes. I supported the replacement of lost federal Victims of Crime Act dollars in the budget this year, for the administration of more affordable & free legal services to victims.

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

Often, a criminal justice response can escalate a DV situation or traumatize victims further.

I value work being done to ensure that DV responses are trauma-informed, survivor-centric, culturally appropriate. I value Batterer Intervention Programs being done by the CDVSA, Restorative Justice techniques, and Transformative Justice frameworks. However, a 2024 review (Campbell et al.) found that studies of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs "measure effectiveness inconsistently, and often use insufficient measures... which are not designed to gauge DVIP interventions and outcomes." So, I support a response that is researched, feedback-responsive, and iterative.

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

☐ Too harsh ☐ Too soft ☐ Just right ☐ Unsure.

What are your reasons?

Sexual violence is a serious crime, and Alaska must hold perpetrators accountable with penalties proportionate to the severity of the offense and the harm caused to victims. Our laws provide substantial prison sentences for serious sexual assaults, including lengthy sentences for repeat offenders. I believe we must ensure these laws are effectively enforced, survivors are supported throughout the justice process, and offenders are held accountable. We should regularly review sentencing outcomes and invest in prevention and victim services to ensure our response is effective as well as fair, since research on rehabilitative efforts is always growing.

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

☐ Too harsh ☐ Too soft ☐ Just right ☐ Not sure.

What are your reasons?

Domestic violence must be taken seriously, and perpetrators should face consequences proportionate to the harm they cause. Alaska law provides mandatory jail time in certain domestic violence cases and increases penalties for repeat offenses. We must ensure those laws are enforced consistently, protective orders are taken seriously, and survivors can access safe housing, advocacy, and other support. I also support prevention and interventions that reduce repeat violence. Our goal must be accountability for offenders and lasting safety for victims and their families, which can only come from a flexible justice system that pursues both accountability and restorative justice that makes our communities safer in the long run.

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?

Yes, as perpetrator accountability and reform is a responsibility of the state as the primary public safety entity in Alaska.

Batterers Intervention Programming ought to follow the best available evidence (and contribute to research as is appropriate within our unique state context and for survivor & perpetrator rights). In certain cases, state-run programs may be appropriate, but working with our pre-existing network of shelters and tribal partners will allow us to deliver services at a higher quality and with broader reach than individual state efforts.

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

Domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response is passion-driven and difficult work. Ensuring that service providers have the funding they need to adequately pay staff, maintain safe locations and carry out their work is important. Much of this comes from increasing funding for shelters further after many years of flat funding and a recent, partial inflation adjustment.

As I wrote earlier in the survey, our prevention strategy should be prevention-oriented (early and often!), start-to-finish, and rooted in the best available evidence for what leads to durable improvements in treatment of 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?

Housing is a tremendous issue across the state. This year, I supported a bill to provide municipal tax credits to encourage home ownership and passed a bill to allow state agencies (AIDEA) to finance workforce housing, both tools to stabilize housing prices and ease the shortage.

There's more work to do on housing, especially in rural areas where families often live multi-generationally and quite densely. I am committed to this.

I know that the victim service programs utilization cost per shelter night has increased between 2007 and 2025 from ~\$55 to \$115, more than double, and victim services provide over 90,000 shelter nights per year. We have a lot of work to do to ensure that survivors can get into shelters as a transitional housing step, then find and afford longer term housing. I am committed to this work as part of an overall goal of making Alaska easier to afford housing in, and a good start will be increasing funding for shelters to address inflationary pressures so they can continue to provide shelter housing at adequate levels to those in 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?

It is of great importance to me to ensure that children have schools and other safe places in their lives, trusted adults outside of the home who they can share worries with, and positive outlets via out-of-school activities to promote resilience and ensure that unsafe or traumatic home environments do not go unnoticed or unaddressed. Youth engagement in media campaigns, the LeadOn! youth leadership conference, and teen dating violence prevention (Bree's Law workshops) is reassuring. As long as we continue work like this, we will be changing our culture for the better and breaking cycles. Aside from broad strategies, ensuring that children have access to therapeutic & other services if needed is important. Similarly, ensuring our services for adults are effective and proactive will reduce the problem at the source. Our OCS has great potential for growth, and I want to ensure that their staff are adequately paid so we can improve recruitment and retention, case processing times, stability for children, and overall effectiveness of state services.

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?

Yes. the CDVSA completes key work, with an expert perspective, to support the Department of Corrections in its efforts to update regulations and standards for perpetrator rehabilitation programs, deliver grants to service providers, develop prevention and response efforts, and -- critically, in a time of federal instability -- navigate federal Victims of Crime Act funding (or the unfortunate absence of it, currently) and other grants.

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

Because budgeting is policy, I support the budget inclusions that will be necessary to properly implement the omnibus crime bill we passed this session when we begin to work on the FY28 budget. I also support further inflation-proofing of the victim support grants that the CDVSA gives to service providers, and expanding the State's payer of last resort fund for victim expenses.

I also support the expansion of our public safety system -- ensuring that every village requesting a VPSO has one (at a sustainable growth rate) so that there is someone in every community who can respond to domestic violence / sexual assault cases, especially in MMIP cases that are under-addressed in the state; that the judiciary has ample courtrooms to process cases across our state in an efficient manner; and that the Department of Administration (public defenders) and Department of Law (prosecutors) have the resources they need to attract, retain, and upskill lawyers to keep the judicial process moving.

There's so much more to say; but I am committed to the sustained effort needed to one day have a state with no domestic violence and sexual assault crimes.

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