



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

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

Name **Maxine Dibert**

Office/District Representation You Are Seeking **House District 31**

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

I've had the opportunity to visit victim services programs in Fairbanks a few times, including Stevie's Place Child Advocacy Center. I'm grateful for the important work these organizations do to support survivors and families in our community and I value being able to hear from them directly so I can better understand how I can support them in the Legislature. I'm also currently working to help a constituent access the support they need.

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?

Domestic violence and sexual assault have been a priority for me since I first came into the Legislature. These are not just individual tragedies. They impact and ripple through entire communities, and we know Alaska Native women are disproportionately affected. I am deeply saddened when I see these cases in the news because to me they are far more than just a headline - I know that that was someone's daughter, family member, and friend.

I want an Alaska where people feel safe in their homes and where survivors know they will have somewhere to turn for help. First, we must invest in prevention strategies that promote education surrounding healthy relationships from the start. Secondly, we need to strengthen our support services for survivors, which includes increasing funding for shelters and counseling programs. We must continue to hold perpetrators accountable in the courts and ensure that survivors have access to the resources they need to heal. I support anything and everything we can do to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous persons in this state.

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

Legislators have a critical responsibility to ensure there are adequate laws to protect victims and provide necessary resources for prevention and recovery services, including funding. I am fully

committed to maintaining and increasing funding whenever possible for prevention and victims' services. We also need to strengthen our public safety workforce to ensure that there is sufficient coverage across the state to respond when it's needed, which is one of the many reasons I support restoring a defined benefit system.

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

During my time in the Legislature, I have supported funding for victim services and MMIP investigators. I also co-sponsored HB 234 to strengthen our response to missing and murdered Indigenous people. It is an honor to serve as the Chair of House Tribal Affairs and just this past session I helped move HB 384 through our committee to strengthen confidentiality protections for survivors who receive victim counseling through Tribal governments.

There is still a lot of work to do, and I will continue making this a priority.

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 system is important, but we also need to do more before violence happens and make sure survivors have the support they need afterward. That means investing in prevention, mental health care, counseling, safe housing, and programs that teach healthy relationships.

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

What are your reasons?

I believe people who commit sexual violence need to face serious consequences, particularly repeat offenders. The core issue is not about the length of the sentence, it's that too many cases may never reach a conviction because victims are afraid to come forward, evidence is difficult to collect, or for some other reason. I think there are more concrete reforms we can look at including making sure the new sexual assault kit tracking requirements are fully implemented and enforced.

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

What are your reasons?

Domestic violence often involves a pattern of abuse, and we need to do more to intervene before that violence escalates. I think I am most concerned with making sure protective orders are granted and enforced and also that victims have the support and resources they need to safely leave abusive situations.

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. I believe protecting Alaskans is one of the most important responsibilities of government. I support funding programs that hold offenders accountable and if we can reduce repeat violence and prevent another person or family from becoming a victim, that is an investment worth making.

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

I believe we need to invest in programs that help people who have caused harm take responsibility for their actions and change their behavior. That includes counseling and mental health or substance use treatment when appropriate. However, these programs should never replace accountability or take resources away from victims and survivors but they do contribute to helping break the cycle of violence.

10. Do you believe abortion access should be legally protected for survivors of rape or incest? **Yes No - I believe individuals should have the right to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions, including survivors of rape and incest, and I'm proud to be endorsed by Planned Parenthood.**

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?

I supported and will continue to support investment in affordable housing through AHFC and partnerships with local governments, nonprofits, and private developers to increase housing options. We also need to pay particular attention to rural communities, where housing is already limited and survivors may have very few options for finding somewhere safe to go.

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?

As a teacher for more than 20 years, I know how important it is for the adults in a child's life to recognize when something is wrong. Teachers are often in a position to notice warning signs, but they cannot do it alone.

We need to make sure teachers, healthcare providers, and other trusted adults have the training to recognize abuse and respond appropriately. Keeping children from immediate harm is critical, but we also need to help them heal and make sure they have the support they need moving forward. Protecting and uplifting our youth has been one of my top priorities in the legislature which is why I sponsored a bill which would have given children in psychiatric hospitals more rights, including 2 hours of phone and video calls a week, improved reporting regulations around the use of chemical restraints, and requiring the Department of Health to do unannounced visits on the facilities to ensure patients are treated properly.

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?

I support extending the Council and making sure these programs have the resources they need to continue their work, DVSA is an ongoing issue that deserves adequate time and attention.

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

their actions.

This has been a priority throughout my time in the Legislature. I co-sponsored HB 234 to strengthen Alaska's response to missing and murdered Indigenous people, and as Chair of House Tribal Affairs, I helped move HB 384 through our committee to strengthen confidentiality protections for survivors receiving counseling through Tribal governments.

I will continue supporting victim services, prevention programs, and stronger coordination between law enforcement and Tribal governments. I am also interested in pursuing legislation to strengthen Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs). I support any measures we can take to support victims, survivors, and their families.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey.