



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

Barbara Haney

Office/District Representation You Are Seeking

Alaska House of Representatives, District 33

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

Not on a regular schedule, but as needed or requested.

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 a state where the response works - where a report leads to an investigation, an investigation leads to a case that can be proven, and a victim has somewhere safe in the meantime. Alaska's numbers are not what they are because our laws are silent. They are what they are because the system between the report and the outcome is thin, slow, and in much of the state barely present. Three steps. First, fund the capacity that makes prosecution possible: the Crime Lab averaged 145 days to complete sexual assault kit testing in SFY 2025, nearly five months in cases where evidence degrades and a victim's willingness is tested by every month of silence. Second, close the law enforcement gap - Village Public Safety Officer vacancies and trooper coverage decide whether a call is answered in minutes or in days. Third, treat economic independence as prevention. A victim who cannot afford housing, fuel, or childcare alone is a victim who stays.

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

Three, and they are ordinary legislative responsibilities rather than special ones.

Fund the system we already have. Troopers, Village Public Safety Officers, the Crime Lab, prosecutors, and victim services are the machinery that turns a law on the books into an outcome in a real case. Underfunding any link makes the rest ornamental.

Measure whether the money works. I am an economist, and my habit is to ask what a dollar produced. Appropriating funds is not the same as reducing assaults. The Legislature should insist on outcome reporting - turnaround times, clearance rates, case outcomes - and redirect money that is not producing them.

Say it plainly. Alaska has the worst rates in the country, and leaders who treat that as background noise make it easier for everyone else to do the same.

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

I will answer plainly rather than stretch it. I have not held an office with authority over public safety functions. The Fairbanks North Star Borough does not operate a police department, and domestic violence and sexual assault response fell outside what the Assembly could act on during my service. I am not going to claim credit for work I was not in a position to do.

What I can tell you is that the authority the Legislature holds here is substantial and specific. The Alaska State Troopers, the Village Public Safety Officer program, the Crime Lab, prosecution capacity, and the grants the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault administers are all state responsibilities, and nearly all of them are appropriations decisions. Those are the levers, and the answers that follow describe how I would use them.

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, and I think this is where the most gain is available.

Economic independence first. The most common reason a victim returns is that leaving is unaffordable - rent, heat, fuel, childcare, a vehicle that runs through an Interior winter. Every dollar off a household energy bill is a dollar that makes leaving possible. That is the actual budget constraint in the households we are discussing.

Housing that exists before the crisis. Shelters handle the emergency; what Alaska lacks is the next step - transitional housing a survivor can occupy for months while she rebuilds. That is a supply problem, and supply problems are solvable.

Community and faith networks. In much of Alaska the first person a victim tells is a pastor, an elder, a teacher, or a neighbor, not an officer. Equipping those people costs little and reaches earlier than any state program.

Rural transportation and connectivity. Off the road system, a plane ticket can be the difference between leaving and staying.

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

☐ Too harsh ☐ Too soft ☐ Just right

What are your reasons?

I have not marked one of the three boxes, because none of them is my honest answer. I do not think the penalty range is where the binding constraint sits, and a sentence rarely reached is not functioning as a penalty at all.

Alaska has made real progress on evidence: the untested kit inventory fell from 3,484 in 2017 to 273 as of September 30, 2025, and law enforcement now turns kits over in about 10 days against a 30-day statutory requirement. That is genuine, and the people who did it deserve credit.

What has not closed is lab turnaround. The Crime Lab averaged 145 days to complete testing in SFY 2025, improved from 246 days in 2020 but still nearly five months. In a case where evidence degrades and a victim is asked to stay willing through every month of delay, that interval decides outcomes before any judge considers a sentence. I would rather fund the lab to drive that number down than debate ranges reached in too few cases to matter.

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

☐ Too harsh ☐ Too soft ☐ Just right

What are your reasons?

Again I have left the selection unmarked, for the same reason. In domestic violence cases the gap is usually enforcement of what already exists - protective orders that are not served or not enforced, and in many Alaska communities no local officer to enforce them at all. A protective order in a village with no Village Public Safety Officer is a piece of paper. Strengthening the statute does nothing for that household; staffing the response does.

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, and yes - on public safety grounds rather than therapeutic ones.
Corrections is a government function. If someone is in state custody or under state supervision, the state is already responsible for what happens next, and what happens next in these cases is frequently another victim. A program that measurably lowers reoffending is cheaper than the assault it prevents, cheaper than the prosecution that follows, and immeasurably cheaper for the person who would have been hurt.
My conditions are the ones I would apply to any program. Measure recidivism against a real comparison group and publish the results. Fund what works and stop funding what does not. Never let intervention programming be financed by taking from victim services - the victim's safety comes first, and these should not compete for the same dollar.

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

Start with accountability, not in place of it. Programming should accompany consequences, never substitute for them.
Address substance abuse directly, because in Alaska it is entangled with a large share of these cases, and treating the violence while ignoring the addiction treats half the problem.
Use the window when the state already has the person's attention - in custody, on probation, under a protective order - because that is when participation can be required rather than hoped for.
Build in employment and stability on release, since a man with no job and no housing is a man with time and grievance.
Report outcomes honestly. If a program is not reducing reoffending, the humane thing is to say so and change it.

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 where the state can do the most for survivors, and it happens to be the problem I know best.
The general shortage is a supply problem with identifiable causes: permitting delay, infrastructure cost, and the cost of building and heating in the Interior. On the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly I proposed tax write-offs for infrastructure development so workforce housing projects could pencil out. The Assembly rejected it, but I still believe the approach was right - lower the cost side rather than layer on new programs - and I would bring it to the state level.
Survivors need something more specific than general supply. The gap between an emergency shelter bed and a lease a survivor can hold on her own is measured in months, and Alaska has very little in between. Transitional and second-stage housing is the missing rung. I would look at how state housing finance tools can be directed toward it, and whether units sit unused because of regulatory or funding mismatches rather than genuine scarcity.
Energy cost belongs here too. In the Interior, heat is a large share of what makes a unit affordable, and a significant part of why a survivor cannot carry a household alone.

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?

Protect the child first, and recognize that protecting the non-abusing parent is usually how that is accomplished. A mother who has housing, income, and a protective order that is actually enforced is the most effective child protection the state can arrange. Make sure the adults who see these children every day know what to do. Teachers, school counselors, coaches, and pediatricians are often the first outsiders to notice, and clear reporting pathways and trauma-informed training are inexpensive relative to what they catch. Keep the school steady. Education is my central legislative priority, and a child living in chaos cannot learn to read. Continuity of school placement through a move or a shelter stay is one of the few stabilizing things the state can deliver. Ensure children have representation in proceedings that determine where they live. A guardian ad litem gives the child's interest a voice distinct from either parent's. Do not let custody and visitation process become an instrument of continued control. Courts and agencies should be equipped to recognize that pattern, since it is common and frequently missed.

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 Council administers the grants that keep shelters and victim services operating statewide, and letting that lapse in the state with the worst rates in the country would be indefensible. I support the sunset review process itself, and I do not think that is in tension with extending the Council. A periodic look at whether a body is doing its job is good government, and a well-run organization should welcome it. My expectation going into that review is that the Council demonstrates where the money went and what it produced - not because I doubt the need, but because that evidence is what protects the program from the people who do.

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

Four, in the order I would pursue them.

Fix the pipeline. Fund the Crime Lab to bring the 145-day average turnaround down, and staff rural law enforcement so a call is answered and a protective order means something. Accountability is not a sentencing question in a case that never reaches a courtroom.

Build the missing rung of housing. Shelter beds handle the first night; transitional housing determines whether a survivor builds a separate life or returns. Alaska has far more of the first than the second.

Make leaving affordable. Energy, fuel, childcare, and property taxes are the arithmetic a victim does before she decides. I am running on lowering those costs, and the connection to this issue is direct and under-discussed.

Measure everything and publish it. Turnaround times, clearance rates, case outcomes, recidivism after intervention programming. Alaska has spent real money on this problem for decades. We should be able to say what worked. I will ask for that evidence, and I will act on it when it comes back.

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