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

Joy Beth Cottle

Office/District Representation You Are Seeking

House District 34

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

As a paramedic who has treated hundreds if not thousands of domestic violence and SA survivors

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?

see attached

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

see attached

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

see attached

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?

see attached

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

○ Too harsh ◉ Too soft ○ Just right

What are your reasons?

see attached

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

○ Too harsh ◉ Too soft ○ Just right

What are your reasons?

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?

see attached

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

see attached

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?

see attached

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?

see attached

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?

see attached

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

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

1. It's going to take men who are willing to stick their own necks out to make SA and DV less societally acceptable. Until men are willing to stand up to their friends, family, and even strangers, it will remain prevalent and unchecked.
   We also need to be having more conversations surrounding what constitutes rape. Many people I've talked with genuinely don't see coercion as lack of consent, don't understand the fear or backlash that's associated with saying no, and when presented with coercion as a type of rape have said to my face, "Well then every woman I've known has been raped". Yes, it is that widespread.
   I want to ensure that women aren't responsible for their medical bills when associated with assault or rape and that there's a clear path to collecting on those bills with a guilty verdict.

2. Even though I've been treating women in Alaska for decades, I recognize that I'm not the one studying, compiling data, and solving problems, so while I have advanced insight, I'd rely on organizations who do the hard work of collecting data and advocating for solutions.
   We are constantly keeping an eye out for vulnerable, abused, and endangered kids, seniors, disabled, and pregnant adults, and have a reporting requirement as EMS workers. Just last month, I identified a potential trafficking victim and called Troopers to investigate while we transported the unconscious woman.
   Personally, I'm the kind of friend that speaks up when I recognize abusive patterns and validate the experiences of women who are being gaslit or abused by their partner.

6. In Fairbanks we have a Critical Incident Team with psychological professionals who help support victims, patients, and families during crises. They might be able to respond, evaluate the situation, and suggest remedies that hold weight in court. I want to see expansion of support housing options that allow pets to stay too. I assisted a friend in leaving her abusive boyfriend and he put a shock collar on her dog and shocked it until the battery ran out. I wouldn't leave my pets with an abuser, and they shouldn't have to either.

7. I've treated victims of the worst kinds of SA, and there's even footage of me back in the early 2000's on the Alaska State Troopers show where we responded to a woman who was lying in the woods with her pants still down. I'm looking up at the camera with an expression that says "get away". They fuzzed her face and exposed skin out. We've become numb to it in Alaska because it's so commonplace. It's not normal and it's not acceptable.

8. I've also treated women who've experienced DV several times and eventually have been killed by their partner. Leaving is the most dangerous part. It's the rejection and bruised ego

and loss of control that spirals an abuser into a rage. I'd like to see more self defense classes offered to women. It's stories like the 7 who gang-raped Jane Doe at the frat house recently that inspired me to explore methods of personal protection.

9. Yes, probably. I've worked with several men who had records of DV, and one of whom went to jail for stalking. His whole demeanor towards women was aggressive and I felt uncomfortable working with him. He was forced to take an anger management class, and clearly engaged with the content. The discussions we had about respecting women afterwards led me to believe some of his core beliefs were modified. If these individuals start from a place with some plasticity in their beliefs, I think it's possible to provide tools for them to use. I think it's hard to change the mind of someone who doesn't see the other gender as a fully valid human, so perhaps some pre-screening would be appropriate.

11. We need to offer shelters that allow pets or perhaps subsidized rental assistance for someone willing to rent out a room in their house. Maybe providing a security system or additional security mechanisms would help. How about a transportation exchange system so if an abuser would recognize someone's car in town, they can participate in the car swap and be less obvious in the community.

12. I believe that early education about safe body boundaries is essential as well as having access to safe and trusted (and vetted) adults like school counselors, teachers, and other responsible adults so reporting is done in a timely manner.

Also, we can FUND child protective services appropriately so they can be responsive, act quickly, and provide ongoing monitoring.

13. This is unacceptable and I'd be happy to sponsor or cosponsor legislation to extend it if I'm elected. Alaskan women deserve better.

14. I've explained some solutions and my background above. I want to see these kinds of discussions and in depth curriculum developed for inclusion in sex ed programs. Even role playing an interaction in which you interfere with abuse one time can trigger recognition-primed decision making when it counts.