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Democratic Party
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ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE SURVEY

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District: HD 30

Please limit each response to no more than 50 words.

1. 21st Century Challenges:

The economy and demographics of Alaska are changing in the 21st Century. Even as state and federal standards require districts to bring all students to greater proficiency, employers demand graduates with continually increasing and changing content competencies.

A. How do you think our schools/district should change to ensure that all students receive an education that will equip them to succeed?

We need to move away from the narrow academic focus of No Child Left Behind. We need to expand Voc ed and pre-k programs, and address Alaska's high dropout rate.

B. What, if any, is the role of the legislature in implementing or facilitating these changes?

The Legislature has to ^{provide} ~~assist~~ leadership and assist with funding.

C. What ideas do you have to help school districts prepare Alaska's students to meet the current and growing demand for a trained and technically skilled workforce?

Encourage additional Voc ed, and assist with funding.

Lynda
Zaugg

2. Increasing Technology Needs for Student Learning and Parent Access to Information:

Not always visible, but critical to the success of the whole education program, technology must receive the increased attention required to keep up with ever-expanding demands.

A. What role do you see technology playing in education of today's students for jobs of the future?

Technology is critical today, and new technology will be even more critical tomorrow. Our students need proper technological training or they will be left behind.

B. What is your plan for providing adequate funding to meet the growing and ever-changing need for technology in our schools to keep our students competitive in the global market?

I will work with other legislators across party lines to ensure adequate funding.

3. Early Childhood Education:

Alaska is one of only ten states that do not offer early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds. What are your thoughts about providing early childhood education opportunities in Alaska?

Fund voluntary pre-K education.

4. Highly Qualified Staffing Needs:

What ideas do you have to help Alaska school districts attract and retain highly qualified and ethnically diverse teachers, principals and other professional staff?

Return to a defined benefit program;
develop a student loan program that
would provide a percentage forgiveness
clause for teachers returning to Alaska.

5. Capital Needs:

The State of Alaska currently estimates that school districts need about \$1 billion this year to meet current requirements for new schools and major maintenance to existing facilities. Anchorage alone has \$800 million in identified needs (at today's costs) over the next ten years, but outstanding bonded indebtedness has become a concern to local voters. As a legislator, how would you propose that we address this need?

Deferred maintenance is a huge issues for
all public buildings, including schools.
It will require bi-partisan effort to
address it.

6. Ideas for Improving Alaska's Public Schools:

Please discuss any ideas you have about improving Alaska's public schools or the way we fund them.

Work with all the user groups and across
party lines to help move us in the
right direction.