

Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition

Political Action Committee

PO Box 22860 • Juneau, AK 99802 • www.juneauchoice.com • juneauchoice@gmail.com



2021 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name **Barbara 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak Blake** Email **blake4alaska@gmail.com**
Campaign Address **PO Box 2111105**
City, State, Zip **Auke Bay / Juneau, Alaska 99821** Phone **(907) 209-4997**
Campaign Manager **Tristan Walsh** Phone **(907) 378-2365**

Please answer all questions. If you would like a question clarified, please contact LaRae Jones at 321-6882 or Nancy Courtney at 321-2285. Space is provided at the end of the questionnaire for additional comments or clarifications of your responses. If we have questions based on your responses, we may call you for a follow-up discussion. Thank you for your time and consideration.

QUESTIONNAIRES MUST BE RECEIVED BY August 30, 2021

Mail:

Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition PAC
PO Box 22860
Juneau, AK 99802

or

Email: juneauchoice@gmail.com

1. The Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition believes all women have the right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion under the standards set by the Supreme Court in the Roe v. Wade decision. Do you support this position and would you vote to ensure access to abortion without restrictions?

Yes No

If "no," please explain: _____

-
2. Which of the following statements reflect(s) your views on access to abortion services by minors under age 18?

a. I favor no restrictions.

x

OR

b. I favor requiring the following restrictions: Please check all that apply.

i. Parental notification.

ii. Parental consent.

iii. Parental notification with judicial bypass provision.*

iv. Parental consent with judicial bypass provision.*

*Judicial bypass means a minor has the option to appear before a judge to seek permission to "bypass" the parental notification or consent requirement.

3. Do you favor legislation that:
- | | | |
|--|-----|-----------|
| a. requires husband/partner <u>notification</u> about an abortion? | Yes | No |
| b. requires husband/partner's <u>consent</u> for an abortion? | Yes | No |

Comments

I believe individuals should be empowered to make informed decisions about their health and their bodies without interference from government or others. I believe that requiring notification or consent would create an uneven power dynamic and could perpetuate cycles of abuse. I am opposed to legislation that would either require notification or consent for an abortion.

4. Do you favor the same public funding of abortions for Medicaid-eligible women as is available for other Medicaid-eligible health care? **Yes** No

Comments

I believe access to health care is a basic need for many individuals in our community. I support increased clinic access and access to emergency services. I do not believe that individuals with lower income should be denied access to these services available to others in our community.

5. Alaska law states that publicly funded hospitals may not ban abortion performed in the hospital by qualified medical personnel. Do you agree with this law? **Yes** No

Comments _____

6. In Roe v. Wade (1973), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the constitutional right of privacy “is broad enough to encompass a woman’s decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy,” and that governments may not interfere with that decision up to the time of fetal viability. Do you agree with this ruling? **Yes** No

Comments

I agree with this ruling. I will unequivocally defend a woman's right to make choices about her own body and health care. Abortion rights have come under attack across the country not only by placing restrictions on the practice, but also by decreasing access, forcing people to travel hundreds of miles to access the health care they need. That is a problem in Alaska, and Planned Parenthood plays a vital role in providing the limited access that does exist. I am grateful for that and will work to ensure that Juneau continues to be a place that serves not only Juneauites, but people from the Southeast region.

7. As an elected official, will you publicly support efforts to provide and improve local access to:
- | | | |
|---|------------|----|
| a. reproductive health and family planning services? | Yes | No |
| b. emergency contraception? | Yes | No |
| c. abortion services? | Yes | No |
| d. reproductive health and family planning education in schools and throughout the community? | Yes | No |

Comments _____

8. **As an elected official, will you publicly support Planned Parenthood?** **Yes** No

9. **What, in your view, are the most appropriate public policies that the community, municipality, and citizenry can enact to address the issues of teen pregnancy, Alaska's high rate of sexually transmitted infections, sexual assault and abuse, and reproductive health access for men and women?**

Comments:

I believe education is an incredibly powerful tool to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and their bodies. I support informative health education that allows individuals to make their own choices. I support funding for health education and preventative care.

Trauma is all too common in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. Intergenerational trauma caused by colonization, assimilation, and the unequal treatment and invisibilizing Indigenous peoples and culture has resounding impacts and can lead to cycles of violence, destructive behavior, and abuse. This history makes it even more important to provide education on healthy relationships and healthy choices to our youth.

I support partnerships within our community to lift up oppressed voices and holistically address issues of trauma. In my current job, I have worked to create a space to further truth telling, healing, and process of transformation for the trauma victims. As a member of the City Assembly, I would work to advocate for equity, and promote partnerships and dialogues to address the root causes of trauma and abuse.

I also support access to health care: I believe this is a basic need for all individuals in our community. I support increased access to clinics and medical providers. Many individuals who cannot afford other care rely on Planned Parenthood to address basic medical needs. As a member of the Juneau Assembly, I will work to lift up and support the important work done by this organization.

10. Do you support comprehensive, medically-accurate sexual health education programs** in the Juneau School District? **Yes** No

Comments:

Education and awareness are important tools to break cycles of abuse. If individuals do not get comprehensive education at school, they may not get that information at home. I believe that it is vital to our community to provide comprehensive, medically-accurate sexual health education to our youth to give them tools to make informed decisions about their health and their bodies.

11. Do you support adoption of comprehensive sexual health education policies and funding for programs proven to be effective at local and state levels?

Yes No

Comments

I support the adoption of comprehensive sexual health education and funding.

**Sexual health education includes instruction on puberty, healthy sexuality, relationships, consent, pregnancy, STI prevention, reproduction and anatomy, and abstinence.

12. How important are reproductive health rights to you personally, and why?

Comments:

I believe in empowering individuals to make their own choices. I believe individuals should have autonomy over their own bodies, and have the authority to make decisions regarding their bodies.

ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES ONLY:

13 Do you favor appointment of an anti-choice individual to the:

- a. Juneau Human Rights Commission? Yes **No**
- b. Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors? Yes **No**

Comments: I believe having diverse opinions at the table is often a productive way to make balanced and healthy decisions. That being said, in this instance, when deciding whether or not a woman has a right to say what happens to her own body, there is only one right answer. Women have the right to decide what happens to their own body.

PLEASE USE AN ADDITIONAL PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR CLARIFICATIONS.



Candidate Signature: _____ Date: 8/30/2021