

Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition

Political Action Committee

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2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name Patricia Chesbro Email pat@chesbroforalaska.com.

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Please answer all questions. If you would like a question clarified, please contact LaRae Jones at (907) 321-6882 or Nancy Courtney at (907) 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 October 17, 2022. Please email your response to juneauchoice@gmail.com.

1. The Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition believes all women have the right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion. Do you support this position and would you vote to ensure access to both surgical and medication abortion without restrictions?

Yes No

If "no," please explain: _____

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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.

XXX

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.

I would hope that those minors who need abortion services would have supportive parents but understand that many do not. The same people who think minors should not make this choice believe that those young people are fit to become parents.

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: This is the choice of the person who is seeking 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: Abortion is health care and should be treated as health care in funding.

Will you support legislation to protect abortion rights including travel across state lines to access the service? **Yes** No

Comments: Yes, unfortunately, such legislation is necessary to protect abortion rights. This is why we need to codify abortion access. As is often the case, this travel necessity hits the most vulnerable most directly.

5. Are you in favor of Alaska holding a Constitutional Convention? Yes **No**

If a Constitutional Convention is held, will you support the removal or altering of Article 1, Section 22 giving Alaskans the right to privacy without infringement? Yes **No**

Comments I suspect even those who are pursuing approval of a Constitutional Convention do not understand the can of worms they might be opening. We need to preserve our right to privacy.

6. As an elected official, will you support efforts to provide and improve Alaskan's 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 Alaskans need access to the best services necessary to support reproductive health and health education.

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

7. What, in your view, are the most appropriate public policies 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

As these are complex issues, policies must be multi-faceted. Education is vital, both in K-12 schools, universities and other educational venues. Further, education must span the wide range of services offered by the state and federal government. Information is key.

Sexual assault and abuse must also be approached many ways. Help channels must be obvious and immediate. Perpetrators must have consequences. Cases need to be taken seriously by law enforcement. Victims must be first believed (and not blamed) and helped to escape dangerous situations. Victims must be provided safe spaces to live their lives and helped to heal. Reproductive access must be easily available and affordable.

We also must change the rhetoric and understandings of our youth around the responsibilities, especially of young men (and older) to play their roles in eliminating assaults.

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

Comments As I age, I am more and more committed to ensuring that the future of our children and grandchildren enjoy the same rights I have enjoyed. I have had the choice of if or when to have children. I have had access to health care throughout my life. I believe that the choice is up to the individual, but I also think we need policies in place to support those individual choices.

PLEASE USE SPACE BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR CLARIFICATIONS.

I recently spoke to a man who told me his mother gave up her life for him. She learned she was pregnant after a cancer diagnosis. The doctors at her Catholic run hospital told her she should have an abortion or she would die because she could not receive the treatment for her cancer while she was pregnant. She chose to forego the treatment, gave birth, and died when the child was three years old. He told me he could accept that she had made that choice but would have been very upset to learn that the government had told her she must die for him. Choice belongs to the person, not the government.

Candidate Signature: Patricia Chesbro

Date: 10.11.2022