

Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition

Political Action Committee

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2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name Bill Walker _____ **Email** bill@walkerdrygas.com _____

Campaign Address 545 E Northern Lights Boulevard _____

City Anchorage _____ **State** AK _____ **Zip** 99507 _____ **Phone** 907-231-5610 _____

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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.** The Alaska Supreme Court has clearly established that these decisions should only be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor, as privacy rights are protected in our state.

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.** The Alaska Supreme Court ruled that parental notification is a violation of privacy rights and equal protection guarantees made in the Alaska Constitution. We will always defend and uphold our Constitution.

 - 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 notification about an abortion? **NO**. b. requires husband/partner's consent for an abortion? **NO**.

4. Do you favor the same public funding of abortions for Medicaid-eligible women as is available for other Medicaid-eligible health care? **YES**.

Will you support legislation to protect abortion rights including travel across state lines to access the service? **YES**.

5. Are you in favor of Alaska holding a Constitutional Convention? **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? **NO**.
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**. b. emergency contraception? **YES**. c. abortion services? **YES**. d. reproductive health and family planning education in schools and throughout the community? **YES**.
7. As an elected official, will you publicly support Planned Parenthood? **YES**.
8. 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?

In order to reduce teen pregnancy, every Alaskan should have access to good reproductive education that is science-based and provided at age-appropriate levels throughout schooling years. Access to contraceptives and long-term birth control prescriptions is also critical. I will support adequate funding in all of these areas, and these investments will also help confront our high rates of sexually transmitted infections and improve overall reproductive health access.

Alaska's high rates of sexual assault and sexual abuse are one of the greatest challenges we face as a state, and there is no single answer or policy solution that will protect men, women, and children in our state from being victimized. Clearly, though, education is one part of the solution. Another is making it so every community has law enforcement. We must also find ways to increase the rate of prosecution for sexual assault – which is shockingly low year after year – so that rapists know they will be held accountable. Finally, Alaskans need to speak openly about this issue and take an uncomfortable look at the root causes that make us rank the worst in the country in this area.

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

Increasing access to high-quality, affordable healthcare will improve the lives of countless Alaskans; access to reproductive healthcare and family planning is a critical component of overall health. The significance of this fact was proven in the years since I acted to unilaterally expand access to Medicaid when the Legislature would not act and let politics get in the way of good policy. Because of my decision, 70,000 people in our state now have access to life-saving healthcare, the rate of abortion has decreased by 14

percent as fewer women are forced to make the decision for economic reasons, and the State of Alaska brings in more than \$1 billion every year from the expansion group of patients.