



Alaska State Legislative Candidate Survey

Thank you for responding to the [Retired Public Employees of Alaska](#) (RPEA) Legislative Candidate Survey. RPEA's mission is to protect the pension and health benefits of Alaska's public employees and educators. Chartered in 1997, RPEA is the largest retiree association in Alaska. The responses to this survey will be shared with our membership through RPEA's website.

* Candidate's Name:

0/50

If you are running for the State Senate, please specify which Senate District.

0/50

If you are running for the State House, please specify which House District

0/50

Prior to 2006, the PERS and TRS systems were administered as **'Defined Benefit'** (DB) programs ([PERS Tier I-III](#)) and ([TRS Tier I-II](#)). During their working careers, DB retirees paid into the system every pay period, and in addition, the system earns investment income. The Defined Benefit system relies on state appropriations to fund the unfunded liability as determined by the [Alaska Retirement Management Board](#) (ARMB).

If elected, will you support continuing to meet the State's obligation to fund the Defined Benefit retiree pension and health benefit accounts?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion
- Other

Since 2006, new hires do not have Defined Benefits but are placed in the [Defined Contribution Retirement Plan](#), similar to a 401-k. The new retirement tiers ([PERS Tier IV](#) and [TRS Tier III](#)) are causing recruitment and retention problems across the state affecting state agencies, local governments, school districts, and the University. The lack of a Defined Benefit program will likely cause retirement insecurity for public

employees. See [Alaska Beacon article](#) on recruitment issues.

Do you favor legislation enacting an optional Defined Benefit program for ALL new public employees?

- Yes
- No, the current Defined Contribution system is fine.
- No opinion
- Other

If you believe only certain public employees should be eligible for an optional Defined Benefit program, which classes of employees are those?

0/250

Retirees in a Defined Benefit System contribute significantly to Alaska's economy, both while employed and after retirement. If you are elected, how will you help encourage retirees to stay in Alaska?

0/500

[Article 12, Section 7](#), of our [Alaska state constitution](#) protects the earned retirement benefits of current and future retirees. In November, voters will be asked to vote on whether or not to hold a [Constitutional Convention](#).

Do you support holding a Constitutional Convention?

- No, I do NOT support holding a Constitutional Convention.
- Yes, I support holding a Constitutional Convention.
- No opinion

If you support holding a Constitutional Convention, Why?

0/500

With a combination of financing that utilized the POMV and high oil prices, the State's FY 2023 Budget was balanced for the first time since 2013 without using savings. However, a notice from the Department of Revenue published September 19th warns of the volatility associated with petroleum revenues and projects the average annual price to drop by the end of the fiscal year, a change by more than 10% of what was expected. This could leave a structural deficit. See full story in the [Alaska Beacon](#).

If elected, will you support resolving State budget gaps?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

How do you propose solving the State budget gap? (Check all that apply.)

- Further cuts to the State operating budget.
- Limit the State capital budget.
- Increase taxes on oil and gas companies.
- Implement a statewide income tax.
- Implement a statewide sales tax.
- Implement other new taxes.
- Changing the PFD formula.
- No opinion
- Other

Thank you for participating in our Legislative Candidate survey. All responses received before October 7, 2022, will be shared with RPEA members, and will be posted on the [RPEA website](#).

Submit Survey

If you just opted in, you're consenting to receive marketing emails from: Retired Public Employees of Alaska, 8005 Schoon Street , Anchorage, AK 99518. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the SafeUnsubscribe® link, found at the bottom of every email. [Emails are serviced by Constant Contact](#)