

Candidate: **Grier Hopkins**

Senate District:

Party Affiliation: **Democrat**

House District: **34**

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

I was proud to introduce HB220, which provides a Defined Benefit option for all public employees. The more people paying into a pension fund, the more solvent it is, so covering all public employees within that pension fund is critical. All should be included.

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?

Included in HB220 was an incentive for retirees to stay in Alaska, a Cost of Living Adjustment for being eligible for a PFD. That will keep millions of dollars in Alaska's economy. Additionally, protecting health care like senior dental that Governor Dunleavy vetoed in 2019 before we re-funded that later in a special session will ensure that retirees can afford to get their health care here in Alaska. Protecting our Pioneer Homes across the state from closures will give seniors a place to live.

Do you support holding a Constitutional Convention?

NO: **YES:** **No Opinion:**

If you support holding a Constitutional Convention, Why?

If elected, will you support resolving State budget gaps?

Yes

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: Other: Protecting against raids on the Permanent fund, adhering to the POMV so that we don't have declining revenue in the future will be the best way to stop budget gaps in the future. If we know how much we'll earn, we can avoid future gaps.