

Candidate: **Jim Cooper**

Senate District: **M**

Party Affiliation: **Democrat**

House District:

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?

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?

**A difficult question - people move for a myriad of reasons: health, warmer climate, closer to of farther from family, cost of living and maybe they just want to travel. The ones we can partially control are: providing a better health care system and try to bring the cost of living down and potentially try to increase the retirement pay each receives. Having a fixed income makes it hard to "enjoy" life to the fullest when your money doesn't go as far.**

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 PDF formula.
- No Opinion

**Other:**