

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Submitted: 02NOV2018

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[What, if any, specific steps will you take to address inequalities facing women in our state?](#)

LAMKIN: This is a huge subject area and has no easy or specific steps to take to “fix” with the passage of laws. It really starts at the family and parenting level, to bring deep and lasting change in our thinking as a society. I am certainly in favor of measures to help bring about gender equality. I would like to believe I am setting an example as a good parent and father to a couple of young men whom I expect to grow up and treat people kindly regardless of gender. Meanwhile, I would foster an awareness of and encourage policies for reaching better and ultimately total equality. Should there be specific legislative measures to help bring about more change favoring gender equality, I would be happy to advocate for it.

[What should government do, if anything, to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?](#)

LAMKIN: I have spent much of my career as legislative staff for Alaska’s legislature tracking and contributing to improvements to education funding and policies in Alaska. I have come to the conclusion that no amount of funding or laws can supplant the success of a child’s overall education without good parenting. Period. That said, our education system is still a fundamental government service that must be both adequately funded and held accountable. How we define what is adequate funding and accountability varies widely. In any event, I will continue to serve as a staunch proponent of our educational system, it being among the highest of priorities for our community.

[In building a vibrant economy in our state, would you emphasize reforming tax policies, addressing income inequality, or something else?](#)

LAMKIN: No new revenue measures until we correct our oil tax structure. SB 21 and the “initiative” was a disgrace of voter manipulation by media campaign. I ask you, “Who’s oil is it?” How we choose to answer that question sets the course for policy decisions. I am not convinced Alaska receives its fair share, and believe it is time to find that balance once and for all. If we fail to correct our existing oil tax system, balance our state budget quickly enough, and are forced into a new revenue (tax) measure, I would support a sales tax before an income tax. I understand there are sharp arguments for and against any approach we take.

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What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our state?

LAMKIN: Gun violence is driven by a much bigger problem in the general form of mental health and drug abuse. Addressing those areas of social ills will, I believe, in turn show positive results curbing gun violence. Crime reduction, for example, should be addressed by getting folks off drugs and into training programs or employed, by investing in existing community service organizations, particularly those working in drug rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, and mental health assistance. We are putting too many people in jail who really only need mental health care. Happy healthy people make happy healthy choices.

What is your position on current U.S. immigration policy and what, if any, changes do you propose?

LAMKIN: I am no expert on this subject, nor do I expect Alaska to be in a position to affect much change to what is a federal policy. Nonetheless, I can offer my opinion of wishing the USA would open its eyes to the possibilities realized by other countries and modernize its approach to immigration. We should put more emphasis on and embrace the economic opportunities of keeping the best and brightest people here to contribute to this country's workforce. Set up clear eligibility requirements, deadlines to complete degrees, to learn the english language, for finding employment, and other relevant and earnest ways for legitimate foreign nationals to live and work here, and contribute to our economic system in a positive way. Let's find the positive and act on THAT. After all, that is what defines the American Dream, right?

{below was omitted from the official response due to a word limitation}

What we should NOT be doing is fueling a sense of fear, isolationism, racial profiling, and summary judgement on a people or culture. Such negativity only sets ourselves up for a becoming a police-state, perpetuating more fear and violence, not peace and prosperity.