

WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

FORUM
STUDENT QUESTIONS
Recorded: 18OCT2018
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(written for oral delivery)

Opening Comments:

LAMKIN: My Name is Tim Lamkin. I'm running for House District 4, north Fairbanks area, along-side of Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Sackett.



I came to Alaska with my Dad in 1979, when I was an 8-yo boy and going into 4th grade. It was the first time I had ever been on an airplane, and was an epic journey, another tale by itself.

I went to elementary school in Anchorage, finished junior and high school in Wasilla, and right away started college here at UAF in 1988, where I studied international business and political science. I have lived and worked in Fairbanks pretty much ever since.

Besides other entrepreneurial projects, I have spent the last 21 years working in the state legislature, during their sessions, and learned the insides & outs of our state government very well, serving a number of local Fairbanks legislators over those years. I know them all. I have worked with most legislators on some issue or another over the years. I've been behind the scenes, negotiating policy decisions.

As a non-partisan, I'm here to respectfully push back on our two-party system; to think outside the box, outside the party, I'm your guy.

Fav Food - include Fondue, Bagna Cauda - ask my wife Takenya (Class of 1979) for details/recipe how to spell that;

Fav Historical Figure - Leonard DaVinci

One quality of my fav teacher, Mr. White, AP Physics, for his passion and tenacity, as he would say, "getting up on a white horse" and charging around the room barking questions to make us think and understand.

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- 1. As we grow as a nation, many students and adults identify themselves as different genders and often feel unsafe and unwelcome in public spaces. Recently in Anchorage, Proposition One was defeated ensuring trans people can use the bathroom facilities that match their gender identity. Will you continue this movement forward supporting adults and students to use their identified restrooms? Do you find it acceptable that students and adults use the public restroom that they are comfortable with?*

(written for oral delivery)

Transgender & public restrooms

LAMKIN: Non-issue for me, for the legislature.

Society, socially driven

I'm puzzled by the use of extreme crazy examples,
to cast a mold or law

that supposed to fit every circumstance.

I have found during the legislative process

We tend to "what-if" things to death

What if this, or what if that.

We can do that all day

Protect one group of folks,

But create a loohole for another group to possibly exploit

This is about self-identity, respect, tolerance, decency, and grace

It's also just simply about having to go pee. Big deal?

We can discuss 360 diff instances to question whether it's appropriate, and
then another 360 to question whether it is NOT appropriate.

Come full circle to leave it alone.

Let's consider walking in transgender shoes for a moment.

It's brave of such a person to come out,

let alone walk into a public restroom

I don't think the Legislature needs to be involved,

but if necessary let's broaden our anti-discrimination policy

Promote some awareness at least, set some healthy boundaries,

maybe assign some personal bathrooms

and have some grace, and patience, get along

Co-exist, And Just, go pee. ---It works in Europe..

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2. *I struggle with mental illness. It was hard for me to tell my family about my struggle, because of the stigma that surrounds mental illness. What would you do in an initiative to raise awareness about mental health issues and to prioritize funding for treatment of mental illnesses?*

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: I find mental health of our youth
to be in increasing need of loving attention.

We often get caught up
in assigning the why or the blame,

when we really need to just focus
on how to move forward,
be in the present
and look to the future.

I very much support the idea
of improving mental health awareness
and in fostering a way for us as a people,
society to care for each other more,
to maintain empathy and grace,
and to find ways bridge that darkness
and bring in the light.

I believe one way the state might contribute better
is by embracing and investing in local,
community organizations, local groups or projects,
people who are motivated to help with treatment
and who can provide the resources we need
to address these issues and others,
ranging not only for mental health
but also vocational rehabilitation and job training,
drug rehabilitation, and respective support groups.

It starts with more awareness

And this very forum is a great example

Of stepping toward progress

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3. *Opiate addiction and abuse have reached staggering heights, affecting the community at large. If you are elected, would you make an effort to revise in the justice system in order to rehabilitate those who have developed an addiction?*

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN:

Hard drugs are a scourge

I hope and pray everyone here

can please avoid getting caught up in that sad world.

We all have to pay the consequences of our actions

Hard Drugs make us make dumb,
and sometimes very hurtful choices

We have to carefully weigh the severity of
and penalties for crimes committed,

in addition to and with consideration of
drugs connected to the offense.

We must most certainly be sensitive in our justice system,

To help rehabilitate all victims associated with drug addiction

And again, to help see us invest more in community service organizations,
particularly those working in drug, vocational, mental, social rehab.

4. *Last year I lost my brother due to suicide. Alaska has the highest rates in the US. Meanwhile every 40 seconds one person has died from suicide. Experts say that by 2020 the rate of death will increase to one every 20 seconds. What are you going to do to prevent suicide in the state of Alaska?*

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: I'm so sorry to hear that Brittany.

I hope you and your family and friends

can find some peace with that and hold that love in your heart.

I too recently felt grief over losing a local friend (Sarah Mitchell)..

I wish I knew what could possibly stop that darkness from taking over so many people.

Other than finding God, or some spark of light from those of us ready and able to offer help.

All I can hope for is improving our awareness of how widespread it is,

and to foster, invest,

in our communities

and support networks to find the love and support needed.

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*5. According to a Justice Department report, sixty-six percent of rape goes unreported, specifically adolescent sexual assault. A week before her 12th birthday, a friend of mine was raped by her babysitter and conceived. The resources for victims who can't speak up are being threatened. The ability for an eleven-year-old to get an abortion for a child she had no choice in conceiving is being threatened. If elected, what will **you** do to protect the funding and support of resources like planned parenthood so that girls of all ages can always have a place to make a choice for their futures?*

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: What's worrisome about the subject of abortion
is how often we try to use extreme, awful, singular examples
to cast a policy effecting the entire spectrum of the population.

I don't personally agree with abortion.
I think it is legalized murder.

I also think it is a subject with which our legislature does NOT need concern itself.

There may be instances where abortions are justified,
if for example the life or long-term health of the mother is threatened,
maybe faces some chronic disease, not likely to thrive, etc.

We can discuss 360 diff circumstances to question whether an abortion is justified,
and then another 360 circumstances to question whether it is NOT justified.

Forcing a raped 11yo girl to give birth and become a mother is not the answer.
I am so sorry to have read about that instance and the difficulty she
and her family struggle with over that.

That is a tragic circumstance.

I have faith, in the human spirit
and a person's right to make their own decision,
without the legislature's hand in that decision,
and for that person and their family
to provide their own finances accordingly,
with notable exceptions.

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Lightening Round - "Agree or Disagree..."

The economic benefits of drilling in ANWR outweigh the environmental risks. AGREE

State funds should be used to assist travel to find the necessary support to cope with diagnosed mental illness. AGREE

Climate change is a hoax. DISAGREE

Teachers should be armed on campus due to the increase in school shootings and gun violence in Alaska. DISAGREE

6. *According to CNN, the United States has had 288 school shootings since 2009, which is 57 times as many school shootings as the other major industrialized nations combined. What do you think are the causes of school shootings, and if elected what will you do to prevent them?*

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: Much of my legislative career has involved working on policies concerning the university and school funding and policy.

Over the years, I have come to the conclusion,
That No amount of funding appropriated
or school laws passed
Can supplant a student's overall educational success,
none of it matters much,
without good parenting.
Period.

It comes down to parenting.

I have not studied the cases,
but would venture to wonder
if the people choosing to take such horrific, heinous actions,
may have had an A-C-E score of about 25.
(Adverse Childhood Experience study, CDCP 1995,97)
Serious mental health and or problems on the home front.

Preventing these tragedies is not a function of passing a law,
but in community awareness and responsiveness.
It should be up to a community to choose
what measures they wish to take
to address prevention and response.



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7. More than 83% of Alaska's revenue is generated by the state through the selling of oil and petroleum. Many of the oilfield workers are facing a crisis in keeping their jobs, one of these workers was my father. Should there be a modification of petroleum taxes to work toward economic growth, or should this issue remain untouched to avoid further economic tension in this job field?

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: I read that and 83% sounds high to me.

The last time I asked that question to our budget gurus,
it was in the neighborhood of 65%

Oil companies are posting Staggering,
Multi-billion, Record breaking profits from Alaska operations
Amongst the lowest tax systems in the world

Plus receiving over a \$1 billion in tax credits a year
Then add another billion
from a newly passed oil tax credit bonding bill

Alaska IS not only Paying, virtually Giving the Oil away,
Now even going into debt for it

Alaskan families helping pay for these credits
by reducing everyone's PFDs.

(no disrespect to your father)
Holding down oilfield job is not a function
of oil companies being overly taxed in Alaska.

Ask yourself, who does that oil belong to?
Who's resource is that?

Depending on how you answer that question
determines which direction
most of the money flows for that resource.

I believe it is Alaskans' oil,
and we should be receiving our fair share of the value of that oil.

Our current budget crisis is not just a function of low oil prices
Lowering taxes further is not something I believe Alaska should be doing.



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8. *According to the Alaska department of health and social services, Alaska has the highest rate of forcible rape in the nation, with 9% of Alaskan high school students experiencing sexual violence. When I was in the 8th grade I was sexually assaulted in school and the punishment by the school board for the student who attacked me was attending an alternative school for only a quarter then returning to my school. This is wrong. No one deserves to feel as scared as I was. If elected, what will you do at the state level to ensure the safety of students who are victims of sexual assault?*

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: So sorry to hear this.

Notwithstanding the outcomes,

I hope this victim has found the resources
and support needed cope with that pain and betrayal.

This to me speaks of a failure of the system,

Which should be led by our community and a fair justice system.

It compels me to pursue an effort

for the state to invest in community-run organizations and non-profits

With the mission and determination

to bring more awareness to our communities about these issues

And foster both the love and support needed

to help victims of these crimes

As well as a focus on prevention

and what things like healthy boundaries,

and consent means

This can best be led by good parenting,

and responsive communities.

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9. Today's youth deals with high suicide rates, pressure from social media, and a more complex and interconnected world than that of older generations, and consequently holds vastly different beliefs and ideas than other generations. Since we are not yet able to vote, how would you go about ensuring you accurately understand and represent our opinions as a government official, especially because it is our future you are impacting with the decisions you make in office?

(written for oral delivery)

LAMKIN: Another small contribution I have worked on over the years,
Is when we have numerous board and commissions

to study a particular issue, from education policy,

To drug addiction, Domestic violence,

You name it,

I want to see more students represented on these boards

Be part of the process,

bring a new younger perspective to the issues we face

and the dialogues we have about these issues

It's called civics,

civic participation in our government and society

I am seeking this job to help make decision

for the benefit of all Alaskans

To help make Alaska a better place for my children,

and the children of our community,

the children of Alaska

And their children, and grandchildren

This is not just about the now, but also about the future.

That's where I intend to keep my eyes trained,

Embracing a bright future for us all,

Passing the torch to one of you some day

So you in turn can continue that advocacy



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CLOSING COMMENTS:

LAMKIN: Civic duty, Not fun

Not for the perks

Not accept per diem nor money from lobbyists or special interests

As the saying goes we staff do all the work,
but the legislators get all the credit.

And that's been fine.

Never taking credit for small contributions I've made until now.

The infamous Pink slips, and the dates they are issued.

Local districts notifying teachers of layoff from lack of funding,
passing the budget on time.

March 15 to May 1

As a non-partisan, I'm here to respectfully push back on our two-party system.

Think outside the box, outside the party, I'm your guy

Our world too complex to continue Binary thinking
not black or white, blue or red, D or R

Parties exist to work for the parties themselves,

I have the most experience

And know how to get things done for Fairbanks while in Juneau

I'm your guy. I'm an Underdog, underfunded,

I don't have the big corporations

or Big Money organizers

and special interest groups backing my campaign.

I want to thank west Valley HS for hosting this forum

I really appreciate you taking an interest in this important exercise in civics.

---END WVHS FORUM--

