



The Alaska Family Action

The AFA, an independent 501(c)(4) organization is the legislative, lobbying arm of the Alaska Family Council.

Our Values Have a Voice

In Juneau

- Advocate pro-family issues during legislative sessions
- Strategize with elected officials
- Testify in legislative committee meetings
- Produce issue briefs and policy papers

In Your Community

- Present pro-family perspective in the media
- Produce and distribute non-partisan Voter Guides and *Report Cards*
- Organize local networks called Family Forums for community impact
- Establish a statewide network of Pastors For Family Values
- Host nationally renowned speakers

What Now?

- Get more voter guides online at: www.alaskafamilyaction.org



Candidates

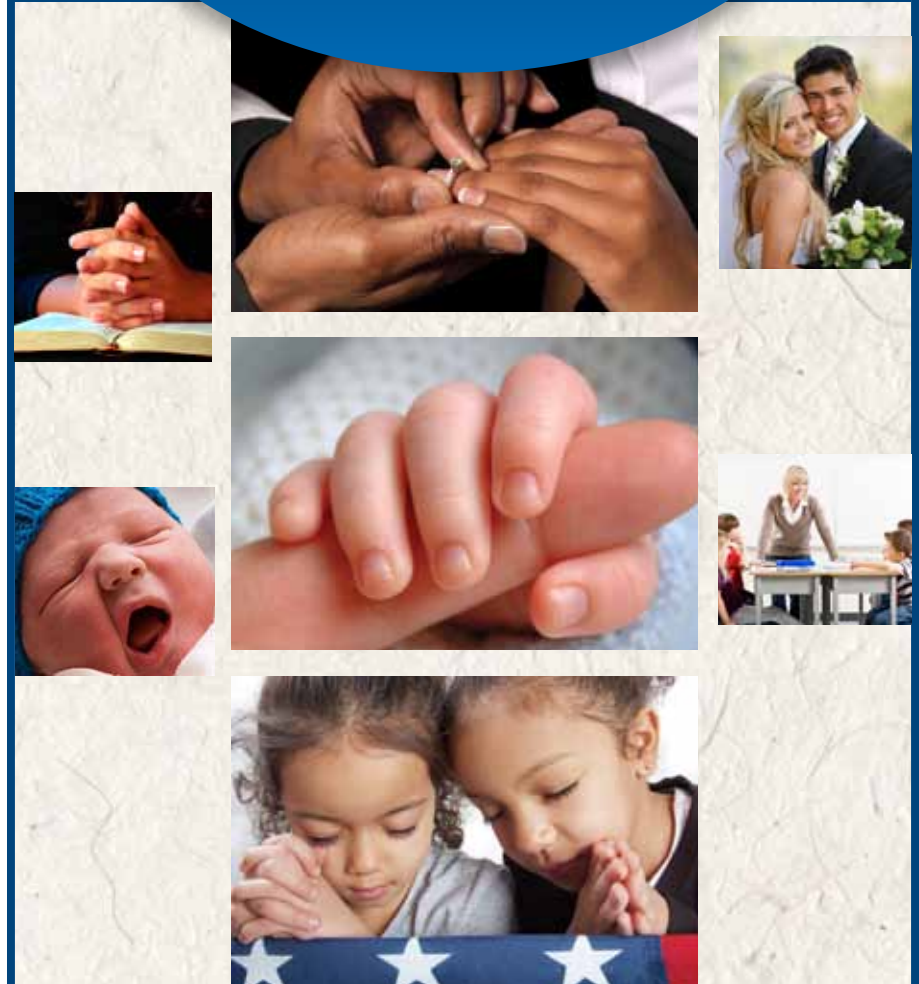
Sean Parnell	P.O. Box 10079, Anchorage, AK 99510	771-9090	parnellforgovernor@gmail.com
Ethan Berkowitz	P.O. Box 91365, Anchorage, AK 99509		info@ethanberkowitz.com
Mead Treadwell	P.O. Box 101307, Anchorage, AK 99570	717-3444	info@treadwellalaska.net
Diane Benson	P.O. Box 200408, Anchorage, AK 99523	688-1370	Diane@AlaskansForBenson.com

Alaska Family Action | P.O. Box 231425, Anchorage AK, 99523
907-279-2825 | www.alaskafamilyaction.org

© 2010 Alaska Family Action, All rights reserved.

2010 OFFICIAL ALASKA

Values Voter Guide



Governor & Lieutenant Governor

The 2010 Alaska Voter Guide
provided courtesy of Alaska Family Action -
The legislative, lobbying arm of Alaska Family Council.

1) Denali KidCare – Abortion funding

Background

In June 2010, Governor Sean Parnell vetoed a \$2.9 million appropriation to expand the Denali KidCare program. The Governor stated that he vetoed the additional money because Denali KidCare has used public funds to pay for abortions. The Dept. of Health and Human Services reports that Denali KidCare spent a total of \$384,000 to pay for 664 abortions in 2009. This number equates to about 35 percent of the total number of 1,875 abortions reported to have occurred in Alaska during 2009.

Question

Do you support Governor Parnell's decision to veto additional funding for Denali KidCare due to the program's funding of abortions?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

2) Policy concerning "medically necessary" abortions

Background

In 2001, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the Legislature could not refuse to pay for "medically necessary" abortions for poor women. In the same decision, however, the court said their opinion "does not concern State payment for elective abortions." Elective abortions are generally defined as abortions that are performed voluntarily at the request of the mother for reasons unrelated to concerns for maternal health. However, the state has no criteria, either in statute or regulation, for distinguishing between a "medically necessary" abortion and an "elective" abortion. The person who makes the judgment now for what is medically necessary is the doctor who stands to profit from receiving a state reimbursement for performing the procedure.

Question

Would you support legislation establishing objective and neutral medical criteria for determining what is a "medically necessary" abortion, and further stipulating that any application for a state-funded abortion must be reviewed by independent medical advisors with the Department of Health and Social Services before payment can be approved?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

3) Abortion and the Alaska State Constitution

Background

In the 1997 *Valley Hospital* decision, the Alaska Supreme Court stated as follows: "...the right to an abortion is the kind of fundamental right and privilege encompassed within the intention and spirit of Alaska's constitutional language." The court reached this conclusion despite the fact that (a) the word "abortion" is nowhere mentioned in the state constitution and, (b) nothing in the history of the Alaska Constitutional Convention (or any subsequent amendments adopted by the people) provides any evidence that the framers of the constitution intended to create a legal right to abortion.

This manufactured "right to abortion" in the state constitution has been interpreted by the state Supreme Court as being far more liberal in scope than the federal abortion policy set out in U.S. Supreme Court decisions such as *Roe vs. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey* (1992). As a consequence, Alaska courts have struck down many laws that are permissible under *Roe* and *Casey* – such as requirements for parental consent before a minor's abortion, and restricting public funding of abortion. The Alaska Family Council supports a state constitutional amendment that would make it clear that nothing in the state constitution may be interpreted or construed to create any abortion-related rights

beyond what is required under the U.S. constitution, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. Such an amendment would permit the Legislature, and also the people acting directly through the initiative process, to establish whatever abortion policy they deem appropriate for Alaska, provided it is consistent with the U.S. constitution.

Question

Would you support a constitutional amendment that would clarify that the state constitution does not provide a more liberal or expansive right to abortion than what is required under the U.S. constitution?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

4) "Choose Life" specialty license plates

Background

About half the states in the U.S. allow their residents to select specialty plates for their motor vehicles that display the message, "Choose Life." In most of these states, proceeds from the sale of "Choose Life" license plates are donated to maternity homes, pregnancy care centers, and non-profit adoption agencies, which use the funds to assist needy women and their families with expenses associated with pregnancy, labor and delivery, and infant care.

Question

Would you support legislation that allows Alaska motorists to select "Choose Life" license plates, with the proceeds from plate sales going to non-profit groups that assist pregnant women?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

5) Employment benefits for same-sex partners of public employees

Background

In 1998, Alaska voters overwhelmingly approved a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. In 2005, the Alaska Supreme Court declared that, despite the 1998 amendment, the same-sex "partners" of public employees were required to be treated the same as spouses of married employees in terms of eligibility for taxpayer-funded employment benefits (e.g., participation in retirement plans, health insurance, etc). In response, the Alaska Legislature passed a measure calling for an advisory vote in a special election on April 3, 2007. The question before voters was: "*Shall the legislature adopt a proposed amendment to the state constitution to be considered at the 2008 general election that would prohibit the state, or a municipality or other subdivision of the state, from providing employment benefits to the same-sex partners of public employees and to same-sex partners of public employee retirees?*"

A majority of voters, nearly 53 percent, indicated they wished to vote on the proposed constitutional amendment. Despite this fact, the proposed amendment has failed to garner the required 2/3 majority-vote in either the House or Senate before the question can be placed before voters.

Question

Do you support placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would let voters decide if taxpayer-funded employment benefits should be reserved for the spouses of married public employees, and not extended to the same-sex partners of public employees and retirees?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

6) State civil rights law with respect to “sexual orientation” and “gender identity”

Background

In 2009 the Anchorage Assembly debated Ordinance 64, a controversial measure that would have banned individuals, businesses, schools, and city government from discriminating on the basis of a person’s actual or perceived “gender identity” or “sexual orientation,” in areas such as employment and housing. (The measure passed the Assembly on a vote of 7 to 4, but was later vetoed by Mayor Dan Sullivan).

The Alaska Family Council opposes such legislation because it inevitably leads to discrimination against those persons who, for reasons of conscience, cannot pretend to be morally indifferent to the homosexual lifestyle in the operations of their schools and businesses. For example, Christian schools would be required to hire homosexual teachers; a Christian bookstore owner could not refuse to hire a person who is a cross-dresser (based on prohibition of “gender identity” discrimination); a religious adoption agency would be required to place children with homosexual couples. Outside of Alaska, legislation similar to Ordinance 64 has been adopted by a number of states, and has predictably resulted in religious discrimination against Christians.

Question

If a bill is introduced in Juneau to add “gender identity” and/or “sexual orientation” to Alaska’s civil rights statute, will you vote to oppose such legislation?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

7) Gambling for profit in Alaska

Background

In 2009, a proposed constitutional amendment (HJR 3) was introduced that would generally prohibit all for-profit gaming or gambling in Alaska, unless it was authorized by an act of the Legislature, then ratified by a majority vote in the next statewide election, and approved by a majority of voters in the city, borough, or other area where the gambling may occur. The proposed amendment would not affect existing state law concerning non-profit gaming sponsored by boroughs, cities, and non-profit organizations.

Question

Would you support a constitutional amendment to require a vote of the people before any forprofit gambling is approved in Alaska?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

8) Parental choice in education

Background

Across the U.S., there are 18 different private school choice programs at either the state or municipal level that provide parents increased options for educating their children at the K-12 level. States such as Arizona and Florida, and cities such as Milwaukee and the District of Columbia, use vouchers, tax credits, and/or “opportunity scholarships” to help promote school choice. Studies have shown that school choice programs increase graduation rates, improve educational performance, and provide a quality education for a lower cost on a per-pupil basis than public education. The programs also promote fairness for parents who are essentially “paying twice” for their child’s education. Parents who currently send their children to nonpublic schools save the taxpayers’ money because those children

are not making demands on the public education system. Nevertheless, those same parents are still paying taxes to support the public schools that their children do not attend.

Question

Would you support legislation and/or a constitutional amendment to create some form of a private school choice program in Alaska at the K-12 level, whether through vouchers, tax credits, and/or opportunity scholarships?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

9) Children’s access to pornography

Background

The federal Children’s Internet Protection Act, or CIPA, requires schools and libraries to place Internet filters on computers as a condition of receiving federal funds. However, statefunded libraries in Alaska that do not receive federal funds are currently not required to have Internet filters on their public computers. A bill was introduced in the Alaska Legislature in 2008 (HB 353) that would require all state-funded libraries to adhere to CIPA requirements and utilize filtering devices or software to prevent children from accessing obscene materials, as a condition of receiving state funds. Library staff would be permitted to turn off the filters when requested by patrons over the age of 18.

Question

Would you support legislation similar to HB 353 that would require libraries receiving state funds to install Internet filters on public computers?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

10) Judicial selection process

Background

Alaska’s constitution provides that the Governor shall appoint a qualified nominee to fill judicial vacancies in the state court system. However, the Governor’s choices are extremely limited: he or she may choose only from a list of names that are submitted by the “Alaska Judicial Council,” a seven-member body that is dominated by attorneys. In the past, the Alaska Judicial Council has refused to nominate many qualified applicants for court vacancies, thus artificially narrowing the Governor’s options for appointing judges & justices.

Question

Would you support a state constitutional amendment that would allow the Governor the same leeway for appointing state judges as the U.S. President has for appointing federal judges, i.e., the Governor could nominate any candidate of his or her choosing for a judicial vacancy, and such nominee would have to be confirmed by the Alaska Senate?

YES _____ NO _____ UNDECIDED _____

Governor & Lieutenant Governor

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Questions & Answers

From Alaska's 2010 Candidates

KEY: Y Yes
N No
UN Undecided

1. Support Gov. Parnell's Veto of Expanding Funding to Denali KidCare Because of Abortion
2. Support Policy Defining "Medically Necessary Abortions"
3. Support Constitutional Amendment Clarifying That AK Constitution Doesn't Have More Expansive Right To Abortion Than U.S. Constitution
4. Support Alaskans Right To Select "Choose Life" License Plates
5. Support Constitutional Amendment Limiting Marriage Benefits To Married Partners of Public Employees
6. Would You OPPOSE Adding "Gender Identity" and/or "Sexual Orientation" to Alaska's Civil Rights Statute
7. Support Constitutional Amendment Requiring Vote of People Before Gambling Can Be Expanded
8. Support School Choice Constitutional Amendment
9. Support Legislation Requiring Internet Filters On Public Library Computers
10. Support Constitutional Amendment Allowing Governor To Nominate Judicial Candidates Of His or Her Choosing With Senate Confirmation

Sean Parnell



Republican

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Ethan Berkowitz



Democrat

Did Not Respond

Mead Treadwell



Republican

Y

Y

UN

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Diane Benson



Democrat

Did Not Respond