

ALASKA: HOUSE CANDIDATES' VOTER GUIDE RESPONSES 2020

1. Don Young, Incumbent, Republican running in the Republican Primary

Website: ALASKANSFORDONYOUNG.COM

Biographical Information: Congressman Don Young was re-elected to the 116th Congress in 2018 to serve his 24th term as Alaska's sole Member to the United States House of Representatives. First sworn in during the 93rd Congress after winning a special election, Congressman Young is today the Dean of the House and the longest serving Member of the entire Congress. As the most senior Member, Congressman Young has spent his career advocating for good governance, consensus building, and bipartisanship. He currently serves as the Republican Leader of the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and was previously Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as House Committee on Transportation. Recently, he was named the Most Effective Member of Congress by the nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking. Congress Young continues to utilize his seniority and bipartisan relationships to move legislation on behalf of Alaska's hardworking families

Responses to Voter Guide Questions:

1. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution was passed by Congress in 1972 with an arbitrary deadline for ratification that other amendments have not had to meet. The ERA Amendment has finally been ratified by the required number of states and now Congress must vote to remove the deadline added to the 1972 Congressional approval. S. J. Res 6 will do that to allow the ERA to become part of the Constitution. Please discuss whether or not you support this bill and explain why.

Discrimination based on sex is wrong, and very frankly, should not be happening in the year 2020. As the father of two strong women, I don't want to see opportunities denied to them or my granddaughters on the basis of sex. I support the goals of the ERA, but I believe the ratification process should start over. The first deadline for the ERA was set in 1972 and was due to expire in 1979. Between 1972 and 1979, 35 States, including Alaska, approved the ERA. This was 3 states short of the minimum required to ratify the amendment. Congress then extended the ERA deadline to June 30, 1982; however, additional states did not ratify the ERA, and five states actually withdrew support of the ERA before the new deadline. Although the deadline for the ERA has come and gone, I do believe in the Amendment. We must start the process over to ensure that the ERA is ratified constitutionally.

2. Many citizens see the country as very divided along partisan lines. In contrast, bipartisan effort in the creation of strong public policy is essential in our democracy. Please explain the opportunities you see for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on the very serious issues facing our country.

Bipartisanship is foundational to our government, and necessary to promote prosperity for our country. In the 116th Congress, we came together to craft legislation to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. We knew that rising above partisanship would be necessary to bolster our health care response, help individuals and small businesses, and support our economy. I don't think the sides are as far apart as it seems, and I believe we can find solutions to problems such as police reform, immigration, transportation funding, and health care. The reality is that my colleagues and I work together to advance legislation that benefits Americans. Voters play an essential role by electing representatives with a proven track record of putting personal agendas aside and reaching across the aisle. For me, bipartisanship has been a cornerstone of my career. I have consistently been recognized by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University as one of the most Bipartisan Members of Congress; I rank within the top 2% of all Members of Congress for bipartisanship. Additionally, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce named me a winner of the Jefferson-Hamilton Award for Bipartisanship, which recognizes demonstrated bipartisan leadership and constructive governing. Bipartisanship isn't just talk; it directly translates into legislation. Last year, the nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking named me the Most Effective Member of Congress. My effectiveness isn't coincidental, it's a testament to my ability to build coalitions, work across party lines, and get big things done for Alaska and our nation.

3. The Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA S. 561) is a bill that supports the right of every eligible

citizen to have access to the voting process. Since 2013 when the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) removed the pre-clearance process of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in Shelby vs Holder, the incidents of voter suppression have increased. The VRAA would modernize the pre-clearance process. Please discuss whether or not you support this bill and explain why.

I voted in favor of the Voting Rights Act of 1975 when it came to the House Floor on June 4, 1975, and then again when the Act was reauthorized on July 13, 2006. The act of voting is one of the most essential actions in which citizens across the country must participate in order to maintain a healthy democracy. As the Congressman of a culturally diverse state, I am fully aware of minority concerns, and believe discrimination and voter suppression is wrong. Alaska was among the states regulated under the Voting Rights Act due to English language tests that were once used to impact Alaska Native voting eligibility. There are instances of discrimination that still exist in our nation and they must be addressed. The Voting Rights Advancement Act would not affect Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which is a permanent, nationwide ban on racial discrimination in voting, and can still be used to challenge discriminatory practices if they occur. All states must be uncompromising in their efforts to ensure that the voting rights of all Americans are not deprived.

4. Americans have watched or participated in weeks of protests that are motivated by the desire for justice and policing reforms. What kinds of policies, if any, would you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our society? If you do not think change is needed, please explain why.

The demonstrations in dozens of cities seeking justice for George Floyd's death were a wake-up call illustrating the urgent need for comprehensive reform of the nation's law enforcement departments. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 7278, the Just and Unifying Solutions to Invigorate Communities Everywhere (JUSTICE) Act, which contains many bipartisan priorities needed to increase accountability and transparency and to provide solutions to police misconduct in neighborhoods across our country. The JUSTICE Act includes important provisions, such as requiring annual reporting on the use of no-knock warrants and issuing financial penalties to police departments for failure to do so. Additionally, it bans the use of chokeholds, provides funding for body cameras and storage for footage, and expands de-escalation training for police departments. The JUSTICE Act also closes the so-called "consent loophole," making it unlawful for an officer to engage in a sexual act with a detained suspect and the bill makes lynching a federal crime, which I have previously supported in the House. Ultimately, the JUSTICE Act will maintain the Constitutionally limited role the federal government plays in local law enforcement decisions while still affecting significant change.

5. While the United States remains one of the world leaders in health care innovation, the cost of healthcare and healthcare insurance continues to grow beyond the financial means of many of our citizens. What do you propose for both the short and long term to ensure affordable healthcare access for all?

There are policies we must work to preserve, such as the protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions. Also a short-term area I am particularly concerned with is the rising costs of prescription drugs. Congress and the Administration have shown a renewed interest in this area and we need to find a path forward to lower costs and increase transparency while protecting the innovation necessary for companies to conduct research and create new products. Additionally, Congress is working on addressing the surprise billing that occurs when health care services are incidentally provided outside of a patient's insured network and they then receive an unexpected bill. Long-term, I believe the ability to use telehealth and telemedicine, particularly in Alaska given its size, is an increasingly critical component to improve access to health care services for patients as well as reduce health care cost. While it cannot fully replace the need for all in-person appointments, in recent months we have seen how effective telemedicine has been in delivering health care services during the COVID-19 epidemic. I have introduced and supported different measures to strengthen and expand the telehealth system; this includes H.R. 6474, the Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act, which I introduced with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA). The bill would provide \$2 billion to expand telehealth and high-quality internet connectivity at public and nonprofit health care facilities, including mobile clinics and temporary health facilities deployed to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

2. Alyse Galvin, Non-partisan, running in the Democratic Primary

Website: ALYSEFORALASKA.COM

Biographical Information: I am a third-generation Alaskan. Like too many children, I grew up in a home with trauma and abuse, but my community and local public school in the Anchorage Government Hill neighborhood lifted me up and gave me the tools and confidence I needed to persevere. I was the first in my family to graduate from college, earning a degree in political science from UCSD. I went on to become a small business owner, mom of four, and a fierce advocate for public education. After serving two governors in Alaska—a Republican and an Independent—I built a bipartisan grassroots movement of parents, teachers, students, and community leaders to fight budget cuts to Alaska's public schools. Under my leadership, Great Alaska Schools grew from 40-4,000 members and saved Alaska schools from over \$100M in cuts. It was through this work, and my own family's struggles, that I came to know the everyday challenges facing Alaskan families.

I ran for Congress in 2018 as a first-time candidate and won 47% of the vote against a 47-year incumbent. In 2020, I am back to finish the job so that I can work for Alaskans. It's time for a leader who listens to Alaskans and fights for good jobs, lower healthcare costs, and an education system that prepares our children for jobs so they can build a life for themselves right here in Alaska.

Responses to Voter's Guide Questions:

1. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution was passed by Congress in 1972 with an arbitrary deadline for ratification that other amendments have not had to meet. The ERA Amendment has finally been ratified by the required number of states and now Congress must vote to remove the deadline added to the 1972 Congressional approval. S. J. Res 6 will do that to allow the ERA to become part of the Constitution. Please discuss whether or not you support this bill and explain why.

I support this legislation because many women continue to face significant discrimination and have to fight for rights that should be secured by the U. S. Constitution. Women are still statistically paid less than men, leading to challenges with accessing healthcare, caring for their children, and achieving a good quality of life. Women experience higher rates of gender-based and domestic violence, an issue of staggering scale here in Alaska compounded by limited access to housing, childcare, resources, and law enforcement, and by generational trauma. Passage of the ERA would provide necessary protections for women and would reinforce our country's commitment to treating all people equally. It is simply time as a nation to stand up and support the equality of women. My opponent, Representative Don Young, recently voted against legislation which would have helped pass the ERA by removing the ratification deadline.

2. Many citizens see the country as very divided along partisan lines. In contrast, bipartisan effort in the creation of strong public policy is essential in our democracy. Please explain the opportunities you see for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on the very serious issues facing our country.

I am running for Congress as an Independent to put partisan bickering aside and find real solutions to our challenges. Americans are suffering because of this gridlock. Like most Alaskans, who put their state before any party identification, I'm also a political Independent. I won't answer to party bosses—I'll only answer to the people I serve. In my grassroots organizing work fighting for Alaska's public schools, I brought Republicans, Democrats, and Independents together in a bipartisan way to save schools from over \$100M in funding cuts. It is still possible to roll up our sleeves and bring people from both sides of the aisle together to work for common goals. I will bring this commonsense approach to Washington. Alaskans cannot afford a dysfunctional government that cannot work together—the serious issues we face are too great. Alaska and the country are ready for leaders who can deliver solutions to the challenges we face, and I am ready to do that work.

3. The Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA S. 561) is a bill that supports the right of every eligible citizen to have access to the voting process. Since 2013 when the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOUTUS) removed the pre-clearance process of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in Shelby vs Holder, the incidents of voter suppression have increased. The VRAA would modernize the pre-clearance process. Please discuss whether or not you support this bill and explain why.

I am a long-time advocate of preserving voting rights and encouraging people to vote. I support this bill because

we need to support Americans as they exercise their right to vote in a system that is secure, safe, and simple to navigate. We are seeing efforts to restrict voting rights in this country. Attacks on the Voting Rights Act are attacks on our democracy. We should remove all barriers to voting, and no one should be restricted from voting because of their race, ethnicity, or economic barriers.

In past elections, I have led non-partisan efforts to encourage voting and increase awareness of voting opportunities, focusing my efforts on under-represented communities. In 2016, I turned my RV into a rolling billboard to encourage voting, and we drove through neighborhoods with a loudspeaker and live band to get the word out about the power of voting. In Congress, I will work to make sure all Americans can vote.

4. Americans have watched or participated in weeks of protests that are motivated by the desire for justice and policing reforms. What kinds of policies, if any, would you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our society? If you do not think change is needed, please explain why.

Alaska has traditionally been a place of great opportunity for those willing to work hard—we must make sure that this dream is attainable for all. I want to work to remove structural barriers that keep the ladder of opportunity out of reach for too many Americans. The values I will bring to Washington are grounded in advocacy for every individual to have equal access to education and skills leading to good work so that they can take care of themselves and their families.

I will be mindful especially of our most vulnerable and fight to ensure our systems are delivering justice and opportunity for everyone. I will fight for quick actions and accountability in housing, education, and justice, and I will monitor the outcomes carefully to ensure those outcomes meet expectations. I will pursue policies to expand access to affordable healthcare and quality education, especially for young families, because this is fundamental to equality and justice. I will work together with our citizens and our law enforcement to put a spotlight on needed reforms, to ensure that our communities are safe, and to bring trust back to our public institutions.

It is important to acknowledge that the lands that make up Alaska are the territory of hundreds of tribes who have inhabited and cared for them since time immemorial. We must be mindful of this reality as we work toward greater social and economic equity.

5. While the United States remains one of the world leaders in health care innovation, the cost of healthcare and healthcare insurance continues to grow beyond the financial means of many of our citizens. What do you propose for both the short and long term to ensure affordable healthcare access for all?

Alaska has the highest healthcare costs in the nation. Too many families in our state are facing healthcare bills that continue to rise each month. Costs are forcing many seniors to move out of state, instead of being able to retire here after a lifetime of work.

We need our leaders to find solutions that can bring down costs of healthcare and prescription drugs. In addition to finding ways of structurally reforming our system, there are actions we can take right now: allow the government to negotiate with drug companies so that we can lower prescription drug costs, increase Medicare reimbursement rates so that more Alaskan doctors can provide care, permit buying prescriptions safely from other countries like Canada, and lower healthcare premiums by teaming up with other small-population states to expand our coverage pool.

To make longer lasting changes, we must approach these challenges in a bipartisan way and evaluate what is working. We can look at successful models to emulate and scale up, such as Alaska's innovative Nuka system which has resulted in improved wellness at lower costs by focusing on preventative care and improved doctor-patient communication.

The burden of healthcare on Alaskan communities is one of the factors that pushed me to run for office, so I look forward to pursuing legislation bringing stability to the system and lower costs for all Alaskans. More certainty of healthcare costs will bring important benefits to small businesses and overall economic stability to Alaska and the nation.

3. John T. Nelson, Republican running in the Republican Primary

Website:JOHNNELSONFORALASKANS.COM

Biographical Information: Born and raised in Alaska, self-employed, owned his own business.

Responses to Voter's Guides Questions: Responses have not been received yet.

4. Gerald L. Heikes, Republican running in the Republican Primary

WEBSITE: None available

Biographical Information: Currently living in Palmer, Alaska.

Responses to Voter's Guide Questions: Responses have not been received yet.

5. Ray Sean Tugatuk, Democrat running in the Democratic Primary

WEBSITE: None available

Biographical Information: Currently living in Manakotak, Alaska.

Responses to Voter's Guide Questions: Responses have not been received yet.

6. William Hibler (Bill), Democrat running in the Democratic Primary

WEBSITE: BILLHIBLERFORCONGRESS.ORG

Biographical Information: I am a scientist actively involved in Polar Research for 45 years, most recently as a professor of Oceanography at the [University of Alaska at Fairbanks](#). My research background, including several first-hand trips to glacier ice sheets and polar ice caps, leads me to view rising CO2 levels and climate change as one of our most current pressing issues. I have a Ph.D. from Cornell in Physics, and first visited Alaska in winter 1972 for a six-week expedition on the Beaufort Sea pack ice as part of the Arctic Ice Dynamics Joint Experiment (AIDJEX) study. Ever since, I have loved Alaska and moved here after working at the Core of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, and as a Professor of Engineering at Dartmouth College. I have served as a Professor (and now Professor Emeritus) at University of Alaska for almost 20 years.

Responses to Voter's Guide Questions: Responses have not been received yet.