

APEA-AFT EPIC

Please return to: Sandy Thompson Wallace, EPIC Chair

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2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate:

Office Sought:

Occupation:

Employer:

Email Address:

Phone:

Mailing Address:

1. Tell us a little about yourself. Why are you running for office? What qualities distinguish you from other candidates running for this office?
2. Are you currently, or have you been a member of a Union? If yes, which one and for how long?
3. Tell us about your election strategy. What media sources will you use? Please be as specific as possible.
4. Our union is a part of the Alaska Public Pension Coalition. During the last several legislative sessions, the APPC helped to develop cost neutral legislation that would return Alaska's public employees to a defined benefit, or pension, style retirement from the current 401K style of the current PERS Tier IV or TRS Tier III. We believe this is important for a variety of reasons, especially because most of Alaska's public employees will not receive social security upon retirement and when Tier IV was created it slowed the flow of money into the state pension system which has contributes to its unfunded liability.

As a legislator, would you lend your voice to support a return to a pension style retirement?

5. Do you support collective bargaining for public employees? Yes or no? Would you restrict any issues or items from collective bargaining?
  
6. What do you see as your role in upholding a negotiated and ratified contract?
  
7. Contracting out work within a community or school district could range from custodial services to maintenance to IT to food services, removing valuable institutional knowledge. What is your position on contracting out or privatizing work currently performed by public employees and/or school district employees?
  
8. With the volatility in state revenue since 2014, what ideas do you have for a fiscal plan that will allow the state to provide public services, keep departments fully staffed, provide students with the best learning environment, and assure maintenance of our infrastructure?
  
9. The question of whether to hold a Constitutional Convention will be on the ballot in 2022. APEA and other public employee groups are concerned about the risks this could pose to our constitutional rights as union members, as well as the impact it could have to our hard-earned retirement benefits being diminished. Alaska is seen by many observers as having a model constitution.

Do you support re-opening the Alaska Constitution? Why or why not? If not, would you join us in advocating against the convention?

10. Please add any additional comments/thoughts you would like our members to know about you or your focus on issues important to you.