

Representative John J. Cowdery
Session 2000 Legislative Questionnaire
3,312 Surveys Mailed
276 returned as of 4-17-00
8.33% Return Rate

1-3) Subsistence

There is a conflict between Alaska's constitution and a federal law called ANILCA. Our constitution says all Alaskans are equally entitled to fish and game resources. The federal law required that a preference be given to people in rural areas.

1) Do you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment treating "rural" subsistence users differently than "urban?"

Favor 42% Oppose 51% Undecided 7%

2) Do you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment establishing a rural subsistence priority in times of shortage?

Favor 61% Oppose 31% Undecided 8%

3) Do you favor or oppose changing federal law (ANILCA) to agree with Alaska's Constitution rather than changing our Constitution to accommodate federal law?

Favor 57% Oppose 34% Undecided 9%

4) Snowmachines

Do you favor or oppose amending the Municipality of Anchorage's Charter to allow certain off-highway vehicles, primarily snowmachines, to operate within certain designated areas of the Municipality?

Favor 48% Oppose 47% Undecided 5%

5) Transfer of Alaska Railroad to Alaskan residents:

Presently, the state owns the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) which is not accountable to the legislature, the executive branch nor the public who are its theoretical owners.

Do you favor a proposal for the state to issue one share of sellable, voting stock in the ARRC to each Alaskan resident?

Favor 64% Oppose 28% Undecided 8%

6) Property Taxes

It appears there are sufficient signatures on the initiative petition to cap municipal property tax at 10 mills for a statewide vote on the November 2000 ballot. The average mil rate within the Municipality of Anchorage is 17.82 mills, which includes debt service of 3.19 mills. For 1999, the Municipality of Anchorage property tax total is \$259 million. If the initiative passes, the Municipality property tax would be reduced 31.6% or approximately \$82 million.

Do you favor or oppose the initiative petition capping municipal property taxes at 10 mills of the assessed property value?

Favor 60% Oppose 35% Undecided 5%

7) Moving the Legislature

Do you favor or oppose moving the legislative session to Anchorage instead of Juneau?

Favor 76% Oppose 19% Undecided 5%

8) What would you say is the most important issue facing Alaska and/or our district? How would you address this issue? _____

I. Reductions – State General Fund Budget

Do you favor or oppose reductions in the budgets of the following programs?:

a) Core State Government Functions

Favor 57% Oppose 38% Undecided 5%

b) Local Schools

Favor 34% Oppose 62% Undecided 4%

c) Grants/Formula Programs

Favor 59% Oppose 33% Undecided 8%

d) The University of Alaska

Favor 38% Oppose 56% Undecided 6%

e) Foreign Trade Offices

Favor 67% Oppose 22% Undecided 11%

f) Local Government Assistance

Favor 51% Oppose 42% Undecided 8%

g) State Funds used to match Federal Funds

Favor 32% Oppose 60% Undecided 8%

II. Sale of State Financial Assets

a) To help close the fiscal gap on a short-term basis, do you favor or oppose privatizing Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) and selling it for approximately \$1.8 billion?

Favor 52% Oppose 39% Undecided 9%

b) To help close the fiscal gap on a short-term basis, do you favor or oppose privatizing Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority (AIDEA) and selling it for approximately \$847 million?

Favor 63% Oppose 28% Undecided 10%

III. Use of Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve after Paying Permanent Fund Dividend and Inflation-Proofing the Permanent Fund

a) Do you favor or oppose using a portion of Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve to close the fiscal gap on a long-term basis?

Favor 39% Oppose 58% Undecided 4%

b) Do you favor or oppose using 20% (\$513 million) of Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve to close the fiscal gap on a long-term basis?

Favor 35% Oppose 59% Undecided 6%

c) Do you favor or oppose using 33% (\$846 million) of Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve to close the fiscal gap on a long-term basis?

Favor 14% Oppose 80% Undecided 7%

IV. New or Increased Taxes

a) Do you favor or oppose a State Income tax at 4.22% of Federal Taxable Income?

Favor 25% Oppose 71% Undecided 4%

b) Do you favor or oppose a Statewide 4.75% Sales Tax?

Favor 37% Oppose 57% Undecided 6%

c) Do you favor or oppose an increase in the Royalty Rate on the Oil Industry?

Favor 61% Oppose 33% Undecided 6%

d) Do you favor or oppose an increase in the Oil Severance Tax on the Oil Industry?

Favor 58% Oppose 32% Undecided 10%

e) Do you favor or oppose an increase in the Corporate Income Tax on the Oil Industry?

Favor 57% Oppose 36% Undecided 7%

f) Do you favor or oppose an increase in the Property Tax on the Oil Industry?

Favor 53% Oppose 38% Undecided 9%

g) Do you favor or oppose an increase in the Motor Fuel Tax?

Favor 26% Oppose 69% Undecided 5%

h) Do you favor or oppose a Statewide \$100 Individual Employment School Tax?

Favor 29% Oppose 63% Undecided 8%

V. Use of Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBRF) with \$2.3 billion remaining

a) Do you favor or oppose using CBRF to balance the state budget until CBRF is depleted?

Favor 38% Oppose 56% Undecided 6%

VI. State Budget Options: Please check up to TWO options

Indicate the letters of your first, second and third choices for closing the fiscal gap below:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
a) Reduce State General Fund Budget	55%	14%	10%
b) New or Increase Taxes	20%	20%	14%
c) Sale of Financial Assets	12%	36%	24%
d) Use of Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve	8%	20%	17%
e) Use of Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBRF)	11%	26%	36%