



## How to Run for Local Office

A Workshop Offered by the Juneau League of Women Voters,  
City & Borough of Juneau, and *Juneau Votes!*

Saturday, July 18, 2020  
9 am – 1:30 pm  
Virtual Workshop on Zoom



**League of Women Voters<sup>®</sup>  
of Juneau**

In Cooperation with the City and Borough of Juneau, the Juneau School District,  
the Alaska Division of Elections and the Alaska Public Offices Commission

# How to Run for Local Office Tool Kit

## INTRODUCTION

You **can** make a difference in our community! And it's not that hard.... Or, to put it another way, "Many hands make light work."

The City Borough of Juneau is one of only four unified home-rule boroughs (consolidated city/county functions) in the state of Alaska. As such it has a great deal of local control and autonomy. All who live here depend on engaged citizens - dedicated and competent community leaders –who are willing to step forward and serve either in elective office or on one or more of Juneau's 30 appointed public bodies.<sup>1</sup>

Whatever the office, our public institutions are stronger when voters have a choice of candidates to represent them. Democracy works only when enough citizens have the courage and determination to run for, and hold, public office.

Regardless of whether you are thinking about running for election this year, or perhaps at some unspecified time in the future, this Tool Kit provides information for the reader about how to get elected as well as more about what it takes to carry out the responsibilities of holding elective office.

Those elected to the Juneau Assembly and School Board are expected to apply their skills and talents in finding positive ways to address a broad range of complex community problems. Appointees to other bodies are likewise expected to apply their skills and talents in finding positive ways to resolve problems on specific issues.

All elected and some appointed positions require a significant commitment of volunteer time and energy. Thus, it is desirable to have in waiting a pool of individuals who are willing to step up and carry the load when incumbents need to take a break or move on to other things.

As everyone who has been there will tell you, there is nothing more rewarding than public service. Knowing how your government works, and helping to make it work better, is satisfying work indeed.

As preparation for running, or for those who want to serve but just not in elective office, serving on one of Juneau's appointed Boards and Commissions may be satisfying work for you.

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<sup>1</sup> These appointed bodies include:

- Enterprise Boards
- Advisory Boards/Commissions/Ad Hoc Committees
- Appeal Boards

**“How to Run for Local Office” Workshop**  
**July 18, 2020**  
**Panelist Biographies**

**Judith Mitchell** and **Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs** are co-presidents of the League of Women Voters Juneau. Judith will be hosting the Zoom session for this virtual webinar. Kirsa will host the webinar on behalf of the League. Judith has lived in Alaska (Juneau and Anchorage) for almost 40 years, retired from Deloitte as an IT Director, served time at the State of Alaska in IT, and is now a grateful grandmother and proud LWVJ member. Kirsa moved here in 2004 to attend UAS; loves voting, easy hikes, and dogs

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**Robert Barr** has worked for a wide variety of libraries over the past 16 years. He currently serves as the Library Director for the CBJ, overseeing Juneau's three public libraries and City Museum and the services they provide. Robert believes in the power of libraries and museums to educate, inform, entertain, and provide historical perspective for the people who live in the communities they serve. Robert holds a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri - Columbia, and a Bachelor's in Psychology from William Jewell College.

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**Kristin Bartlett** is the Chief of Staff of the Juneau School District. She is a third generation Juneauite and graduate of Juneau-Douglas High School. She studied art, languages and international business in pursuit of her degree in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Bartlett has spent her career working in field of marketing, public relations, advertising and lobbying in Alaska, California, and Australia. She has been with the Juneau School District since 2008, where she works closely with the Board of Education and Superintendent's Cabinet on policies and regulations, emergency preparedness and school safety, community outreach, and communications.

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**Ashley Beedle** is a CPA who has worked with the accounting firm Elgee Rehfeld, LLC since 2003. She is an experienced accountant who has received extensive training in a broad range of topics. Ashley has worked with multiple municipal and state candidates to ensure accuracy with their financial reporting and compliance with state rules and regulations during their campaigns.

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**Wade Bryson** is a 26-year resident of Juneau. He is married to Christine and raised 5 children through every level of JSD and one graduate of UAS. He has owned Subway of Juneau for 18 years, hosted Problem Corner for 11 years, and is now in the first year of his first full term on the Assembly. He enjoys any activity that allows him time with his children. Mountain biking and frisbee golf are their favorites. His young adult years were spent in the tourism industry and most summers he helped train raft guides for ATA. Last year he published his book.

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**Diane ‘Di’ Cathcart** has worked for CBJ since 2001 beginning in the Parks & Recreation Department before moving to the City Manager’s Office as the Executive Assistant to the City Manager and Mayor. Di took a two year break from CBJ to take care of family in the Midwest. In June 2018, with Laurie Sica retiring and Beth McEwen moving into the Municipal Clerk position there was an opening in the Municipal Clerk’s Office. Di was very happy to take the position of Deputy Municipal Clerk and return to Juneau with her family. When not busy helping Beth keep everything running smoothly in the Clerk’s Office you can find Di on the trails harvesting the bounty of wild edibles with her husband, son and their Newfoundland, Nellie.

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**Beth McEwen** is the Municipal Clerk for the City Borough of Juneau. She has worked with CBJ since 1997 and served as Deputy Clerk from 2000-2018. Beth received her Certified Municipal Clerk designation in 2004 and her and Master Municipal Clerk certification in 2012. She is an active member of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks and the International Association of Municipal Clerks and in 2015 she was awarded the Alaska Municipal League Municipal Employee of the Year. Beth and her family have lived in Juneau for the past 43 years and she graduated from JDHS and UAS and has raised her sons and is now the proud grandmother of a six-year-old grandson. She is an active member of the Douglas Community Methodist Church and a member of the Eagle River Methodist Camp Board of Directors. Beth is a dedicated civil servant and “government geek” and has a passion for democracy in action. She has been known to declare Elections as the “Fun part of the job!”

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**Jim Powell** is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) where he conducts research and teaches natural resource policy, sustainability, and local government. Jim’s interest in local governance led him to run for public office and consequently served three terms on the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), Assembly including Deputy Mayor. Prior to his appointment to UAS in 2013, Jim spent nearly 40 years in Alaska managing environmental and natural resource programs at the Departments of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Conservation holding several positions including Special Assistant to the Commissioner, a Division Director, and managed the Water Quality Standards Program. Currently, he conducts research on COVID 19 impacts to Juneau and SE Alaska. He also studies several Arctic communities on adaptive capacity, and measuring socio-economic impacts around climate change. Jim’s publications include technical, academic articles, and book chapters on adaptive governance including the Kenai fisheries, food security and sustainability in Fairbanks, and sustainability planning in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories. Jim currently serves on the CBJ’s Sustainability Commission.

Jim received his PhD in Natural Resources and Sustainability from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He earned an MPA at UAS, and a BA in Environmental Studies from Eisenhower College. Jim balances his teaching and research with serving on nonprofit boards and consults with local communities on environmental issues and sustainability planning. Jim has been a Juneau resident for more than 35 years and married to Beth Kerttula.

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**Sally Saddler** is a retired economist who spent 35 years in the world of community & economic development, education, and workforce development in Alaska. She believes in empowering people to change the world through education, and is excited to work with the League of Women Voters to help

people learn about and participate in their government. She is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Juneau, sits on the boards Big Brothers/Big sisters of Alaska, Renewable Juneau and Alaska Heat Smart. She has served two terms on the Juneau Board of Education (4 years as president) and hold a BA in Economics from The George Washington University.

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**Laury Roberts Scandling** was born and raised in Alaska and has lived in Haines, Kodiak, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. She moved to Juneau in 1978 after college to work in radio and television. She served as Assistant Press Secretary and then Director of Constituent Relations for Governor Steve Cowper in the late 80s. In mid-life she became a high school teacher of English and History in alternative programs and finished her 20-year career in the Juneau School District in 2012 as assistant superintendent. Laury has been interested in and active in politics since her teens, including working for the late Senator Ted Stevens in Washington, DC, in the mid-70s. She managed her first campaign in 1986 and since then, has volunteered in various management roles in a half-dozen other campaigns. She has been a League of Women Voters member 30 years and is a past president of the Juneau LWV.

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**Laurie Sica** worked more than 30 years in local government before retiring in 2018. In Skagway she worked at the city's visitor center, the library, the recreation center and in the Clerk's Office. In Juneau, she worked for Community Development as the Code Compliance officer, then 18 years as Municipal Clerk and Election Official. She was honored by her fellow clerks statewide as Alaska's Clerk of the Year in 2011 and served as the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks President in 2016. Laurie is currently the President of the non-profit group, Litter Free, and helps the League of Women Voters with special projects such as this workshop.

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**Elizabeth (Ebett) Siddon** grew up in Hanover, NH before moving to Pittsburgh, PA for high school. She attended the University of New Hampshire for her undergraduate degree (in Marine and Freshwater Biology) and moved to Juneau in 2002 to begin a Masters in Fisheries program at UAF's College of Fisheries. She studied nearshore kelp ecology and spent a lot of time SCUBA diving in the Juneau area. After receiving her Masters, she worked for NOAA as a scientific editor while also teaching as an adjunct at the University of Alaska Southeast. In 2008 she started a doctoral program at UAF's College of Fisheries conducting research on walleye pollock in the Bering Sea and graduated in 2013. She currently works for NOAA where she leads research in the Bering Sea and produces the Eastern Bering Sea Ecosystem Status Report. Each summer, she teaches an undergraduate course at the Shoals Marine Laboratory off the coast of Maine. She has one child, Luke, a student in the Juneau school system, and she was active in school organizations before being elected to the School Board in 2018. She serves as the Vice President of the Board this year.

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**Rob Steedle** worked for the City and Borough of Juneau for 25 years before retiring in 2018. He served in multiple positions, including Management Information Systems Director, Deputy City Manager, and Community Development Director. He believes that one of the reasons that Juneau is a healthy and vibrant community is because so many are willing to serve their fellow residents. Thank you for considering running for elected office.

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**Mayor Beth Weldon's** roots are deep and strong in the Capital City. She is a lifelong Juneau resident, and fourth-generation Douglasite on her mother's side. Beth is a graduate of Juneau-Douglas High School and the University of Washington where she received a BS in Fisheries. For seven years she owned and operated the gillnetter F/V Seven C's. She started with Capital City Fire/Rescue as a volunteer in Douglas and became part of the paid staff in 1992. She was the first female officer in the department and retired as a division chief. During her career, she received seven awards for service. Mayor Weldon served two years on the Juneau Assembly prior to being elected mayor. She and her husband, Greg, co-own Capitol Motor Supply/Glacier Auto Parts. They are the proud parents of two very active teenagers. Beth enjoys reading, watching her children's activities, hiking Juneau's trails with her lab, Chloe, as well as boating and other outdoor activities on the Taku River.

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**Dr. Bridget Weiss**, is the Superintendent of the Juneau School District. After graduating high school in Juneau, Bridget graduated from Whitworth University in 1984, with a Bachelors in Mathematics, a Minor in Physical Education and a secondary teaching certificate. Following graduation, she spent the next 26 years in Spokane as a high school math teacher, coach, high school assistant principal, elementary principal, Executive Director of Instructional Programs and Superintendent. Once back in Alaska, Bridget spent four years as principal of North Pole High School and four years as Director of Student Services at the Juneau School District. She started this year as the Interim Superintendent and was hired for the position permanently in January. Bridget attained her Masters in Mathematics from Eastern Washington University and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Washington State University. Her work has been in districts as small as 1,800 and as large as 29,000 students. Bridget is completing her 35th year in education.

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**Lisa X'unyél Worl** is the STEPS Partnership Coordinator, Association of Alaska School Boards. Lisa supports work around Family Engagement, Cultural Integration and Trauma Informed Schools practices in schools and communities. She's worked as Alaska State legislative staffer and spent 16 years in public education including four years serving on the Juneau School Board. On the board, Lisa initially focused on student retention and graduation but then recognized how equity policies and programs inherently impact all areas from student learning to graduation. Lisa attended school in Juneau and graduated from Juneau Douglas Yadaa.at Kalé High School and received a Bachelors of Science Business Administration from the University of Oregon. Her two adult children also attended and graduated from Juneau School District before attending college.

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**Calvin Zeulow** has experience working on campaigns, is a production assistant at KTOO and studies at the University of Alaska Southeast. He has worked as an assistant stage manager at Perseverance Theatre and as a page and intern in the Alaska State Legislature. There are a lot more interesting things to know about Calvin, but this bio was cobbled together by someone who hasn't met Calvin yet and found this information on the internet!