

# 2020 Official Candidate Statement

## City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska

### Brian Holst

#### Candidate: School Board Member



<b>Name:</b>	Brian Holst
<b>Office Sought:</b>	School Board Member
<b>Residence &amp; Mailing Address:</b>	2000 Glacier Ave., Juneau, AK 99801
<b>Email Address:</b>	briangholst@hotmail.com
<b>Age:</b>	53
<b>Occupation:</b>	Executive Director, Juneau Economic Development Council
<b>Spouse's Name:</b>	Estela
<b>Children's Names:</b>	Brian, Jasmin, Samuel, and Martin
<b>Place of Birth:</b>	New York
<b>Length of Residency in Juneau:</b>	42 years, with time outside for school and work overseas.
<b>Communities lived in &amp; dates of residency:</b>	US Coast Guard family that lived in New York, Newfoundland (Canada), Virginia, and New Jersey before coming to Juneau, Alaska at age 11. Attended the University of Notre Dame in Indiana (1984-88). After college, I lived and worked outside the US mostly in Asuncion, Paraguay (1988-93); San Salvador, El Salvador (1995-2001) and Belgrade, Serbia (2001-08), but also spent extended periods in Costa Rica (1994) and Russia (1992 and 1994). Moved back to Juneau in 2008.

**Education:**

Juneau-Douglas High School (1984)  
University of Notre Dame—Politics, Philosophy and Economics (1988)  
Mendoza School of Business at the University of Notre Dame—Executive Certificate in Leadership and Management (2008)

**Political and Government Positions:**

Juneau Board of Education, 2014 to present. President 2015-present.  
Alaska State Committee on Research, 2016-present.  
University of Alaska Southeast Campus Council, 2016-present.  
UAF Alaska Center for Energy and Power, 2011-present.  
Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council, 2012-present.  
Juneau Fisheries Development Committee, 2009-2014.  
Juneau School District Budget Committee, 2011-2014.  
Juneau School District Graduation Requirements Task Force, 2010-2011.

**Business and Professional Positions:**

Executive Director, Juneau Economic Development Council, 2008-present.  
Board Member, Alaska Partnership for Economic Development, 2010-2013.  
Country Director, Serbia, 2001-2007. Economic transition program involving 1,000 projects in 30+ municipalities.  
Country Director, El Salvador, 1995-2001. Housing, urban development, disaster mitigation, and recovery. Ran micro-finance organization. Consulted financial institutions throughout Latin America.  
International Consulting (intermittent 1993 to present).

**Service Organization Memberships:**

Juneau Gastineau Rotary Club, 2008-present  
Alaska Committee, 2008-present  
Juneau Junior Achievement Committee, 2008-present  
Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coach, 2008-2019.  
Board Chair, International School of Belgrade (Serbia), 2005-2007.  
US Peace Corps Volunteer, 1988-92.

**Special Interests:**

I especially enjoy cycling and soccer, and any activities my kids engage in. We enjoy traveling to new places.

**Other appropriate information:**

Any Given Child Steering Committee, 2013-present,  
integrating Arts Education in our schools.  
Juneau STEM Coalition founding member, 2016-present  
Fluent in Spanish

**Biographical Information** *[limited to 150 words or less.]:*

Our family chooses to live in Juneau. I came to Juneau in 1978 with Coast Guard/Dance Teacher parents and my three siblings. I attended Marie Drake and JDHS. I studied at the University of Notre Dame and then served for three years in the US Peace Corps in South America. Later, I opened a small business in Asuncion, Paraguay, and married Estela. We then embarked on a 15+ year adventure working in developing countries, including El Salvador (and most of Central America), Russia, and former Yugoslavia (now Serbia), managing community and economic development programs. We chose to return to Juneau in 2008 with our four children. Since 2008, I serve as the Executive Director of the Juneau Economic Development Council. Our family engages in many community activities. I am active in local and state civic events and organizations and have a keen interest in foreign affairs and the economy.

**Position Statement** *[limited to 250 words or less.]:*

The future of Juneau and Juneau's youth, depends on having great schools committed to constant improvement. Let's continue to leverage strong community support for our schools to better meet the needs of students.

My interest in strengthening our schools is rooted in economics: high quality education is the foundation for a vibrant economy. Education must be an equalizer of opportunity. Economies are for and about people. And for people to be able to participate fully in the economy and be in a position to take good care of themselves, their families, and our community, we need schools to provide essential knowledge and skills, and prepare our students to adapt to a changing world.

I have seen real, positive change in my first two terms: more students are completing school, fewer minorities are dropping out, students are better prepared for postsecondary education, and, as a community, we are making important investments in early education and understanding better the rich contributions diversity brings. There is still much to do!

The Board adopted a new Strategic Plan and named Achievement, Relationships, Partnerships and Equity as the pillars of our work going forward. COVID19 is disrupting our lives and making the delivery of high quality education an even bigger challenge. Through this pandemic, we need to keep our sights on our mission: *In Juneau, we partner to provide each student with meaningful, relevant, and rigorous learning experiences in order to graduate diverse, engaged citizens ready for a changing world.*

Please Vote on October 6.