

2020 Official Candidate Statement
City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska
Derek R. Dzinich
Candidate: District 2 Assemblymember



Name: Derek R. Dzinich

Office Sought: District #2 Assemblymember

Residence & Mailing Address: 4501 Dredge Lake Road, Juneau, AK 99801

Email Address: ddzinich@gmail.com

Website: www.dzinich.com

Age: 22

Occupation: Civil Clerk, Juneau Trial Courts

Place of Birth: Juneau, AK

Length of Residency in Juneau: 22 years

Communities lived in & dates of residency: Juneau, 12/5/1997-present

Education: Juneau-Douglas High School
Elon University

Political and Government Positions: Student body president, Juneau-Douglas High School
School board student representative

Business and Professional Positions: Journalist, Balkan Insight
Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow

Special Interests: Piano, music history, hiking/outdoor activities, Spanish literature, language learning, sailing

Other appropriate information: Spanish speaking

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

Derek is a lifetime Juneau resident who is deeply passionate about this unique and amazing community. From a family of teachers, engineers, and public servants, Derek grew up with a number of positive examples of local community engagement, and wants to do his part to continue in their footsteps. Derek attended Juneau-Douglas High School where he was involved in a number of student organizations and served as student body president. After graduating in 2016, Derek recently completed a bachelor of arts degree in political science and international relations, graduating cum laude from Elon University in North Carolina, where he was an Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow. Now, having returned to Juneau, Derek is excited to have the opportunity to participate in the public process and serve the community that made him who he is today.

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

As Juneau faces difficult and uncertain times, our community must work together to secure a prosperous future, both for itself and for future generations. Having spent almost his entire life in Juneau, Derek is extremely familiar with Juneau, the people that live here, and the issues that Alaska's capital city faces. Additionally, as a District 2 representative, Derek is well equipped to serve and liaise between the residents of the district and the Assembly. With a minor in Spanish, Derek is able to communicate with the public, even if they do not speak English, widening the number he is able to serve.

First and foremost, Juneau must do all it can to safely navigate the unprecedented circumstances created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While securing our short-term safety must be our primary concern, we can use this opportunity to make changes which have lasting impacts. Toward this end, Derek believes in the necessity of economic diversification, a balanced tourism industry, updating Juneau's technological capability, attracting and retaining skilled labor, and protecting Juneau's pristine environment. In pursuing these goals, Derek also believes that it is vitally important to ensure that the positive impacts of these steps benefit all Juneauites, uplifting minority voices that have historically been excluded. Together we must begin to think bigger for Juneau, and steps such as these represent only the beginning of what can be expected from this young, innovative, and authentic campaign.