

**2020 Official Candidate Statement**  
**City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska**  
**Martin Stepetin Sr.**  
**Candidate: School Board Member**



**Name:** Martin Stepetin Sr.

**Office Sought:** School Board Member

**Residence & Mailing Address:** 3333 Nowell Ave. Apt. 105, Juneau, AK 99801

**Email Address:** [mstepetin@hotmail.com](mailto:mstepetin@hotmail.com)

**Occupation:** Catering and Courier Driver

**Spouse's Name:** Ann Stepetin

**Children's Names:** Bryson, Edith, Martin Jr., Kaiya

**Place of Birth:** Anchorage

**Length of Residency in Juneau:** 9 years

**Communities lived in & dates of residency:** St. Paul Island, AK 1986-2005 and 2009-2010, Palmer, AK 2006-2007, Anchorage, AK 2007-2009, and Juneau, AK 2011 to present.

**Education:** High School Diploma. Trade School for Carpentry at Alaska Job Corps.

**Business and Professional Positions:** Property owner and manager

**Service Organization Memberships:** Board member on Friends of Admiralty Island

**Special Interests:**

Advocacy for education and recognition of WWII Unangax Internment Camps and cemetery protection for those sites.

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

My name is Martin Stepetin Sr. I am Unangax or Aleut from St. Paul Island Alaska. I have been living in Juneau since 2011 with my wife Ann Stepetin, who is originally from Angoon. We have four kids: Bryson, Edith, Martin Jr. and Kaiya.

I grew up on St. Paul Island. From a young age, I started working in the local subsistence seal harvest as a watch boy and later moved to the local halibut fishery. First as a halibut gear baiter and eventually as a deckhand on halibut long liners. After high school, I continued my education at Job Corps where I studied carpentry. I was immediately hired as laborer on the North Slope. Since then I went back to the fishing industry for a short while before moving to Juneau.

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

I am running for the Juneau School Board because I want Juneau Schools to work for everybody. This year, perhaps more than ever, making our schools work for everybody just might be the most difficult issue facing our community and the School Board. For me, accommodating everyone is the most important issue. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought forth many changes, including distance learning for everybody. Is distance learning the safest? I believe so. Does distance learning work for everybody? Definitely not. It poses great challenges for single parents who work full time and for families with both parents who are essential workers and must leave the home to work. Most importantly, distance learning is nearly impossible for many of our students on IEP's or those that live with disorders such as ADHD, ADD, and Autism, to name a few. These circumstances must be accounted for in the complex distance learning program. If it does not work for everybody, then there is unfinished work. If elected, I will be following these issues closely and advocated for those students and families who felt left out of the process. Safety first and making the most of this new reality are high priorities for me. As we move forward with this school year and settle in, I want to learn the school district budget. If elected, I want to focus on keeping everything as aligned to the mission of the school district and the five year strategic plan as possible.