

**2021 Official Candidate Statement**  
**City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska**  
**Barbara Blake**  
**Candidate: Assemblymember District 1**



**Name:** Barbara Blake

**Office Sought:** Assemblymember District 1

**Residence Address:** 2370 Ka See An Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 211105, Auke Bay, AK 99821

**Email Address:** [blake4alaska@gmail.com](mailto:blake4alaska@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.blake4alaska.com](http://www.blake4alaska.com)

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Alaska Native Policy Center Director

**Spouse's Name:** Brian Fell

**Children's Names:** Nathaniel Blake

**Place of Birth:** Anchorage, AK

**Length of Residency in Juneau:** 7 years

**Communities lived in & dates of residency:** Fairbanks, AK (2012-2014)  
Washington, DC (2010-2012)  
Fairbanks, AK (2008-2010)  
Juneau, AK (2006-2008)

**Education:** MA, Rural Development; BA, Rural Development; AAS, Tribal Management; Certificates: Stanford University, First Nations Futures/Seattle University, Tribal Business Law/Onaben, Indianpreneurship

**Military Service:** None.

**Political and Government Positions:** Staffer, Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon; Director Native Affairs and Fish & Game Staffer, Governor Bill Walker/Lt. Governor Byron Mallott; Governmental Affairs, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; Program Assistant, Office of Tribal Relations, USDA Office of the Secretary; Staffer, Senator Albert Kookesh

**Business and Professional Positions:** Owner/Lead Consultant, Huuyee tlaayd 'La'aaygaas, LLC; Board Member, Sealaska Corporation; Assistant Professor, UAF; Vice-President, Northern Building Supplies, Inc.

**Service Organization Memberships:** Recently resigned board membership: Defend Alaska (Chair); Progress Alaska

**Special Interests:** Fishing, berry picking, hiking, canoeing

**Other appropriate information:** Haida, Tlingit, and Ahtna Athabaskan with roots in Alaska and Southeast that stretch back over 10,000 years.

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

Barbara 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak Blake is of Haida, Tlingit and Ahtna Athabaskan descent and belongs to the Káat nay-st/YahkwJáanaas Clan. She is the mother to two amazing kids. She currently serves as the Director of the Alaska Native Policy Center with First Alaskans Institute and as an elected board member for Sealaska Corporation. She received her MA from UAF in Rural Development focusing on Fisheries Development in Rural Alaska and her BA in Rural Economic Development.

'Wáahlaal Gíidaak formerly served as Director of Native Relations and fish/game staffer for Governor Walker and Lt. Governor Mallott.; staffer for House Speaker Edgmon; Government Affairs Liaison for Tlingit and Haida; Assistant Professor for the UAF; Technical Assistant Specialist for Intertribal Agriculture Council; Program Assistant in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Office of Tribal Relations. She is a member of the Woosh.ji.een Dancers, Xaadaas DagwiiDancers, and the Polynesian Voyage Society.

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

My family and I are so blessed to call DZantik'i Heeni(Juneau) home. DZantik'i Heeni is a stronghold of incredible diversity and a vibrant community. Our representation should reflect care for this land and all the people who now call it home.

From DC to Juneau, I've worked to uplift the needs of Alaska and its citizens. I've been a teacher, political appointee, and advocate. As an Alaska Native woman I understand the importance of diversity and representation; that we need to see healthy communities, identity intersections, and segments of our community so we can all rise and thrive together. My policy platform, which I learned from a mentor, exemplifies this:

*Diverse challenges require diverse solutions.*

- **Economic Development:** The fragility of Juneau's economy was highlighted during the current pandemic, especially on tourism. We must work with all leaders across our diverse communities to diversify our economy. Collaboration and strategic focus will strengthen our position.
- **Housing** - Our limited housing strains our quality of life. We must be willing to explore community-led innovations to really find what works.
- **Diversity, Equity, Justice** - Balance in representation is critical. Juneau prides itself on celebrating the diversity of people and our beautiful place, we need to implement and achieve this - let's walk our talk.

My role on the Assembly will provide a voice, unique insights, and a missing perspective across communities, generations, and identities. We need to harness the strength of our diversity and put it to work. I stand ready to serve.