



How to Run for Local Office

A workshop offered by the Juneau League of Women Voters,
City & Borough of Juneau, and Friends of the Juneau Public Library

Saturday, June 24, 2023

8:45 am – 1:30 pm

City Assembly Offices



With content and contributions from the City and Borough of Juneau, the Juneau School District, the Alaska Division of Elections, Association of Alaska School Boards, and the Alaska Public Offices Commission

“How to Run for Local Office” Workshop
June 24, 2023, 8:45 am – 1:30 pm
Workshop Agenda

8:45 am	Welcome and Housekeeping	Sarah Moore, President, LWVJ Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk, CBJ
9:00 am	The Jobs of Assembly and School Board Members	Kristin Bartlett, Moderator, JSD Mila Cosgrove, Former Deputy City Manager, CBJ Deedie Sorenson, President, Board of Education, JSD Mayor Beth Weldon, Assembly, CBJ
10:00 am	Campaign Basics	Sally Smith, Moderator, LWVJ Sara Chambers, Former Assembly Member, CBJ Ebett Siddon, School Board Member, JSD Loren Jones, Campaign Manager and Former Assembly Member
11:00	Break	
11:10 am	Candidate Legal Requirements	Linda Thomas, Moderator, LWVJ Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk, CBJ Andi Hirsh, Deputy Municipal Clerk, CBJ Jim Wilson, Former Campaign Treasurer
12:10 pm	Preparing to Run for Local Office	Sally Saddler, Moderator, LWVJ Wade Bryson, Assembly Member, CBJ Will Muldoon, School Board Member, JSD Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk, CBJ Andi Hirsh, Deputy Municipal Clerk, CBJ
1:00 pm	Voting Process	Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk, CBJ
1:20 pm	Wrap Up and Evaluation	Sarah Moore, President, LWVJ
1:30 pm	Adjourn	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE – AGENDA.....	3
HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE – INTRODUCTION	7
WORKSHOP PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES.....	8
RUN FOR OFFICE? (SEATS AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER 3, 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION).....	13
HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE –THE JOB.....	15
CURRENT ASSEMBLY AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS	17
OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS – CBJ ORG CHART	18
A CITIZEN’S GUIDE TO THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU GOVERNMENT	20
<i>Stipends for Boards and Commissions</i>	27
CBJ ASSEMBLY CALENDAR	28
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS	30
ASSEMBLY GOALS	31
A RESOLUTION REPEALING AND REESTABLISHING THE ASSEMBLY RULES OF PROCEDURES.....	34
CBJ LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	49
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CALENDAR	81
JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.....	82
JSD STRATEGIC PLAN	83
LINKS TO HELPFUL DOCUMENTS.....	87
HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE – LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	89
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.....	91
QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE.....	92
<i>Eligibility</i>	92
<i>Nomination-Petitions</i>	93
<i>Public Official Financial Disclosure and Campaign Disclosure Information</i>	93
<i>Alaska Public Offices Commission</i>	94
<i>Write-In Candidates</i>	94
<i>Withdrawal from Candidacy</i>	95
QUICK REFERENCE DATES – OCTOBER 3, 2023 REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION	96
CBJ ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS	98
ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION – CANDIDATE REPORTING DATES	100
ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION – MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.....	101
ALASKA CAMPAIGN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITS	104
ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION – COMMON ERRORS THAT WILL CAUSE YOUR REPORTS TO BE RETURNED.....	105
ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION – REMINDERS OR TREASURES AND DEPUTY TREASURERS.....	106
HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE – CAMPAIGN BASICS	109
COMMON CAMPAIGN PITFALLS.....	111
POLITICAL SIGNS AND THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU SIGN ORDINANCE.....	112
TYPICAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS/JOB DESCRIPTIONS	113
GUIDE TO RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN – COMPILED BY LINDA ROGERS.....	117
HOW TO USE FACEBOOK LIVE – BRANDY SHAUL	129
WHAT EVERY CAMPAIGN STAFFER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CYBERSECURITY	130
CYBER SECURITY PLAYBOOK SUMMARY.....	132
SPEAK YOUR PEACE – THE CIVILITY PROJECT.....	134
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS ELECTION RESOURCES	136
LINKS TO HELPFUL DOCUMENTS.....	138
BIBLIOGRAPHY	139

HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE – PREPARING TO RUN.....	141
AASB – RECRUITING NEW BOARD MEMBERS	143
AASB- A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES IN ALASKA.....	146
RUNNING FOR OFFICE – ARE YOU READY? - 9 NINE IN 15	148
SELF-ASSESSMENT – NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE.....	150
CBJ BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & TASKS FORCES	154

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 municipalities (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 –being willing to step forward and serve either in elective office or on one or more of Juneau's 30+ appointed public bodies¹:

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 Board of Education (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.

¹ These appointed bodies include:

- Enterprise Boards
- Hybrid Board/Commissions
- Advisory Boards/Commissions/Ad Hoc Committees
- Appeal Boards (Quasi-Judicial bodies)

“How to Run for Local Office” Workshop
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Panelist Biographies
(in order of appearance on panels)

Sarah Moore was born and raised in Juneau and enjoyed moving home after going to college Outside. She has been a Juneau League of Women Voters board member since 2020 and is currently serving a term as President. She works for the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in the field of oil spill prevention and response.

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 Master Municipal Clerk certification in 2012. She is an active member the International Association of Municipal Clerks , of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC), currently serving as the AAMC Education Director, and in 2015 she was awarded the Alaska Municipal League Municipal Employee of the Year. Beth and her family have lived in Juneau since 1975 and she graduated from JDHS and UAS and has raised her sons and is now the proud grandmother of a nine-year-old grandson. She is an active member of the Douglas Community Methodist Church and a life coach/meeting facilitator/business owner of “The Next Chapter.” 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!”

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: [Yadaa.at](https://www.yadaa.at) Kalé. 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 the 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.

Mila Cosgrove is the principal consultant for Workforce Solutions and the former Deputy City Manager for the City and Borough of Juneau, a position she held for 5 years prior to retiring. Prior to joining the Manager’s Office, Mila worked in the Human Resources field for 30 years. She was the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management at CBJ for 10 years and prior to that had various assignments for the State of Alaska including Director of Personnel, Deputy Director of Personnel, Management Services Managers, Workforce Planning and Development Manager, and Labor Relations Specialist. Mila also worked for the Alaska Public Employees Association as the Southeast Regional Manager and for Resource Planning Inc. as a Project Manager. She has a BA in Psychology from Naropa University.

Mila has served on the board of the Alaska Municipal Managers Association, the International Public Manager’s Association for Human Resources, the National Association of State Personnel Executives,

and the Luke Center for Catalytic Leadership. Mila served as the IPMA-HR International President in 2013 and helped develop their Executive Development program.

Deedie Sorensen is the President of the Juneau School District Board of Education. She is a retired elementary teacher who spent more than 35 years teaching in the Juneau schools. During her teaching career she was an active member of the Juneau Education Association where she spent many years as a member of the JEA Political Action Committee. As a result of her involvement in this committee, she developed an understanding of the integral relationship between the actions of the Alaska Legislature and the downstream impact of the Juneau School District's ability to deliver quality education experiences for Juneau's families. She also spent many years interviewing candidates for the Board of Education and CBJ Assembly. Her continued commitment to and advocacy for public education informed her decision to seek public office.

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. 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.

Sally Smith is a League of Women Voters Juneau member and on the planning team for this workshop. She was Mayor of Juneau and served 3 terms in the Alaska State House as a representative of Fairbanks. During her public service career, she worked for 5 governors and directed 2 state agencies to include the Division of Retirement and Benefits. Additionally, she served as Personnel Officer for the Legislative Affairs Agency. Sally holds a B.S. in Music Education and has taught in L.A. City Schools. Since her arrival in Alaska, she has developed varied curricula and taught for SERRC, UAF and UAS as well as for educational tours of Alaska. During 2019 Commencement Ceremonies, Sally was honored with a UAS Meritorious Service Award for community service. Active in the arts, she has worked with many local performing arts organizations and believes the arts offer a gateway to understanding. She also believes public service and elective office provide opportunities to contribute to the greater good through meaningful commitment to community cohesiveness and development. Whether workshop participants win or lose an election, she is excited to be a part of their engagement in the process.

Sara Chambers served on the Juneau Assembly from 2006-2009. She has experience running for U.S. Congress and managing campaigns for statewide office. Professionally, Sara has more than two decades of expertise working with non-profit and government organizations. She is currently the advisor to more than 30 appointed boards and commissions within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, training and consulting on policy governance and regulatory matters. Her family lives in the Mendenhall Valley and enjoys cheering for the Juneau Huskies Football team.

Elizabeth (Ebett) Siddon grew up in New Hampshire and attended the University of New Hampshire for her undergraduate degree (in Marine and Freshwater Biology). She moved to Juneau in 2002 where she since completed a Masters and PhD in Fisheries at UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. She is married to Chris, who works at ADF&G, and they have one son. Elizabeth works at NOAA Fisheries for the Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program. Her work, focused in the Bering Sea, connects ecosystem science to management. In 2019, Elizabeth was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering, the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government. Elizabeth is very committed to education and outreach here in Juneau and beyond. She co-founded SouthEast Exchange (SEE), a community partnership between local STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professionals and teachers in the Juneau School District. SEE helps bring place-based and hands-on science experiences into classrooms. She also co-teaches a summer field course at the Shoals Marine Laboratory (off the coast of Maine) called Integrated Ecosystem Research & Management. Elizabeth has been the statewide parent representative to the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (coordinating programs and services for children prenatal through age 8) since January 2017 and was elected to the Juneau School Board in 2018.

Loren Jones is a former Assembly Member, he moved to Juneau in Dec 1975 working for the City. He retired from State service in 2003. Worked mostly in Health and Social Services but did two years with Rep. Peter Goll and 4 years in Governor Cowper's OMB. He was Director of the then Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse 1990-1999 & 2002-2003. He staffed many boards when in State service and served as DHSS representative on the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Loren worked the Initiatives to restore Coastal Management Program, the Ranked Choice voting, and the recent campaign to vote No on Constitutional Convention. He served on the Hospital Board 1990-94 and again 2004-2010. Loren ran for Assembly in 2011 and lost; and ran for Assembly in 2012 and was elected; serving until 2021 when he finished the allowed 9 years on the Assembly. He currently serve on Family Promise Board, United Way Southeast Alaska Board (Chair) and am an active volunteer with the American Red Cross.

Andi Hirsh has worked for the City and Borough of Juneau for the last ten years; the first nine years as the Outreach and Senior Services Librarian for the Juneau Public Libraries before transitioning to the Deputy Municipal Clerk position in 2022, literally four days before the election. She's excited to see the process from start to finish this year. When not at work, Andi can generally be found outside, preferably on top of a mountain.

Linda Thomas is a lifelong Alaskan and on the Board of the Juneau League of Women Voters. Linda's professional career includes working at the Electrical Workers Pension Fund, as a CPA at an international accounting firm, and close to three decades at the Alaskan Brewing Company, where she currently is the CEO. Linda serves on the Northrim Bank Board and during her career served on several non-profit Boards including the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board and the Juneau Chamber of Commerce Board. Linda was a co-chair on the Economic Stabilization Task Force formed by CBJ in 2020 to assist with economic relief and allocation of resources during Covid. Linda recently joined the League of Women Voters to help promote voter information, voters rights and citizenship education. She would like to see more members of our community involved in the election process and leadership.

Diane 'Di' Cathcart has worked for CBJ since 2001 in various position. In June 2018, when Laurie Sica retired and Beth McEwen, moved into the Municipal Clerk position Di was happy to take the position of Deputy Municipal Clerk. Five years and one global pandemic later, it has been quite the career experience. When not busy helping everything run in the Clerk's Office, or working towards her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation, you can find Di on the trails harvesting the bounty of wild edibles with her husband, son and their Newfoundland, Nellie.

Jim (James R) Wilson was the campaign treasurer for Representative Andi Story, for her first two elections to the Alaska Legislature (2018 & 2020). He came to Alaska in 1975, worked for the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, retiring in 2013 after 37 years of service. He finished his career as an Economist, serving as Alaska's Unemployment Insurance Actuary. Now he's with a NPO, the Beaver Patrol, maintaining Dredge lake area waterways in co-operation with the US Forrest Service.

Sally Saddler is a retired economist who spent 35 years in the world of community and 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.

Wade Bryson is a 29-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 21 years, hosted Problem Corner for 14 years, and is in his fourth year 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.

Will Muldoon has served on the Juneau School District Board of Education since 2021. With the School Board, he serves on the Board's Facilities, Finance Committees and serves on the Sayeik: Gastineau Community School and Yaakoosge Daakahidi Alternative High School Site Councils and represents the School Board on the Juneau Workforce Consortium. He works for the State of Alaska as a data processor and a mainframe operator. He brings a passion for data analysis to the Board.

Run for Office?

Serving on the Assembly or Board of Education “School Board” is a noble contribution to your community, and one which comes with hours of work and little economic reward. You will hear about issues from your neighbors, friends, family and people on the street. You will be given hundreds of pages of information to read before meetings and sit in meetings that last hours and hours, only to be required to make tough decisions that may not be popular. Still interested? Then read on...

Your quest will start with the Municipal Clerk’s office. Clerk staff will provide you with the forms and information you need and can answer your questions.

Each year on the first Tuesday in October, a local municipal election is held in the City and Borough of Juneau to elect candidates and determine other questions on the ballot. The Assembly and School Board members serve for staggered three-year terms. Assemblymembers are limited to three terms. Term limits do not apply to members of the School Board.

The following lists are the current rosters, seats and terms for the Assembly and School Board. Expiring and/or open seats on the ballot in October 2023 are noted with an asterisk:

Assembly

<u>Seat</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term ends</u>	<u># of terms served</u>
Mayor	Beth Weldon	10/2024	(second term as Mayor)
Areawide Assembly	Maria Gladziszewski	10/2023*	(third term)
Areawide Assembly	Carole Triem	10/2025	(second term)
District 1 Assembly	Alicia Hughes-Skandijs	10/2023*	(first full term)
District 1 Assembly	‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak (Barbara Blake)	10/2024	(first term)
District 1 Assembly	Greg Smith	10/2025	(second term)
District 2 Assembly	Christine Woll	10/2023*	(first term)
District 2 Assembly	Michelle Bonnet Hale	10/2024	(second term)
District 2 Assembly	Wade Bryson	10/2025	(second term)

Board of Education (aka: School Board)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term ends</u>
Brian Holst	10/2023*
Martin Stepetin Sr.	10/2023*
Elizabeth Siddon	10/2024
Amber Frommherz	10/2024
Will Muldoon	10/2024
Deedie Sorensen	10/2025
Emil Mackey	10/2025

