

2023 Official Candidate Statement
City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska
Laura Martinson McDonnell
Candidate: Assembly Areawide



Name: Laura Martinson McDonnell

Office Sought: Assembly Areawide

Residence Address: 110 F Street Douglas, AK 99824

Mailing Address: PO Box 21094 Juneau, AK 99802

Email Address: lauraforjuneau@gmail.com

Website Address: www.lauraforassembly.com

Age at the date of Election: 39

Occupation: Small Business Owner

Spouse's Name: Kyle McDonnell

Children's Names: Olivia McDonnell

Place of Birth: Juneau, AK

Length of Residency in Juneau: 38 years

Communities lived in & dates of residency: Juneau, AK 1983-2002
Portland, OR 2002-2003
Juneau/Douglas, AK 2004-present

Education: JDHS Alumni Class of 2002
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - UAS 2009
Master of Business Administration - UAS 2013

Business and Professional Positions: Business management, operations, advocacy, and consulting. 2001 - Present.

Service Organization Memberships: Juneau Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Glacier Valley Rotary Club, Alaska Chamber Board of Directors. Served on the 2021 Economic Stabilization Task Force, as well as the Blueprint Downtown Committee.

Special Interests: Hiking, fishing, adventuring, and exploring in our magnificent backyard - Juneau, Alaska!

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

My roots here are deep, I have the unique experience of growing up in Juneau and experiencing all that CBJ has to offer first hand - from a small child in childcare (the childcare struggle was real even 40 years ago), to the JSD school system from kindergarten all the way to graduating as a proud crimson bear, to UAS - for both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration. Today I own a home, have been through the childcare struggle as a working parent, and have a daughter about to start first grade, two parents who refuse to retire but are set to "age" here in Juneau, and a grandfather in the Pioneer home. This lifetime of engagement in Juneau has fostered my commitment to my hometown, and a vested interest in the success of our community.

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

Advocating for the private sector economy in Juneau is not just a priority for me, it has been a passion of mine since before I graduated high school. As a small business owner, I appreciate first-hand the value the private sector provides for Juneau, and all of its citizens, regardless of where they live or work. With the creep of government jobs morphing to more of a steady outflow, the private sector is more important to our economy now than ever. My passion for Juneau's economic success is proven through years of committed engagement. We cannot foster a family rich community and the growth that demographic brings without a thriving economy and available housing to support them. Our senior population is also vital to the health of our economy, this is a demographic that must have the housing and services to keep them healthy and happy in Juneau.

I have a deeply vested interest in crafting a vision for the future of Juneau. Part of this vision is responsible capital investments to remain competitive and relevant as the Capital City, as well as a world class tourism destination. Another large part of this vision is a transparent and sustainable tax structure that meets the needs of our community without overburdening its citizens. A thriving economy, access to housing for every age and demographic, healthy and productive schools, an efficient government to serve the municipality, and robust recreational opportunities are all part of my long term goals for Juneau.