



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, May 11, 2024

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
May 11, 8:45 am – 1:30 pm
Workshop Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Panelists</i>
8:45 am	Welcome and Housekeeping	Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs, 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 Frank Hauser, Superintendent, JSD Lisa Worl, Former Board of Education, JSD Carole Triem, Former Assembly Member, CBJ
10:00 am	Campaign Basics	Maria Gladziszewski, Former Assembly Member, Moderator Ella Adkison, Assembly Member, CBJ Greg Smith, Campaign Manager and Assembly Member
11:00	Break	
11:10 am	Candidate Legal Requirements	Sarah Moore, Moderator, LWVJ Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk, CBJ Andi Hirsh, Deputy Municipal Clerk, CBJ Ashley Beedle, Former Campaign Treasurer
12:10 pm	Preparing to Run for Local Office	Sally Saddler, Moderator, LWVJ Phyllis Carlson, Former School Board Member, JSD Wade Bryson, Assembly Member, CBJ 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	Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs, President, LWVJ
1:30 pm	Adjourn	

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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)

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May 11, 2024

Panelist Biographies

(in order of appearance on panels)

Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs is president of the League of Women Voters Juneau. Kirsa will host the webinar on behalf of the League. Kirsa moved here in 2004 to attend UAS; she loves voting, easy hikes, and dogs.

Beth McEwen is the Municipal Clerk/Election Official for the City Borough of Juneau. She has worked with CBJ since 1997, serving as Deputy Clerk from 2000-2018 and Municipal Clerk 2018-present. Beth received her Certified Municipal Clerk designation in 2004 and her and 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. In 2023 she received the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks “Clerk of the Year” award and in 2015 the Alaska Municipal League Municipal Employee of the Year. Beth and her family have lived in Juneau since 1975; she graduated from JDHS and UAS, and has 2 sons and one grandson. Beth is a dedicated civil servant and has a passion for reading, travel, and serving others.

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 worked in the public sector for over 30 years. She retired from the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska where she served as the Deputy City Manager. Prior to that appointment, Ms. Cosgrove’s professional area of focus was Human Resources which included 15 years at the executive level for both State and Local governments. She is currently the Principal Consultant at Workplace Solutions AK.

Frank Hauser is Superintendent of the Juneau School District. An Alaskan educator with more than 25 years of experience. From his days teaching Adaptive Aquatics as a high school lifeguard and throughout his career, Superintendent Hauser has had one principle that guides all his decisions as an educator: *What's best for kids?* He served as a music teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director with the district office in the Anchorage School District. Before coming to Juneau he was superintendent of the Sitka School District. During his tenure as principal at Service High, the school was recognized by ESPN and Special Olympics as one of the top 30 schools in the nation for inclusive practices. Mr. Hauser is also a past Alaska Principal of the Year. Superintendent Hauser is a graduate of the Mat-Su School District and the University of Alaska system. Superintendent Hauser is a long-time advocate for Alaska's public schools and a proud champion of Alaska's students.

Lisa X'unyéil Worl is the STEPS Partnership Coordinator, Association of Alaska School Boards. Lisa supports work around Family Engagement, Cultural Integration and Trauma Informed Schools practices in schools and communities. She's worked as Alaska State legislative staffer and spent 16 years in public education including four years serving on the Juneau School Board. On the board, Lisa initially focused on student retention and graduation but then recognized how equity policies and programs inherently impact all areas from student learning to graduation. Lisa attended school in Juneau and graduated from Juneau Douglas Yadaa.at Kalé High School and received a Bachelors of Science Business Administration from the University of Oregon. Her two adult children also attended and graduated from Juneau School District before attending college.

Carole Triem served on the Assembly from 2018-2023. While on the Assembly she chaired the Visitor Industry Task Force and was chair of the Assembly Finance Committee from 2020-2023. Originally from Petersburg, Carole moved to Juneau in 2014 after receiving a BA in Economics from Seattle University and a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University. She worked in different roles at the State of Alaska before parlaying her love of local government into her current role at the Alaska Municipal League. Prior to serving on the Assembly, Carole was on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Land Trust and a member of the Glacier Swim Club masters team. In post-Assembly life, Carole uses much of her free time sewing and quilting.

Maria Gladziszewski served 9 years on the Juneau Assembly, 4 years as Deputy Mayor. Prior to that, she served for 11 years on the Planning Commission, 3 as chair. Maria is Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish & Game and holds a BS in Biology from the University of Illinois and an MA in Science, Technology, and Public Policy from George Washington University. In addition to the above, Maria has served as: lecturer/naturalist in Glacier Bay and Katmai National Parks as well as for private tour companies; staff to the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; analyst for the Alaska legislature (in its non-partisan research bureau); CBJ Special Projects Officer (tackling issues as varied as tourism policy, human/bear conflicts, and solid waste management); and President, Perseverance Theatre Board. In her spare time, Maria enjoys acting (Perseverance, Theatre in the Rough, Juneau Lyric Opera) as well as gardening and all types of outdoor activities including hiking, sailing, hunting, fishing, and camping.

Ella Adkison is a current Assembly Member, joining the Assembly in October of 2023. She was born and raised in Juneau, and is excited to give back to the community. She graduated from Juneau-Douglas Yadaa.at Kale High School and received a bachelor's degree in international affairs from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon and returned to Juneau. She works as a Legislative Aide for Senator Jesse Kiehl, working on mainly education-related issues.

Greg Smith was born and raised in Juneau, and returned to town 6 years ago after spending nearly a decade Outside. He worked in an official capacity on Senator Dennis Egan's 2014 reelection campaign, Mayor Greg Fisk's campaign in 2015, and Andi Story's campaign in 2018; he has advised and consulted other campaigns as well. Greg is a current Assembly Member. Some of his favorite things are running, gardening, political theatre, and catching fish.

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 immediate Past-President. She works for the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in the field of oil spill prevention and response.

Andi Hirsh has worked for CBJ since 2013, first as a librarian and then as a deputy municipal clerk. When not at work she can be found outside – preferably on the top of a mountain (with a good book).

Ashley Beedle is a CPA who has worked with the accounting firm Elgee Rehfeld, LLC since 2003. She is an experienced accountant who has received extensive training in a broad range of topics. Ashley has worked with multiple municipal and state candidates to ensure accuracy with their financial reporting and compliance with state rules and regulations during their campaigns.

Sally Saddler Sally Saddler is a retired economist who spent 35 years in the world of community & 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, and sits on the Boards of Renewable Juneau, Alaska Heat Smart and the Juneau League of Women Voters. She has served two terms on the Juneau Board of Education (4 years as president) and holds a BA in Economics from The George Washington University.

Phyllis Carlson moved to Juneau from the Alaska Peninsula in 1975. She and her husband raised two daughters in the JSD and currently has two grandsons in Juneau schools. Having spent a career working in educational programs as a parent, employee, community member, she sought and served on the Juneau Board of Education 2003-2015. She served on local, statewide, and national organizations in her efforts to “serve all students” in their educational pursuits. Her formal education started in a village school leading to university studies in Portland, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and travel abroad, concluding with a BA in Sociology from AMU/APU. UAS has also been a part of enrichment courses. She is retired, and currently serving as a BOD with JAMHI in Juneau and her ANCSA Village Corporation.

Wade Bryson is a 30-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 22 years, hosted Problem Corner for 15 years, and is in his fifth 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. His book came out in 2018.

Diane ‘Di’ Cathcart has worked for CBJ since 2001 and has been one of the Deputy City Clerk’s since June 2018. When not busy helping everything run in the Clerk’s Office, you can find Di and her family on the trails harvesting the bounty of Southeast’s wild edibles.

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 many hours of work and little economic reward. You will hear about issues from your neighbors, friends and family. You will be stopped in the grocery store so strangers can share their opinions. You will have to read hundreds of pages of information before sitting in meetings that last hours – only to make tough decisions that may not be popular. Still interested? The 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. The School Board does not have term limits.

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 2024 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	Paul Kelly	10/2026	(first term)
Areawide Assembly	Ella Adkison	10/2025	(elected to unexpired portion of a term)
District 1 Assembly	Alicia Hughes-Skandijs	10/2026	(second term)
District 1 Assembly	‘Wáahlaal Gídaag (Barbara Blake)	10/2024*	(first term)
District 1 Assembly	Greg Smith	10/2025	(second term)
District 2 Assembly	Christine Woll	10/2026	(second 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>
Elizabeth Siddon	10/2024*
Amber Frommherz	10/2024*
Will Muldoon	10/2024*
Deedie Sorensen	10/2025
Emil Mackey	10/2025
David Noon	10/2026
Britteny Cioni-Haywood	10/2026

