

2024 Official Candidate Statement

City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Emily Mesch

Candidate: Assembly District 2



Name as it appears on the ballot: Emily Mesch

Office Sought: Assembly, District 2

Residence Address: 8181 Grant Street, Juneau, AK

Mailing Address: 8181 Grant Street, Juneau, AK

Email Address: emilyforassembly@gmail.com

Website Address: www.emilyforassemblycbj.com

Age: 38

Occupation: Rideshare Driver

Place of Birth: Hadera, Israel

Length of Residency in Juneau: Five years

Communities lived in & dates of residency: Downtown: March 2019-October 2021;
Mendenhall Valley October 2021-present

Education: High School - The Sagemont School (Weston, FL)
Undergraduate - Reichman University (Herzliya, Israel)
Graduate Studies - Bar Ilan University (Givat Shmuel, Israel)

Military Service: Israeli Air Force - Budget Office, January 2010-January 2012,
discharge at rank Sergeant

Political or Government Work: Shéiyi Xaat Hit Youth Shelter - Youth Development Leader, 2022-2023

Juneau Human Rights Commission - Member, 2021-2024
City and Borough of Juneau - COVID 19 Communications Assistant,
2021
State of Alaska - Occupational Licensing Examiner, 2019-2020

Service Organization Memberships: Southeast Alaska LGBTQ Alliance - Board Member, 2019-Present,
President 2022-Present
Congregation Sukkat Shalom - Board Member, 2019-Present
Skagway Arts Council - Member, 2018-2019

Special Interests: Community theater, karaoke, green energy

Biographical Information *[limited to 150 words or less. Articles such as “a”, “and”, and “the” will be counted. Any words beyond the allotted word count will not be published]:*

Born in Israel, grew up in Florida, and moved back to Israel for college. I earned a BA in Business Administration, served two years in the Budget Office of the Israel Air Force, and watched my mom live out the last years of her life before moving back to the US.

I’ve lived in Alaska since 2017, and I’ve spent that time working to become a part of my community, and to make Juneau my home. I’ve worked for the state, for the city, for private business, and as an independent contractor. I’ve volunteered my time for several local organizations. In 2021, I bought my first house, a home in the Mendenhall Valley, and I intend to keep working to improve Juneau: this city that I call home.

Position Statement *[limited to 250 words or less. Articles such as “a”, “and”, and “the” will be counted. Any words beyond the allotted word count will not be published. Negative campaign material will not be published.]:*

I think Juneau has three major priorities, moving forward:

1) School funding. Last year was painful for everyone. We cannot just wake up one morning to news of a \$9.5 million deficit ever again. JSD is independent from assembly, but that doesn't mean that assembly should leave our schools to figure things out on their own. I intend to work with the school board to ensure we always know what our school budgets really are.

2) Housing costs. The whole country is watching housing costs rise, but in Juneau it hits harder than most places. With limited space and high materials costs, every problem gets amplified here. So assembly needs to be pro-active, and we need an "everything on the table" approach. But at the same time, we need oversight to make sure that when we invest in affordable housing, we actually get affordable housing.

3) Cruise ship tourism. This is a tough one, I'll be honest. Some people feel like they're losing the city they love for half the year, and some people wouldn't be able to earn a living without the floating hotels that come to visit every summer. Finding the right balance for Juneau isn't going to be easy, but it's going to require

communication with all stakeholders. One thing that everyone can agree on is that we need to be working to make sure that as much value as possible from Juneau's tourism industry stays in Juneau.