

2026 Official Candidate Statement

City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Karla Hart

Candidate: Assembly District 2



Name as it appears on the ballot: Karla Hart

Office sought: Assembly District 2

Hello Juneau voters,

I'm not a typical Assembly candidate.

I'm running for Assembly now because the knowledge, expertise, vision, and passion I bring for a healthier Juneau, is needed. I've been attending Assembly and other meetings and studying local issues as an activist for decades. I'm oldish, which gives me lots of perspective and history, and also focused time to proactively serve on the Assembly. And critical decisions are looming.

I am a single-issue candidate. My single issue is a Healthier Juneau.

A Healthier Juneau sees houses as homes, not business opportunities. Juneau has more housing units than ever before, and a population lower than our peak, and yet we still have serious housing shortages. Hundreds of housing units are used to house seasonal tourism-related, non-resident employees and business owners. I support tighter regulation of AirBnBs with a requirement for the owner to be onsite, letting community members participate, while discouraging investment-style, short-term rentals.

A Healthier Juneau looks after the economic well-being and quality of life of the community and residents overall, rather than prioritizing economic interests of a relatively few (and some of them not even local).

A Healthier Juneau rightsizes the cruise industry and has a commercial tour permitting system to optimize benefits and minimize costs. Let's have a cruise tourism industry that provides enough jobs for all of the residents seeking seasonal employment, but doesn't rely on thousands of non-residents. Let's limit the number of cruise ships to the number that we can have on shore power (and make the use of shore power mandatory), protecting our health from toxic diesel pollution. Let's get creative with reshaping fees and taxes to the industry to generate unrestricted revenues. And, let's build Juneau as absolutely the best and most welcoming cruise destination in the world, on a scale that lets us do so.

A Healthier Juneau looks at what type of careers the young people in Juneau who want to stay want to have.

Do they want to be miners? Teachers? Work remotely in a profession that allows? Work in the trades? In government? In the arts? What careers are already available in Juneau and looking for workers? Let's be intentional to support livable wages and career opportunities that fit what our community members want, rather than creating more jobs that are largely reliant on non-resident workforces.

A Healthier Juneau supports our parks and recreation, libraries and museums, arts and culture! Trails, league sports, pools, Eaglecrest, Treadwell Arena, public cabins, plays, and events all contribute to a better life.

A Healthier Juneau ensures our basic infrastructure of police, fire, streets, water, sewer, education, and recycling/waste disposal are all supported and working. And, we're taking care of public safety, including a long-term solution to the glacial lake outburst flooding, and a long-term solution to our looming trash mountain.

If elected, I will make decisions through the lens of whether or how a decision supports a Healthier Juneau. Frightening to some economic interests, I will advocate for rightsizing and managing the cruise ship industry. I will do so as one of nine votes. If you think we should have more thorough consideration of how the cruise ship industry is managed, but aren't fully onboard with what I've shared, know I won't have the power to make changes singlehandedly.

Regards,

Karla

P.S. There is a decent chance I've already met you. Perhaps while collecting signatures for the Ship Free Saturdays or another initiative, while volunteering, at a rally, or one of the Healthy Alaskans speaker events I helped organize before COVID, or Juneau Cruise Control events. I've also worked in the Alaska Legislature and at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and operated tourism businesses focused on independent travelers from 1987-1997. Maybe I helped you get on a lift or carve a turn at Eaglecrest in the 1980s. Over 60 years in Juneau makes for a lot of contacts in so many contexts.

I won't be going door to door for my campaign. I respect your privacy, and I'm an introvert. Feel welcome to reach out. karlajhart@gmail.com 907-957-6723