

2026 Official Candidate Statement

City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Malachi Thorington

Candidate: Assembly District 2



Name as it appears on the ballot:	Malachi Thorington
Office sought:	Assembly District 2
Address:	9350 View Drive, Juneau, AK 99801
Email address:	MalachiJuneau@gmail.com
Website:	www.MalachiForJuneau.com
Age:	43
Occupation:	Electrician, Commercial Fisherman, Salvor and Commercial Diver
My better half:	Elizabeth Figus
Place of birth:	Sitka, AK
Length of Residency in Juneau:	25 Years (hopefully 40+ more to go)
Communities lived in:	Juneau, AK (2012-Present), Port Armstrong, AK (2009-2012), Las Vegas, NV (2004-2008), Juneau, AK (1993-2003) Port Armstrong Hatchery and Port Alexander, AK (1983-1993)
Education:	Juneau Douglas High School; Alyeska Central Home School, 2003; IBEW JATC Electrical Apprenticeship, completed 2019

Biographical and Professional Information: I've been fortunate enough to grow up in Juneau and Southeast Alaska; it's where I have my roots, lifestyle and the focus of my professional skillset. I am passionate about Juneau as it's a place where I can be a tradesman, commercial fisherman, scuba diver, hunter, and skier, all while benefitting from the cleanest air, water and local harvests in the world.

Growing up in Juneau, my parents worked at Eaglecrest, DIPAC, Greens Creek Mine, CBJ, and Snettisham. Years later, I've gone on to work at many of those same businesses as a journeyman electrician

with our local IBEW 1547. I continue to commercial fish for sea cucumbers and on occasion work as a salvor, diver and as an assistant hunting guide. I've worked in a variety of industries, and I prefer a hands-on approach to life. My years spent living remote have fostered a combination of self-reliance and working with my neighbors towards the best outcomes.

Position Statement:

I'm running for Juneau Assembly because I think CBJ is on hard times but can do better for residents and our future. Our community faces unique challenges that require fresh thinking and determined action. I offer a new perspective on the problems Juneau faces today, and the ones ahead.

Housing, waste disposal, shipping costs, aging infrastructure, increasing cruise ship tourism and shrinking year-round populations are a few elephants in the room that CBJ has talked about for decades, but hasn't produced recognizable results for residents. We also must prioritize funding K-12 education and job training programs, enhance local resources for seniors, and determine solutions for sources & symptoms of homelessness. Some ideas I have include:

Expanding housing options beyond density-focused solutions: Despite current housing programs, Juneau housing isn't becoming more affordable. [Juneau has prioritized high-density construction](#) like condos as the only path forward, while we continue to have substantial swaths of City and State land inaccessible or restricted to local families who want to build forever homes and businesses. We should be aggressively exploring:

- Unlocking underutilized land
- Holding public land auctions or local raffles and supporting owner-builder options
- Implementing tax structures that incentivize primary residences

Addressing waste management: Shipping all waste out of Southeast drives up living costs. CBJ needs to partner with the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority ([SEASWA](#)) to advocate strongly at the state and federal level for permitting new landfills serving all waste types.

Securing permanent flood solutions and preparing for future disasters: Glacial flooding remains an ongoing threat. The lake tap project for Suicide Basin must move forward as a permanent fix; we can't rely on temporary relief. Other methods have been suggested, but to date this is the only solution consistently put forward and considered viable.

Cruise tourism strategies: Megaship cruise tourism continues to grow as does Juneau's dependency on it. CBJ must maintain vigilant engagement with the megaship cruise companies and make additional moves that benefit our community. We need quality over quantity. Quality in dollars spent and increased local revenue matters more than the quantity of tourists. We want engaged visitors supporting our local economy. Juneau as a low-budget attraction is not in our community's best interest. Supply and demand must balance in our favor.

What I bring to the table: My trade background offers a practical understanding of the construction, infrastructure, and development issues facing the Assembly. The Assembly will benefit from my understanding of how things work mechanically in Juneau to improve efficiency, lower CBJ costs and better prepare for the future. After observing Assembly decisions shaping our city, I'm ready to put my time, energy and knowledge into actions to work for all Juneau residents. Thank you for your vote!