

# 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATE LEGISLATURE

The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness partnered to ask candidates for State Legislature how they would improve or expand access to housing. The results of this survey are published here. Thank you to the candidates who responded to our request. This voter's guide lists all candidates for the state legislature, the candidates who participated have a bio along with their answer to the question. Candidates with an Asterix (\*) by their name did not provide a response to the survey.

Prepared:  
10/25/2022



**ANCHORAGE COALITION TO  
END HOMELESSNESS**

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## SENATE DISTRICT A

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Sheldon, Mike (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Stedman, Bert K. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT B

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Kiehl, Jesse (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** Born and raised in Alaska, Jesse Kiehl serves Juneau, Haines, Skagway, Gustavus, & Klukwan in the Alaska Legislature. Since taking office in 2019 he's built a reputation for listening fairly and asking tough questions. He is running for re-election to the Senate to move Alaska forward, always keeping a weather eye on Southeast.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** This issue has been an important part of my work since I served on the Juneau Assembly. I helped target infrastructure investments to open new land for medium density development (including both small single-family and apartment homes.) I helped increase zoning densities in commercial and mixed areas of the city. And I supported public investments in a Housing First project along with rapid rehousing efforts to keep people from sliding into the hardships that come with being unhoused. In the legislature I've pushed Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to increase investments in communities where today it has virtually no presence – places where Alaska's unhoused populations are growing and from which unhoused Alaskans frequently move to our urban hub communities seeking services. I've also worked on re-entry issues for the more than 95% of Alaska inmates who will leave our prisons sooner or later.

Creating more transitional housing options for them will both ease the burden on other low-income housing and ensure more of these Alaskans succeed at coming back to society – which means fewer Alaskans will be victims of crime. The governor's brutal budget cuts have made the problems worse in most regions of our state. I will keep working to get a stable fiscal plan that lets agencies and nonprofits provide the services Alaskans need.

## SENATE DISTRICT C

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Jones, Walter H. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Smith, Heath (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Stevens, Gary (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT D

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Babcock, Tuckerman (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Bjorkman, Jesse J. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Cizek, Andy (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT E

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Cacy, Roselynn (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** Roselynn Cacy, MBA, EA President, Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council Small Business Tax Advisor, Enrolled Agent Former Treasurer: Permanent Fund Defenders, Repeal The Giveaway (SB 21); Compliance Officer Alaska Democratic Party; Former Director UAA Adult Learning Center and Literacy Council of Alaska Author: Skill Books Go to Work, Anchorage Federal Work Place Literacy Program; Anchorage Family Literacy Grant. Office Manager for US Senator Mike Gravel during the passage of the amendment that made possible the trans-Alaska pipeline and the right-of-way for a gas pipeline. University Algebra Instructor Premium Tax Office Manager Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) Mother of three children who attended the Anchorage School District Grandma of six

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Work cooperatively with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Cook Inlet Housing, and other public and private groups involved in housing to identify current housing that needs repairs and maintenance. Identify costs associated with individual or groups of housing and public and private ways to assist, including revolving loan funds. Target the housing needing the least funds first. With input from state and local communities, private groups, and Federal agencies, identify areas available for housing and make them available to relators and developers. Assist senior citizens so that they can stay in their homes and come up with creative solutions to utilizes available space. Work with communities to have new housing available at reasonable prices for sale or rental, considering priority to residential housing. Provide other services that homeowners and renters need, such as bus service, mass transit, public restrooms and shower facilities, and educational facilities where adults can study.

Giessel, Cathy (Registered Republican) (Certified)

**Bio:** My birth certificate says, "Territory of Alaska" and I've been here ever since. I am focused on the economy, education of our youth and workforce, and jobs with family-supporting wages. I have a reputation of working across party lines to advance sound public policy.

(continued from page 4, Cathy Giessel)

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Attention must be paid to local control. State government has no role in local decisions.

I would keep an eye on road projects in communities that would impact affordable housing. I'm thinking specifically of the proposed highway underpass to extend Scooter Drive (Anchorage) across the Seward Highway. This would negatively impact two areas of affordable housing adjacent to the road project, as well as divide the community. I am running for a state legislative position; I would keep an eye on projects proposed by DOTPF.

In Girdwood, housing construction has focused on high-end homes that are occupied for a fraction of the year, then sit empty. Yet the community has no housing for its teachers, firefighters, and other business' workforce. With the new housing project proposed (Holton Hills), the community is pushing back hard, calling for higher density, lower-cost housing alternatives. This is a local government issue, but I can encourage & assist communities in my district in voicing their concerns.

The MOA (Anchorage) has allegedly reduced regulatory restrictions on auxiliary housing units on existing property. But construction permits are still months to a year to acquire. Permitting must become customer oriented and release its stranglehold on new construction and remodeling of present structures. This is a local government issue, so I wouldn't have any jurisdiction.

Holland, Roger (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT F

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Kaufman, James D. (Registered Republican) (Certified)

**Bio:** Born in New Jersey in 1958, grew up in Texas, lived in California, and lived in Texas as an adult. Married to Nancy Kaufman for over 20 years. Career as team leader/manager of project completion and quality management in oil and gas production, refining, and transportation, but also some exposure to mining and specialty chemicals projects. Moved to the Anchorage Hillside in 2011 and is still a resident. Retired in 2017 and became involved in various community projects and organizations. Ran for public office in 2020, and served as the State Representative for District 28 in the 32nd Legislature. Policy focus as AK State Representative included spending controls, better budgeting, increased accountability, and transparent governance. Passed and/or co-sponsored legislation to reduce the cost of government/increase government performance. Currently, the Republican candidate for State Senate District F.

\* candidate did not respond to survey

(continued from page 5, James D. Kaufman)

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** There are existing Federal programs through HUD and Section 8 as well as programs at the state level through AHFC such as rental assistance and housing stabilization programs. There are many different entities involved such as the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA), DCCED, DHSS, Affordable Housing Developers, Governor's Councils, US Interagency Councils on Homelessness, HUD, local charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, and more. A difficult part of housing access and related homelessness issues is coordination and clarity on who serves what role in any solution! The HUD continuum of care is a useful model for assessing various stages of care. The State of Alaska can support this or other models by making data-driven decisions.

Accurate, complete, reliable, non-agenda-driven data. This data would support the continuum of care in the balance of the state as well as in Anchorage. The federally required AKHMIS has gaps if organizations that do not receive federal funds do not provide data. The Municipalities also would have a role to provide or contribute to intake, assessment, support services, emergency shelters, various housing, and providing data. Other aspects to be addressed include improving the reentry transition for previously incarcerated individuals. Last year, I supported the CrisisNow model through AMHTA which should make progress toward improved outcomes related to the treatment of substance abuse, mental illness, and other underlying issues that would reduce our urban homeless population. Another resource with some recommendations and ideas is the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Housing and Community Development Plan. Broadly improving our state's economic climate would help overall living conditions. Better access to urban land/property for development could help the supply side, but municipal processes probably also need work.

Park, Janice L. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT G

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Gray-Jackson, Elvi (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Sanders, Marcus D. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT H

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### Claman, Matt (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** The following bio appears on my website, [www.mattclaman.com](http://www.mattclaman.com). Matt has served in a leadership role in the State House as chair of the Judiciary Committee; sitting on the Rules Committee, the Energy Committee, and the Legislative Council; and as Majority Whip for the tripartisan House Majority Coalition. Matt served as acting mayor of Anchorage in 2009 during the height of the national financial crisis. He provided steady, careful leadership in challenging times. Before and after his service as acting mayor, he represented West Anchorage on the Anchorage Assembly (2007–2010) and was unanimously elected assembly chair in 2008. The Anchorage Daily News described his service as acting mayor: “During a short but troubled period, Claman demonstrated leadership skills that carried the city forward.” Matt followed his dream and first came to Alaska in 1980, working as a cook in remote mining camps. After graduating from law school, Matt returned to Alaska to make his home, raise his family, and establish his career. An attorney for more than 34 years, Matt knows a lot about helping people solve problems. He has represented victims of domestic violence, commercial fishermen, loggers, families in crisis, local businesses, and individual Alaskans. He managed his own small law business for more than 11 years and taught law classes at the University of Alaska Anchorage. After his colleagues elected Matt to the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association in 2002, he served as president in 2007–2008. He was instrumental in bringing Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Anchorage for the Alaska State Bar Convention, which was the most-attended bar convention in Alaska history. Matt provided leadership in implementing a pay-as-you-go method for membership dues and increasing accountability to the public. Committed to our community, Matt served on the Heritage Land Bank Advisory Commission and on the board of several local non-profit organizations, including the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Trailside Discovery, the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association, the Alaska Center for the Environment, the Anchorage Rotary Club, and Planned Parenthood of Alaska. Matt Claman is married to Lisa Rieger, who manages her own consulting firm and has worked extensively for Cook Inlet Tribal Council, one of Alaska’s most successful non-profit corporations. Matt and Lisa raised two children, Maia and Ben, who both graduated from West Anchorage High School. Maia works as a nurse and Ben manages a tech start-up company. Along with his public service and work as an attorney, Matt is a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and accomplished professional wilderness guide. An active hiker, biker, and skier, you’ll often find Matt enjoying the beauty of Alaska with friends and family on our trails, on our rivers, and in our parks.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** During my time in public service, I’ve worked to partner with the local organizations, non-profits, and advocates who are on the frontlines working to expand affordable housing and reduce homelessness in Anchorage. The best solutions to these problems are at the local level and we must continue to work together with our local leaders and organizations to find effective solutions. At the legislative level, we should work to provide state support and resources in the

(continued from page 7, Matt Claman) most effective way possible. Anchorage has a housing shortage that has increased the homelessness population, which was further exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. As state officials, we must work to take care of our people and work to promote affordable housing and housing access. Potential solutions include funding existing successful services such as the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, increasing coordination between stakeholders, and being proactive instead of reactive. To accomplish these goals and make long term progress, we need a responsible action plan for Alaska that funds the essential services Alaskans rely on, strengthens the economy, and increases job opportunities.

Costello, Mia (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT I

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Herndon, Heather (Undeclared) (Certified)\*

Tobin, Löki G. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I was born in Nome, Alaska to Lydia Harris and Charles “Lew” Tobin. I spent my early years with my paternal grandparents in New York, later living with my mother and State Trooper stepfather in Kodiak and Juneau. In junior high school, I returned to Nome to complete my secondary schooling. It’s in Nome where I learned the importance of community engagement, helping others in need, and providing tools for the next generation to succeed. I met my mentor, Tom Begich, on one of his many trips to Nome. This started a long friendship that eventually led to me joining his legislative team in Juneau as his Policy Director. My experience working as a legislative aide for the Alaska State Senate has been invaluable. Over the last three years I have worked on major issues facing Senate District I, including fighting for community voice in the Glenn to Seward project, ensuring A & C Streets are walkable and complete, closing the proposed Knik Arm Bridge project, and assisting downtown business owners in successfully petitioning to change state regulations that put unfair burdens on nonprofits. I have successfully carried several pieces of legislation, including expanding universal, voluntary pre-K across Alaska, protecting renters and homeowners from predatory insurance practices, and recognizing the resiliency and continued saliency of the Alaska constitution. I am a University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) graduate and I hold a master’s degree in rural development from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Peace Corps Master’s International Program. I served as a Youth Development Volunteer in Azerbaijan from 2008-2011. Currently, I am a PhD candidate at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with my research topic being focused on culturally responsive education. I started my professional career working for the Nome Community Center before moving to Anchorage to attend college. During my time at UAA, I became a certified lifeguard for the Municipality of Anchorage Park and Recreation Department, teaching adaptive aquatics

(continued from page 8, Löki G. Tobin) and introduction to swimming at West, East Bettye Davis and Bartlett High Schools. I have worked in marketing and communications for Alaskan nonprofits like Boys & Girls Clubs, Kawerak, and the Alaska Community Foundation. Prior to my work as a legislative aide, I was a certified fundraiser (CFRE) for the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. I'm active on several nonprofit boards and committees and I care deeply about serving my community and doing good in the world. I'm also an avid bicycle commuter and community volunteer.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Anchorage has an affordable housing problem. The decrease in construction during the pandemic, increase in material costs, and extremely limited housing stock contribute to the high cost of housing in our city. Furthermore, by not addressing deferred maintenance costs, retrofitting for energy efficiency, and implementing new building technology, the few affordable homes we have are headed toward being uninhabitable. Clearly, we need to fund the immediate and long-term solutions that community advocates have put forth to address the impending housing crisis. I recognize it is a complicated, intergovernmental issue, but we need to address deferred maintenance in our Pioneer Homes and build more ADA accessible senior housing like Centennial Village. Expanding Housing First models, like Karluk Manor, will help address those in need of low-barrier housing. I am a strong advocate of the State making strategic partnerships with places like Merrill Crossing, Centennial Village, Elizabeth Place, and Mountain View Village because they provide affordable transition and stable housing options for many in our communities and stabilize housing for our vulnerable populations. I am also in full support of appropriating the right amount of funds to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's rental assistance programs and first-time home buyer loans. Finally, working with local governments to address barriers created by housing permitting processes and building code enforcement to help increase housing stock helps everyone. I am all for property-tax holidays and other incentive programs that help Alaskans think outside the box to create more housing density in urban areas.

## SENATE DISTRICT J

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### Dunbar, Forrest (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I'm a lifelong Alaskan, originally from Eagle on the Yukon River and Cordova on Prince William Sound. My parents are both graduates of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and my sister attended West Valley High School. Growing up, I worked as a commercial fishing deckhand, cannery worker, and wildland firefighter, before eventually earning a law degree and a masters in public policy. Before joining the Anchorage Assembly, I was the Vice President of the Scenic Foothills Community Council in Southern Muldoon, and helped found the Muldoon Farmers Market. I am a commissioned officer in the Alaska Army National Guard, where I serve as a major, and helped write the Alaska Code of Military Justice. I am a member of the Alaska Bar Association, as well as Congregation Beth Shalom, and a board member with the Anchorage

(continued from page 9, Forrest Dunbar) Park Foundation. On the Assembly, where I've served since 2016, I've focused my efforts on jobs, quality of life, and public safety. I've partnered with my colleagues to significantly increase the size of the Anchorage Police Department, voted for increased funding for the snow removal budget, and helped create the Mental Health First Responders program. My aide and I have responded to thousands of constituent emails and helped hundreds of residents navigate Municipal services. I've been active in fighting for funding for our district, working with Pete Petersen to get bond projects like upgrades to roads and drainage, improvements to Russian Jack Park, and increased funding for traffic calming. I have twice served as Chair of the Assembly as we passed balanced budgets, responded to the November 30th Earthquake, and completed authorization for the sale of ML&P. I am eager to continue working for the people of Campbell Park, UMED, College Gate, Airport Heights, Mountain View, and Russian Jack. Coming from a local government perspective, I've seen how decisions at the State level impact us here at home: from cuts to School Bond Debt Reimbursement that raise our property taxes, to a tragically underfunded behavioral health system that often contributes to homelessness. I will be a voice for those who cannot afford one and are often overlooked in the State Legislature— people like the working class folks I grew up with, and whose doors I have knocked and spoken with so many times on the Assembly.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** The solution to homelessness is housing. Indeed, the solution to many of Anchorage and Alaska's problems is housing— affordable housing for multiple income levels, of varied types and uses. Housing doesn't look the same for everyone, nor can everyone access housing without significant support. But housing is a fundamental right, and the basis of a functioning, sustainable, multi-generational society. It's an absolute prerequisite for continued economic growth as well, as we will not be able to recruit or retain working-age population without affordable housing options. The single greatest roadblock to affordable housing and housing access is a shortage of supply. On the Assembly, I have sponsored ordinances to make it easier and cheaper to build housing. Occasionally, those efforts have run up against state laws that prevented further action; I will target those laws for reform. In addition to building new housing, we need to reform our laws to make it less expensive to renovate existing units that are coming to the end of their productive life. I have supported these efforts through direct votes for funding on the Assembly, and will look for opportunities to do so in the State Legislature. I am also a strong believer in establishing an Alaska Housing Trust. While I know that the Trust was set up this year, I do not believe it yet has the financial resources to make a significant difference. I will seek to increase funding for the Trust in the years to come. I would also like to see such the Trust partner with Alaska Native organizations, such as Regional Corporations with significant land holdings or Cook Inlet Housing Authority, if nothing else then to learn from the latter's deep experience and knowledge on housing management and construction. Many of our land-use decisions also tie to housing access— zoning, barriers to in-fill development, transit-supported development, and transportation infrastructure all play a major role in constructing cities that allow for greater density and improved livability. In Anchorage in particular, we must be mindful that large transportation projects do not bisect communities, damage multimodal transportation, actively knock down houses, or take land out of consideration for housing construction. We have the land we need to greatly improve affordability and access in

(continued from page 10, Forrest Dunbar) Anchorage, if we just use it appropriately (for example, some of it is currently trapped under sprawling, asphalt parking lots). Finally, I am aware that the population that ACEH serves is in a unique position, and that affordability by itself is not always enough. There are sometimes challenges around mental and behavioral health, collateral consequences for some with criminal records, lack of rental history, and other barriers to independent living. I believe in the Housing First model, as well as expanded treatment options. I will again fight for funding for these services if elected to the State Senate, as I did on that Assembly, and my door will always remain open to ACEH if there are specific laws that need revision to assist your efforts or State agencies where I or my office might serve as liaisons to see that people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage get a roof over their heads.

### Satterfield, Andrew E. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

### Tarr, Geran (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I am proud to represent the hard working people of Mountain View, Airport Heights, and Russian Jack. I have focused on public safety, especially for women and children, diversifying our economy and planning for a sustainable future, and civil rights, equity, and inclusion. I use my background in science and natural resource management to guide my work on the Fisheries and Resources Committees. I have prioritized an Alaska first approach to resource management. I come from a disadvantaged background of abuse and neglect and use my life experience and the experiences I had with the child welfare, criminal justice, and juvenile justice systems to inform my work to reform these systems that are causing great harm. We are making progress each year, first passing Erin's Law to teach personal body safety, then our multi-year Rape Kit Reform Initiative that has brought justice to Alaskans and tested the backlog of untested rape kits, then this year the rewrite of the broken 40 year old consent law. I have a vision of an Alaska where we don't lead the nation in child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault, and have worked as hard as I can to improve safety in our state. I'm finishing my fifth term as a member of the State House where I have served in the legislative minority and majority. I have had a strong team during my tenure and together we have passed more than 25 impactful measures addressing some of our most pressing problems. Our record of bipartisanship, even through very difficult times, has allowed us to work with a diversity of colleagues to pass bills ranging from oil tax reform to food security to public safety to civil rights. I am very proud of our work together and strong record of effectiveness and bipartisanship.

#### **Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** There are several specific ways the state can improve or expand housing access, including;  
1. Finally address the need for long-term supportive housing for our neighbors experiencing mental illness or addiction, with the knowledge that some will need continual support for their life. This is a decades in the making problem since the 1980s when the mental health hospitals were closed and a community based network of care was supposed to be developed. We have

(continued from page 11, Geran Tarr) seen what happens when these needed services are not available. That needs to be addressed immediately. We also need to fund additional substance misuse and mental health services. 2. Increase funding to AHFC and other housing authorities/programs for new builds, retrofits, energy improvements, and disability/mobility needs. 3. Increase funding for voucher programs. We need to reduce the wait list significantly. The current wait list of up to 18 months is not meeting the demand for the program. There may be additional ways to improve this program including increased funding, insurance protections for landlords, and long-term agreements. 4. Use the capital budget to fund needed teacher and public safety housing in rural Alaska as one step towards improving housing and living conditions in many communities. 5. Work with Native corporations and other state, federal, tribal, and private business partners to make improvements to current housing stock. 6. Fund the Home Energy Rebate Program and other weatherization and home improvement programs to improve housing stock and prevent properties from going into a state of disrepair. 7. Fund a program to incentivize redevelopment of run down properties. The state could fund a temporary property tax rebate program distributed through municipal governments for individuals willing to purchase an identified property and have a tax holiday for a number of years to make it worth spending the necessary amount for repairs. There are a number of properties across the state that would qualify, but right now aren't worth the investment. Since new builds are cost prohibitive focusing on fixing some existing buildings makes sense, especially before they are in a state of disrepair. We need immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions. I am committed to working with my colleagues to generate these solutions.

## SENATE DISTRICT K

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Cunningham, John W. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Wielechowski, Bill (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I have degrees in Finance and Law. I've served the community in a variety of ways including as President of the Northeast Community Council, the Anchorage Planning & Zoning Commission and Municipality of Anchorage Budget Advisory Commission. I've been a Senator since 2007 and currently serve on the Senate Finance Committee.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** I successfully passed funding this past year to create a housing trust that would collaborate with non-profits to provide more affordable housing and housing for the homeless. While Gov. Dunleavy vetoed 80% of that funding, I am committed to pushing for further funding in the future.

## SENATE DISTRICT L

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McCarty, Ken (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Merrick, Kelly R. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT M

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Cooper, Jim (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Hughes, Shelley (Registered Republican) (Certified)

**Bio:** See <https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Member/Detail/32?code=hus>

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** I would do the following: 1) Help promote and accommodate land transfers from state, UA, for residential use. 2) Help settle PFD issue so that individuals and families have a reliable amount and source for down payment for home or for rent. 3) Foster economic development by not hampering entrepreneurs, small business owners, resource development companies and other job creators.

## SENATE DISTRICT N

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Clayton, Scott D. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Wilson, David S. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Wright, Stephen (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT O

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Massie, Doug A. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Shower, Michael K. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT P

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Jafre, Alex N. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Kawasaki, Scott (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** Senator Scott Kawasaki is served six terms in the State House before defeating the Senate President in 2018. He was first elected in 2006 as the youngest member in the Legislature. He has been a member of the Resources Committee, the Education Committee and Finance Committee. He currently serves on the Senate State Affairs Committee. Kawasaki earned a BS in biomedicine at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Representative Kawasaki enjoys fishing, hiking, camping and all that the Alaska outdoors has to offer in the summer. Scott also enjoys traveling during the coldest parts of the winter.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** The question also came up with the Alaska Travel Industry Association and the Greater Fairbanks Board of Realtors-because everyone has to care about the issue of housing.

Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage especially have a housing crunch at the moment to find affordable and safe housing. I have been working with the Borough on housing the new military soldiers who are displacing residents once available apartments and homes in the area. The Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing and the Fairbanks Housing and Homelessness Coalition have also done work in the town. The State should work closely with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to ensure a regular supply of loans specifically for that type of housing and groups like the Interior Weatherization to make houses more efficient for residents and guest like we did after the last energy price spikes in 2008. There is also a major problem with homelessness even in Fairbanks where temperatures can get to -60. I've worked with Tanana Chiefs Conference and Fairbanks Native Association and other non-profits to find temporary assistance though we all know that more needs to be done. It is challenging subject when most every legislator is currently housed, has not been in a situation where they or their families have felt homelessness and may not see the problem.

Matherly, Jim (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT Q

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Bennett, John D. (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

Myers, Robert H. Jr. (Registered Republican) (Certified)

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** We should look at ways to make it easier and cheaper to construct housing. Is there zoning reform that we can do to create more areas for multifamily housing? Are there permitting reforms that can make construction quicker and cheaper? Would splitting land and building values and giving them different property tax rates help construction, especially in urban areas? I'd like to see all of these ideas looked into.

Serkov, Arthur P. (Registered AK Independence) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT R

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Bishop, Click (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Verhagen, Elijah M. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Williams, Robert "Bert" (Registered AK Independence) (Certified)\*

## SENATE DISTRICT S

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Hoffman, Lyman F. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Keppel, Willy (Registered Veterans Of Ak) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 01

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Bynum, Jeremy T. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Ortiz, Daniel H. "Dan" (Nonpartisan) (Certified)

**Bio:** 54 year resident of Alaska, 4 terms as a State House member, 32 year public school teacher and coach.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Look for ways for the state to partner with local communities in assisting with the costs involved with local government projects that attempt to provide greater housing opportunities. Perhaps setting aside a 50 million dollar fund to be use as a low interest revolving loan program, where only local government entities can apply for low interest mortgage loans to assist with new housing construction costs, etc.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 02

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Himschoot, Rebecca (Nonpartisan) (Certified)

**Bio:** Rebecca Himschoot is a Sitka-based educator with 30 years of classroom experience and a current member of the Sitka Assembly. She has served on the National Education Association Board of Directors, the Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development, and as an Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow. As a candidate for State House in District 2, Rebecca strives to ground her decisions in two questions: is it sustainable, and is it equitable? If elected, she will work willingly with anyone on creative solutions to the problems facing our communities – from affordable housing, to childcare, to economic development.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** The housing crisis is not unique to Alaska, but in my district the causes are not all the same. In Petersburg, the problem is affordability of lot development; in Sitka, the problem is availability of land; and in Angoon, the problem is affordability of maintaining existing homes. As I follow the situation with the unhoused population of Anchorage, it is clear the need statewide is extreme. Because the causes of the housing crisis are so varied, our solutions will need to also be varied. A statewide land trust, modeled on Sitka's success, is one solution I would support.

Increasing partnership with tribal entities benefits every community, and working together to ensure housing solutions are equitable should be a primary focus. Buttressing existing housing programs and creating "housing connectors" to help usher home buyers to the various programs are forms of state support we could offer. For unhoused individuals I strongly support

(continued from page 16, Rebecca Himschoot) a Housing First model. The Division of Community and Regional Affairs should be empowered to provide technical assistance to communities across the state to capture any federal funds that can be used to maintain, restore or build new homes; this state agency could also lead a review of local municipal codes to ensure communities proactively zone for high density neighborhoods. Ensuring Career and Technical Education programs across the state are providing opportunities for construction workforce development is a longer-term solution, and supporting the building trades unions with a continuous workflow through a stable capital budget is another longer term solution. When Alaskans need to build, we need Alaskan builders to be available and ready. There is no single answer to the housing crisis, but we can tackle it from a number of directions.

Skaflestad, Kenny (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 03

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Story, Andrea “Andi” (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** 36 year resident of Southeast, 4 years Alaska House of Representatives, Member of Committees on Education, Fisheries, Ways and Means, Military and Veterans Affairs. Liaison to Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council, 15 years Juneau School Board.

Masters of Social Work San Diego State Univ. 1990. Mom to 3, Grandma to 3! Married to Mike Story, retired engineer of 39 years of private company with projects in Southeast. Hiker, cross-country skier

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** This is a high priority of every community and has been for decades. It is at a crisis level. I am supportive of state Capital grants to communities; federal/state grants for teacher housing, medical professionals in rural areas, and senior housing; state/municipalities policy efforts to open public land to private developers; federal/local/state tax credits to businesses that partner with municipalities for low/moderate income affordable housing development. I appreciate and support creative efforts happening in our state for housing. I am watching how the increase in short-term rentals in communities are impacting our tight housing market. I am open to considering any policy ideas. Again state investment thru Capital grants is needed and I will be advocating and identifying with the legislature/Governor and stakeholders the best way to do that. Our Tribal housing authorities, Alaska Regional Housing Corporation, Realtors Association, businesses Municipalities, and other stakeholder groups, hold unique and valuable perspectives and implementing efforts. Working together progress can be made. To keep our young people, seniors, families, people of all ages living here, progress on this issue is imperative and state investment is needed.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 04

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Hannan, Sara (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Harmon, Darrell J. (Undeclared) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 05

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Stutes, Louise B. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Vincent, Benjamin T. (Registered Republican) (Certified)

**Bio:** My name is Ben, and I am 24. I moved to Alaska back in 2007 after my father finished a 30-year career in the Marine Corps. Growing up in a military family, and having spent most of my life in Alaska, I've grown strong family values, understand the importance of putting your best foot forward in any situation, and working with your neighbors to find solutions. Shortly after graduating from the University of Alaska, Anchorage with a BA in Business Management, I moved to Kodiak and began to build a life with my beautiful wife, Brianna. I currently work as a Property Manager for low-income developments, am leasing up the new Kodiak Marketplace and offering my knowledge and services to the community. I am strong in my faith to God, believe in the importance of our United States and Alaska Constitutions, and know that the best way to build up oneself is to build up those around you. Help me take this belief to Juneau, and build a better future for everyone.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** In my district, a large reason for the housing shortfalls is access to land, the infrastructure to support it, and a massive amount of homes being converted into vacation rentals in the summer and vacant in the winter.. I believe using funds for infrastructure such as water and sewer and electric to expand land availability and create new subdivisions would be the best route to help solve the housing issues while also not coming in from top down government control. From there, it would be up to the local city or borough's to work on either new zoning requirements or agreements between the land owners to restrict the use of vacation rentals so that these new developments would remain with the citizens instead of individuals from out of state buying up the lots and removing it from the people. I would work with the cities and boroughs in my district to ensure that new zoning was applied or addendums included in land sale agreements to protect the population from falling victim to more vacation rentals. Some additional ideas would be state operated/funded "lease to own" initiatives where individuals who meet certain criteria would sign on to a multi year contract with the state or local government and lease from them for a set number of years. After that contract is complete, a portion of the lease funds

(continued from page 18, Benjamin T. Vincent) would turn into a down payment and the payment would turn into a state funded home loan program. This would relieve the need for down payment from the individuals, given they were able to complete their side of the deal whatever it may have been, and allow them to become home owners through alternative means. This adds to the pride of ownership in our neighborhoods and increases home ownership in Alaska.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 06

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Bryant, Ginger (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

Flora, Louis A. "Louie" (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

Vance, Sarah L. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 07

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Gillham, Ronald D. "Ron" (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Ruffridge, Justin (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 08

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Carpenter, Ben (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 09

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Schaff, David L. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Shaw, Laddie H. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 10

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Insalaco, Mikel E. (Registered Libertarian) (Certified)\*

Johnson, Craig W. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Storm, Caroline (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** My name is Caroline Storm. I'm an architect, small business owner, mother, committed spouse, animal lover, and over ambitious DIY-er. I'm running for State House in our District because I love Alaska and our district deserves a representative who will listen to constituents to work in a bi-partisan fashion for Alaskans. We need to focus on what's important – safe communities, great jobs for Alaskans and exceptional schools for our kids. True public service is about listening, focusing on constituent priorities, setting aside political grandstanding, and rolling up your sleeves to get things done. As an architect I've spent my career working to balance the needs of my clients with their budget and schedule, coordinating the requirements of dozens of stakeholders, and meeting a range of code criteria to find a solution for every project. This is my pledge to you: I will work with everyone to find solutions for our district & state.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** The State must leverage it's agency and promote public-private partnerships to get affordable housing built. CIHA has been doing this for years, and thus the state does not need to reinvent the wheel, just partner with agencies already working in this capacity, and devise innovative strategies to housing development - whether it's in materials or land acquisition or development credits.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 11

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Coulombe, Julie (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Featherly, Walter T. (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 12

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McDonald, Jay (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Schrage, Calvin R. (Nonpartisan) (Certified)

**Bio:** I am a lifelong, third-generation Alaskan raised in a family of nurses, teachers, and firefighters. This community, which I've been honored to represent over the last two years, is where I grew up and is where I'm starting a family of my own with my wife Heather. Prior to serving in the legislature, I served on the boards of the Abbott Loop Community Council and Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent our community over the past two years and I am committed to continue fighting for our friends and neighbors in the Abbott Loop-Lower Hillside area if re-elected.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Although the direct policies to address the lack of affordable housing and homelessness in Anchorage are largely at the local level, the legislature can and should take steps to help address this important issue. A key step, which I've worked to do, is supporting the efforts of local organizations, stakeholders, community leaders, and government through state funding and policy recommendations. There are also policy decisions and regulatory changes that can help promote affordable housing. I've worked hard to introduce and pass legislation to do so, including House Bill 411, which allows local governments the ability to provide tax exemptions and deferrals to promote economic growth, such as housing, and House Bill 402 which reduces unnecessary and costly regulations on contractors. These are small legislative steps, but a start, and I look forward to continuing to work on efforts to lower costs and expand housing access.

Lastly, I believe that the state can do more to invest in workforce development here in Alaska, something which can only help to lower costs.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 13

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Henslee, Katherine J. "Kathy" (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Josephson, Andy (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 14

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Danger, Nicholas (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Galvin, Alyse S. (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 15

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Eibeck, David (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

McKay, Thomas W. "Tom" (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Wells, Denny (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I am the son of an IBEW electrician and an amazing stay-at-home mother, born here in Anchorage and grew up in Fairbanks. I met my wife Lisa while attending UAF, and after college we moved to Anchorage for further educational and job opportunities more than 20 years ago. We served together in the Peace Corps for 2 years in Thailand - my longest time away from Alaska - and returned to Alaska where I worked for a decade in the oil industry with a subcontractor to BP. I am a father to three school-aged children and run a small business here in town that allows me to spend time raising our children. I am running to ensure my family and yours have a safe, prosperous, and successful state to live, work, and enjoy.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Affordable housing is a major concern for my district. I have met many voters at the doors who bring up a lack of affordable housing as a reason they might move their growing families out of Anchorage or out of Alaska. I personally know young families who have done so, in part due to lack of affordable housing options. I have also met scores of travelers at the doors who are renting short term for vacation in a property where Alaskan voters once lived long term. To be clear, I'm knocking on the doors of registered voters - the scores of travelers I have encountered this summer represent housing stock removed from Anchorage's rental market since the dividend application period earlier this year. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition housing wage calculator, a person making minimum wage in Anchorage would have to work 101 hours per week to afford a median cost rental unit. There is currently an approximate shortage of 10,756 homes for extremely low income renter households, and a shortage of housing availability for those at most income levels. Rising building costs, interest rates, supply chain issues, and workforce shortages are all making building new homes and improving existing ones challenging, and housing being removed from the market and converted to short term rentals is reducing the availability of existing housing. I will work on improving workforce supply via trade schools and apprenticeship programs so we have folks to build the housing we so desperately need, as well as advocate for the needs of those workers. I will also support programs via the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Capital Improvement Project process. In my current professional capacity as a real estate photographer, I have shot the listing images of many short term rentals in the municipality, and have had the chance to chat with the homeowners who are preparing them. The short term rentals I shoot are almost

(continued from page 22, Denny Wells) always existing units where the owner has recently put in a significant amount of sweat equity to update a dated or dilapidated unit to be attractive on the short term rental market. This updating and refreshing of our housing stock is great, and should be encouraged. But often the expenses incurred to update these properties are more than could be reasonably recouped in the long term rental market. As the owner of rental properties myself, I have seen the commercial solicitation from short term rental management companies offering to help convert my properties. I don't have a proscribed solution, but I believe a plan to mitigate the loss of housing to the short term rental market is important. With such low vacancy rates and high costs of living in Anchorage, I am prepared as a legislator to work with community organizations, state institutions, municipalities, and private industry to find solutions that work for Alaskans.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 16

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### Armstrong, Jennifer "Jennie" (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** Jennie Armstrong is a small business founder and CEO, a mom, and a lifelong advocate for the greater good. As a legislator, she will build a stronger Alaska for future generations by growing our economy, responsibly using state resources, taking care of our most vulnerable, and making Alaska a destination for entrepreneurship and business development. As an Alaskan mother, she knows that creating a thriving economy that lasts decades into the future requires investment in the next generation, right now. She will support universal pre-K and investment in the state's public education institutions at all levels. She will work to make Alaska a place for innovative business development by ensuring stable state investment, addressing workforce shortages, and supporting reliable supply chains. Through her work, she has dedicated the past 12 years to supporting individuals, organizations, and companies in launching socially responsible brands and movements. Jennie holds degrees in International Law and Public Policy from American University in Paris and Oxford, and a B.A. Mass Communications from Louisiana State University, where she received several prestigious awards for her leadership and human rights activism.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** I believe that ADUs, while not a panacea, are a great option for easing the housing burden. I would love to see Alaska launch an ADU center and make it as easy as possible for homeowners to create affordable housing on their property. This is win-win for several reasons, including: 1. With rising cost of living, it allows Alaskans to stay in Alaska and age in place by providing them with income throughout their retirement. 2. Affordable housing is crucial to a vibrant economy. It is best if people can live in the community where they work and are not priced out of that community. ADUs are a low-impact strategy for increasing our affordable housing supply. We can also consider offering different incentives for folks who build ADUs and agree to not use them for short-term vacation rentals. Finally, it is our job to make the case for

(continued from page 23, Jennifer “Jennie” Armstrong) how developing land into different housing types is a net positive for the community and crucial for our sustainability. I am pro-development and excited to collaborate with folks on this issue.

Vazquez, Liz (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 17

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Drummond, Harriet A. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Fields, William Z. “Zack” (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I'm married to Khalial Withen, and we have two daughters, Zara (age 4) and Simone (age 2). We live in South Addition and love to explore the outdoors and read with the girls. My wife is an attorney and I've worked in public policy at the local, state, and federal level since graduating from college in 2006 with a degree in economics. For many years I've written outdoor articles for the Anchorage Press and have volunteered with community non-profits such as Anchorage Youth Court and Bike Anchorage.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** In addition to supporting existing funding streams that are important for shelter and housing, we need to look at how we expand funding for housing. Last year I worked on legislation that came close to establishing a large Housing Trust Fund that could have helped; that bill did not pass but seed funding for a Housing Trust did make it through the appropriations process.

Specific to my district, I'd like to explore use of state and federal funds to address utilities and environmental remediation costs in undeveloped downtown lots (including those used as parking) to facilitate residential development.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 18

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Franks, Lyn D. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I have lived and worked in Alaska since 1988, raised my children in Muldoon, and am so proud of our culturally rich neighborhoods and communities. Over the last decade, I've been an adjunct history instructor for the University of Alaska Anchorage and substitute for the Anchorage School District. I serve as treasurer on the Northeast Community Council Board. I am active with my church, St. Mary's Episcopal, where I have been a worship leader. As a former

(continued from page 24, Lyn D. Franks) military spouse, I bring a knowledge and understanding to the particular needs of state-controlled veterans' funds, the National Guard, and the Alaska State Defense Force. I understand and respect the needs of military service members and families.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Alaska needs more housing communities that serve a diverse population. These communities must be attractive, eco-friendly to include sustainable energy sources and food sovereignty within said community. These communities must include medical, dental, and mental health access to serve folks who were previously homeless, veterans, seniors, or just small business owners who are trying to cut costs while investing in their livelihood.

Transportation services could also cut down parking lot space which can expand living space. Businesses can co-exist with residential condos along with recreational and fitness centers.

Groh, Cliff (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Nelson, David (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 19

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Mina, Genevieve G. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** I'm a lifelong Alaskan, political aide, community advocate, and proud daughter of Filipino immigrants. My family bought their first home in Airport Heights and operated assisted living homes in the neighborhood for almost two decades. I grew up in my family's small business, attending our local public schools while helping my family navigate government paperwork. I've worked as a communications professional, community organizer, and political aide specializing in health policy. I'm also an avid volunteer with a mission to uplift underrepresented voices through civic engagement. Although budget cuts and political dysfunction have forced far too many to leave the state, I know that there's a future here – just like my parents did when they sacrificed everything to live in Alaska. I'm running to serve the area that raised me, and I'll fight to build a future Alaskans want to live in.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** We must improve access to affordable housing by building more housing units, supporting weatherization measures for existing homes, and funding multiple state programs which support housing development for vulnerable populations and rural communities. First, I would advocate increased funds to the Supplemental Housing Development Grant Program and Senior Citizen Housing Development Grant to enhance the ability of Regional Housing Authorities (RHAs) in leveraging state and federal dollars for development, as well as increasing more

(continued from page 25, Genevieve G. Mina) housing in rural Alaska through funding the Teacher, Health Professional, Public Safety Housing Grant Program. Second, energy-efficiency is a priority for my district, where Mountain View households experience the highest utility burden in the Municipality of Anchorage, and I support the Weatherization Assistance Program to support energy-efficiency improvements for low- income households. Third, I am pleased to see the creation of the Alaska Housing Trust, and want to ensure this program is adequately funded to maximize public-private funds.

Wyatt, Russell O. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 20

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Bauer, Paul A. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Gray, Andrew T. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** Andrew Gray first arrived in Anchorage in 1998 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin. Although he only stayed a year back then, he was always plotting his return, and for the past 5 years, he has been caring for veterans at the Alaska VA as a physician assistant. He is a veteran himself who deployed to Kosovo with the Alaska Army National Guard in 2019. On the board of the Campbell Park Community Council, he has taken an active role in finding answers to the problems facing his community. He hosts the East Anchorage Book Club Podcast that seeks to educate listeners about Alaska's history and politics. He co-founded the grassroots group Anchorage Action which has advocated for evidence-based solutions for homelessness, called attention to municipal corruption, and petitioned to protect our public libraries.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** 1. Increase state funding for critical housing organizations. 2. Seek ways to incentivize affordable home construction throughout the state (by reducing costs of materials and labor and/or lobbying municipalities to change zoning ordinances that do not contribute to safety but drive up prices). 3. Leverage corporations and organizations to open up land holdings for housing developments. 4. Prioritize long-term rentals over short-term rentals (e.g. Airbnb and VRBO) through incentives for owners of long-term rental properties and/or creating a state-wide registry of short-term rentals.

Harary, Jordan I. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Kohlhaas, Scott A. (Registered Libertarian) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 21

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Mears, Donna C. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Wolfe, Forrest M. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 22

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Eischeid, Ted J. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Wright, Stanley A. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 23

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Allard, Jamie (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Branson, Roger L. (Registered Republican) (Certified)

**Bio:** Mental Health Advocate

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** As swiftly as possible

## HOUSE DISTRICT 24

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Jackson, Sharon (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Nelson, Daryl W. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Saddler, Dan (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 25

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Johnson, DeLena M. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Wood, Lawrence D. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 26

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Stokes, Daniel L. (Registered Libertarian) (Certified)\*

Tilton, Cathy L. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 27

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Carpenter, Brendan R. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Eastman, David (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Graham, Stuart R. "Stu" (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 28

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Allen, Rachel M. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Menard, Steve (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Sumner, Jesse M. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Wright, Jessica (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 29

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Haase, Elijah D. (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

Rauscher, George (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 30

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McCabe, Kevin J. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Mindiola, L. Joy (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 31

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Dibert, Maxine L. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

LeBon, Barton S. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Nash, Kelly (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 32

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Givens, Timothy W. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Lawrence, Van (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Stapp, Will B. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 33

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Prax, Glenn M. "Mike" (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 34

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DeMars, Nate (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Hopkins, Grier H. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Tomaszewski, Frank J. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 35

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Brown, Kieran C. (Registered AK Constitution) (Certified)\*

Carrick, Ashley E. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)

**Bio:** My name is Ashley Carrick. I am a fourth generation and life-long Alaskan with deep family roots in the Interior. I moved to Fairbanks from my hometown of Anchorage in 2010 to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks and I have been living in the golden heart Interior ever since. In 2014, I graduated with a Bachelors in Psychology. In 2020, I graduated from UAA with a Masters in Public Health. As a young homeowner, I am keenly aware of the challenge that other first time home buyers are encountering in finding available and affordable housing. In 2019, I purchased my home on six undeveloped acres of taiga forest. I want to ensure that young people have access to similar opportunities, and that Alaskans are able to access housing no matter their financial situation. For the past six years, I have been a legislative staff member.

For the last five years, I have been Representative Wools Chief of Staff. Working in the Alaska State Capitol has given me an intimate understanding of the legislative process. My experience will serve me well in my first year as a freshman lawmaker. As a staffer I have carried several bills through the legislative process and into law. As a young homeowner, I look forward to utilizing my expertise and the unique opportunities currently provided by Federal infrastructure funding to support the construction of affordable housing across our state.

(continued from page 30, Ashley E. Carrick)

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** Providing available and affordable housing is a key challenge for our state leaders to solve. This is an issue of personal relevance and importance to me as a young, first-time homeowner and yearly renter in Juneau during the legislative session. My direct experience with several sides of the housing equation as well as hearing the challenges that constituents are experiencing has given me important insight into this challenge. The ability to find and purchase affordable and available housing is out of reach to many Alaskans, and the Legislature must make meaningful progress to remedy this situation. The best way to address our housing crisis is to invest in more affordable housing. Here in the Interior, as new squadrons of F35s continue to be stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, the Defense Department is working with the Fairbanks North Star Borough on constructing additional affordable housing. This is not a complete solution and does not address the housing shortages elsewhere in Alaska. Ultimately, the state will need to invest in building housing here in Fairbanks and elsewhere, by working with local and Federal partners as well as local and statewide organizations to find partnerships and support both infrastructure development and maintenance. With billions of dollars in federal infrastructure investments coming to Alaska, we have a unique opportunity right now to invest in critical infrastructure to meet the essential needs of Alaskans. While some of this federal infrastructure funding is earmarked for specific purposes, much of it will be up to the Legislature to appropriate. I look forward to supporting investments in the construction and maintenance of affordable housing for Alaskans.

McKinley, Kevin (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

McNeill, Ruben A. Jr. (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 36

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Cronk, Mike (Registered Republican) (Certified)\*

Fowler, Angela K. "Fitch" (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 37

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Edgmon, Bryce (Undeclared) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 38

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McCormick, Conrad J. "C.J." (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

### **Certified Write-In**

Naneng, Myron P. Sr. (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*

## HOUSE DISTRICT 39

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Foster, Neal W. (Registered Democrat) (Certified)\*

Ivanoff, Tyler L. (Registered AK Independence) (Certified)

**Bio:** My name is Tyler Ivanoff and I am from Shishmaref, Alaska. I am currently a 4th grade teacher at Shishmaref School. I am running for office because I feel Western Alaska needs better representation.

**Q: If elected, how would you improve or expand access to housing in Alaska?**

**A:** I plan on working with communities, like Anchorage, that have plans on helping people without housing. Life can be tough, and sometimes people don't have the tools to get back on their feet. If there is a program out there that allows that, I think that this problem of homelessness would be solved. If there is not a program out there that helps people get their own housing, then a facility should be built to help these people. I've been following the homelessness crisis on the State News, and see how much of a problem it is to get a facility for winter use.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 40

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Patkotak, Josiah B. "Aullaqsruaq" (Nonpartisan) (Certified)\*