

Education:

Economics/Chemistry BA from Amherst College (2005)

JD from University of Virginia (2011)

Relevant Experience:

I have worked three legislative sessions as an aide in Juneau, including two as an aide for House Finance. I was present for high-stakes negotiations between the House Minority and House Majority on budget issues.

My first job for the executive branch was for the Economic Research Group within the Dept of Revenue. There, I worked on projecting revenues from various sources, and evaluating the solvency of the Permanent Fund under various fiscal plans.

I currently work as State Assessor. The cost of housing, vehicles, and other necessities are elements I work with daily. The models I create and numbers that I report require the CPI-U for Alaska as an input.

All of these positions have involved me keeping a keen eye on both the State budget, and on the cost of living in Alaska. An understanding of the incentives of the other side as well as of the needs of SU employees will be key to achieving the most favorable outcome possible. That understanding is what I bring both personally and professionally.

Motivation:

I have long advocated for tying COLA increases to the measured inflation rate, rather than having a fixed schedule set years in advance. For 40 years, inflation had been tame and this was an esoteric, academic quibble. But the most recent SU contract, agreed to just before inflation took off, is an example of why this is so important. SU employees were locked in to three years of low cost of living adjustments while the actual cost of living skyrocketed. I will be a strong proponent of making up for the ground we lost over the recent years, and in ensuring that a fair system is in place for the future.