House District 36 Representative

Brandon P. Kowalski “Putuuqti”, Registered Democrat

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AGE: 30

PLACE OF BIRTH: Fairbanks, AK

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 26

EDUCATION:
West Valley High School, University of Alaska Fairbanks

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Graduate teaching assistant, researcher, welder’s helper, welding trainee, laborer

SPECIAL INTERESTS:
Teaching, health and medicine, subsistence, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, music, spending time with loved ones.

OTHER:
I was raised with my Iñupiaq values of responsibility, humility, cooperation, and hard work. A lifelong Alaskan, I grew up in the rural village of Kotzebue until my family moved to Goldstream in Fairbanks. I come from a family of educators and tradesmen. After graduating from UAF, I pursued an M.S. in Biology, taught, and worked as a Research Assistant until I started a career in the trades. I got started in a union and am now a certified structural welder. My greatest strength is my ability to listen and cooperate with anyone towards a common goal. As your representative, I would work across the aisle to fight for our region.

STATEMENT:
I am running to represent Interior Alaska because our region needs education funding, responsible economic development, and a voice for our subsistence resources and rights as rural Alaskans. I have spent my life seeing the impact of these needs and I am ready to go to work in the Legislature to put our district’s needs FIRST.

My main goals are to:

–Support education–by supporting a permanent BSA funding increase for public schools, restoring defined benefits, and adopting a supplemental benefit system (SBS) for state employees. I come from a family of educators and I know how important it is to provide our children with the quality education they deserve.

–Stand with working and rural Alaskans–by supporting unions, growing responsible economic development and high paying jobs, balancing the budget to grow the PFD, and funding public services through revenue solutions that DON’T fall on working and rural Alaskans. This is personally important to me as a tradesman with three brothers in the trades.

–Protect our ways of life for future generations–by protecting our salmon and caribou, preserving access to subsistence for rural Alaskans, and elevating Alaska Native/tribal voices at the state level. As someone from a rural village, I know that subsistence means more than just filling our freezers for the winter – it is a way of life that needs to be protected for future generations.

The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.
The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.