

Position Sought: House District 25 Representative

Name and Political Affiliation: Steven L. Merritt, Nonpartisan

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Biographical Information

Age: 59

Place of Birth: Texarkana, Texas

Spouse's Name: Belle

Children's Names: Thomas, John & Arthur

Occupation: Self-employed graphic designer, writer and editor

Length of Residency in Alaska: 31 years

Alaskan Communities Lived in:

Anchorage: 1995-97, late '99-mid-2000; 2001-mid-'02

Girdwood: 1997-99; Soldotna: summer-2000-January 2001

Wasilla: Mid-2002-mid-2017; Palmer 2017-present

Education:

Paul H. Pewitt High School, Omaha, Texas.

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. Bachelor of Science in Journalism.

Business and Professional Positions:

Served on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Press Club

Served as President of the nonprofit Mat-Su Sentinel Board of Directors for 2 years

Service Organizations Membership:

Served on the Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers Board of Directors for 10 years; past director of VMBaH's youth mountain biking program

Served on the Board for the Palmer High School Nordic Ski Team Boosters

Special Interests:

Fishing, hiking, skiing & year-round cycling

Other (Biographical Information):

As my wife and I learned with our three boys, Alaska is a wonderful place to raise a family. Let's keep it that way.

Position Statement

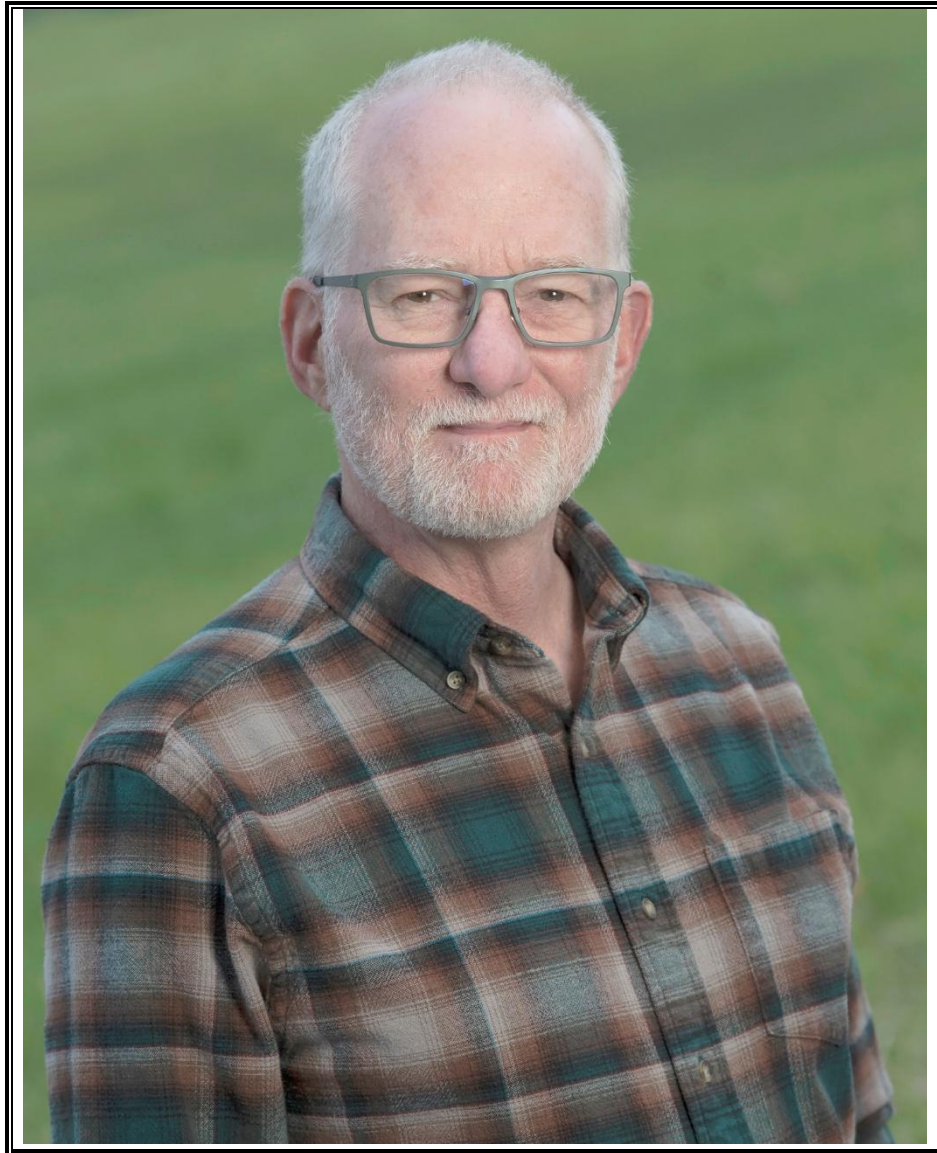
My candidacy for State House District 25 is built on trying to move the needle toward a sustainable future for Alaska. Like many nonpartisan, undeclared and even party-registered voters I have spoken to in the greater Palmer area, I don't feel represented. I have watched the can continue to get kicked down the road in Juneau with regard to long-range fiscal policy, vital education funding and the future of the Permanent Fund Dividend. It's time for forward-thinking, honest discussions on what we want as a state.

In listening to residents share what's on their minds in the district, I have heard concerns over schools, public safety, affordability in housing and healthcare, and the cost of energy. Others worry about food security and low salmon returns. The Mat-Su Borough continues to be the fastest-growing region, but is grappling with ever-tightening budgets as state revenue sharing drains away.

The state has a role in tackling all these issues, and we must encourage the political will to get results.

Alaska is different, unlike any other state. When my wife and I moved here 30 years ago, we wanted to be a part of a broader community that not only valued individual rights and freedoms, but also recognized a shared ethos of collective responsibility toward all Alaskans. That sentiment has gotten a little off course in recent years, and the cracks are showing. I will work to maintain a community ethos in all I do.

Current Photo



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