

SO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE IN VALDEZ?

A HOW TO GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

1) MAKE SURE YOU ARE A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE...

VMC 7.04.040(C) outlines the qualifications for a municipal candidate. Candidates for local office must be qualified electors of the city- meaning registered to vote in Valdez. You must also have been a resident of the city for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the filing of petition.

2) LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEGAL ROLE YOU'D PLAY...

The responsibilities of the City Council are outlined in the City Charter and Chapter 2.06 of Valdez Municipal Code (VMC).

The Council holds the legislative and policy making powers of the city and ensures that the legal obligations of the city are met. These duties include approval of changes to the city code, appointing the City Manager and City Clerk, approving the annual city budget, and certifying local elections.

The School Board has its own set of policies and acts as the governing body for the Valdez City School District, overseeing the Superintendent and weighing in on local educational policy.

3) CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE TO GET A NOMINATING PETITION...

VMC 7.04.050 outlines the process for completing a nominating petition. Candidate forms can be picked up from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall starting on February 15th each year.

4) COLLECT SIGNATURES FROM ENOUGH QUALIFIED VOTERS AND RETURN YOUR COMPLETE PETITION...

For a nominating petition to be accepted, you need **at least 25 signatures from qualified voters to run for School Board or City Council (50 if you are running for Mayor)**. You'll be required to collect the signatures yourself- no having someone else collect signatures on your behalf.

Completed petitions are due to the City Clerk's Office by March 15th.

Pro Tip: The petition forms have extra spaces so get extra signatures in case someone who signed your petition isn't registered to vote!

5) FILL OUT YOUR CAMPAIGN FINANCE PAPERWORK...

Alaska law allows for local candidates to be exempted from state campaign finance reporting rules unless they raise or spend more than \$5000 dollars. All local candidates must fill out an exemption form with the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC)- the City Clerk's Office will assist you with completing and submitting this form when you turn in your completed petition.

If you do raise or spend more than \$5000 on your campaign you must immediately file a Candidate Registration with APOC.

6) TALK WITH YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED...

If you want to take on a role as a local elected official make sure that you are talking frequently with a wide array of people to get varied perspectives about the community. Remember that, if elected, you will be representing all citizens of Valdez, not just those who see eye to eye with you. It will also be helpful to seek advice from others who've served on City Council or School Board in the past to learn about their experiences.

7) NOT QUITE READY YET? SERVE ON A LOCAL BOARD OR COMMISSION...

If you still aren't sure about running for local office- consider serving in a role on a local board or commission. The City has many advisory boards and commissions that the Clerk's office actively seeks applicants to fill vacancies on each year. Local Non-Profits also often need volunteers to join their boards as well.

Serving on a commission or board will help you decide if elective office is right for you and help you hone skills that would serve you well down the road if you decide to run for office at a later date.

VISIT WWW.VALDEZAK.GOV/ELECTIONS
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LOCAL ELECTIONS

6 Qualities of a Successful Local Candidate

Honest-

A key characteristic of an elected official is honesty- both in personal and professional actions and in your approach to considering issues. Your fellow citizen's should be able to rely on you and trust you.

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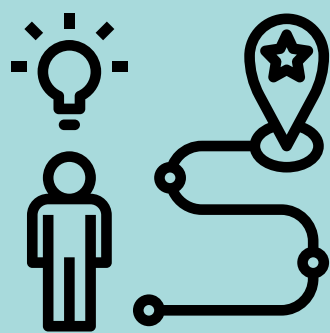
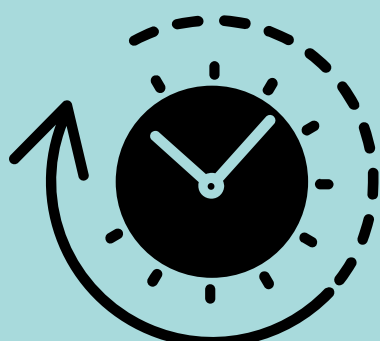
Balanced-

Local government in Alaska is designed to be non-partisan. A Council or School Board Member represents of all people of the community, not a particular interest group or narrow agenda. Be willing to take a measured and thoughtful approach to issues.

Committed-

Doing this job well requires a significant commitment of time and energy. Be aware when you chose to run for office that in addition to regular meetings, there is a lot to learn and a lot of homework to do ahead of meetings.

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Motivated-

If your primary motivation is to serve the public interest you are on the right track. Having your heart in the right place and working hard for the community matters when you serve in office.

Experienced-

You don't have to know everything right away but having some previous civic experience is helpful. Have you ever served on a volunteer board or been involved in a civic organization? Also consider unique life experiences, knowledge and interests you bring to the table.

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Curious-

Being willing to learn and explore different perspectives is an essential part of the role an elected official plays. You won't always have the perfect answer but if you are able to ask thoughtful questions and listen to various opinions you'll be a step ahead.

Are you motivated to serve the community's interests?

Are you willing to bring a balanced view to local government?

Nominating Petitions are now available in the City Clerk's Office if you are interested in running for School Board or City Council. The following seats will be on the May 2nd ballot:

School Board-
3 seats each to serve a 3 year term
1 seat to serve a 1 year term

City Council-
2 seats each to serve a 3 year term
1 seat to serve a 1 year term

Nominating Petitions must be completed and returned to the Clerk's Office by March 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM