

MICHELLE BONNET HALE FOR ASSEMBLY

PRESS RELEASE

June 13, 2018

Michelle Bonnet Hale of Juneau has filed a Letter of Intent with the Alaska Public Offices Commission to run for the CBJ Assembly. She plans to run for the District 2 Valley seat that will be vacated by Jerry Nankervis later this year.

Michelle was born in Juneau and raised here and in southern Southeast Alaska. She is running for office after a 30-year career in private sector and state service in Alaska. She is excited to finally have the chance to serve at the local level.

For the last six years Michelle served Alaskans as Director of the Division of Water at the State's Department of Environmental Conservation, having worked her way up through the ranks since 2000. She is now a local entrepreneur, running a fledgling business selling her late father Herb Bonnet's artwork and art cards.

A chemist by training, Michelle previously worked on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, managed a private water lab in Juneau, and served as the Environmental Coordinator for the Kensington Mine north of Juneau.

As the great granddaughter of Petersburg homesteaders and fishermen, and the granddaughter of the chief electrical engineer of Juneau's AJ Mine, Michelle's roots run deep in Southeast Alaska. "I love Alaska, I love Southeast Alaska, and I love Juneau," she says. "And I get what living here is: I have fished here, I still have a hand troll permit! I lived in the sticks on Prince of Wales Island when I was a teenager; I have gotten this place on me. And I love it, weather and all."

"The local level is where the rubber meets the road, this is where the gnarly problems are," she says. "I like solving problems and I want to be of service to my hometown. We've got some complex issues in Juneau – the opioid epidemic, public safety, the new JACC. And new issues will always arise. I am eager to work through these with my fellow Juneauites."

Michelle is no stranger to controversy. She smiles at the recent memory of a contentious public meeting she ran in Haines, where "100 people showed up, with a police presence."

Haines author Heather Lende reported about the meeting on her blog. Lende wrote that Michelle was "the epitome of grace under pressure; helpful, brave, soft-spoken, steadfastly polite and resolutely topical in the face of explosive interruptions and challenges from some in the standing-room crowd."

Michelle is eager to be just that kind of voice for residents of the City and Borough of Juneau.

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