

Alaska State Legislature

Interim:

600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: (907) 376-3725
Fax: (907) 376-4768

**Session:**

Alaska State Capitol, Rm 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-3743

Fax: (907) 465-2381

Toll Free: (800) 565-3743

Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Carl Gatto

Chair House Military and Veteran Affairs Committee
District 13 - Palmer

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HJR 2

"Proposing amendments to the constitution of the State of Alaska to avoid the use of personal pronouns and similar references that denote masculine or feminine gender in that document."

HJR 2 removes all masculine or feminine terms from the Constitution of the State of Alaska. This resolution deletes the terms "his," "him," and "himself" and replaces them with terms as "oneself," "Governor," "Governor-elect," "Lieutenant Governor," "Legislator," "members," "executive," "justice or judge," "voter," "person's," "auditor," and "accused." Other changes that occur make the sentences grammatically correct.

Some of our oldest and youngest states in the union such as New York and Hawaii have amended their constitutions to reflect gender neutrality. The framers of our constitution went to great lengths in the construction of the Constitution to recognize gender equality and it is in that spirit and as a continuation of their leadership that we seek to modify our constitution in recognition of the progress in our society and culture.

This resolution is before us now because it is time for us to recognize a significant moment in Alaska history, a time when we elected our first female Governor. The administration fully supports this effort.

I ask for your support.