

Joe Balash

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Anchorage, [REDACTED]
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Resourceful problem-solver with proven results in Alaska Government. Excellent communication skills with experience developing public policy and building coalitions that deliver solutions. Solid understanding of the complex interaction of local, state, federal, and native organizations that influence resource development in Alaska.

Professional Experience

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources December 2010 to Present

One of two deputies charged with the day-to-day management and supervision of the State of Alaska's land management agency; annual budget of \$170 million and 1,100 employees. Responsible for the direct oversight of the Division of Oil and Gas, Division of Geologic and Geophysical Survey, the Mental Health Trust Land Office, the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office, the Gas Pipeline Project Office, and formerly the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management.

Special Assistant, Office of the Governor December 2006 to December 2010

Reported to the Chief of Staff and Governor for energy and natural resource development issues. Coordinated policy on behalf of the Governor's Office, the departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Alaska Energy Authority. Reviewed and directed responses to correspondence, media inquiries, and supported the efforts of the Legislative Director.

Legislative Budget and Audit Committee November 2004 to December 2006

Staff to the LBAC with oversight on gas pipeline negotiations. Manage the schedule, agenda, and budget for the committee. Serve as project director for four professional services contracts related to the gas pipeline totaling nearly \$2,000,000, administering each in accordance with the legislative procurement code regulations. Serve as liaison between the committee and the Governor, Commissioners, agency staff, negotiators, and contractors as well as project applicants. Work with officials and staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, and Department of the Interior to ensure the committee understands the roles of federal agencies in the project. Manage and supervise the personal staff of four for the committee chair.

Chief of Staff to the Senate President November 2002 to November 2004

Managed and supervised the personal staff of five for the Senate President; the Senate Secretary and staff, and the Senate Press Secretary and communications staff. Served as liaison between the Senate President and leadership of the House of Representatives, the Governor and his commissioners and staff, and industry trade associations. Maintained the weekly agendas for the Senate Majority Caucus. Coordinated media relations for the Senate President's office, dealing directly with members of the print and broadcast media. Organized Senate Committee staff to move the Senate Majority's agenda forward. Served as lead staff for budget negotiations. Collaborated with representatives of Alaska's Native community to develop a common approach to federal agencies on the ownership of submerged lands and impacts on respective lands claims.

Senate State Affairs Committee**November 2000 to November 2002**

Managed the schedule and agenda for the committee. Maintained committee files, reports, and minutes. Interacted with executive branch agencies and outside stakeholders to develop legislative solutions and compromises. Developed and managed committee legislation and presented testimony to other committees in both the House and Senate. Managed and supervised the personal staff of 5 for the committee chair.

Personal Staff to Rep. Gene Therriault**January 1998 to November 2000**

Managed the daily schedule for the co-chair of the House Finance Committee, a key leadership office in the Alaska State Legislature. Processed and produced constituent correspondence. Served as staff on the budget subcommittee for the Department of Commerce and Economic Development. Developed and managed personal legislation for the member and presented testimony to various committees in the House and Senate.

Professional Development**Leadership Staff Section, National Conference of State Legislatures**

Annual Training Seminar, 2003, 2004

Member and Second Vice-chair of the Executive Committee

Republican National Committee

Campaign Finance College, 2003

Political Campaign Experience**Alaska Republican Party 2004**

Coordinated field activities in the Fairbanks North Star Borough in support of turn-out in the US Senate election.

Tom Wagoner for State Senate 2004

Served as a consultant to the campaign providing assistance on fundraising, opposition research, advertising content for mail, radio, and newspaper distribution, and coordinated turn-out activities.

Jay Ramras for State House 2004

Served as a consultant to the campaign providing assistance on strategy, media placement and content, and voter identification data analysis.

Seekins for Senate 2002

Served as a consultant to the campaign providing assistance on opposition research, correspondence, fundraising, construction and analysis of polling data, voter turn-out activities, and overall campaign strategy.

Education

BA in Politics and Government, *magna cum laude*
Pacific University
Forest Grove, OR

Class of 1993, Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High School