

Official Candidate Statement

Michael Taylor, Candidate for City Council seat G



Biographical

I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, moved to Gustavus in 1977, but lived in Fairbanks 1984-2002, and returned fulltime to Gustavus in 2002.

I attended Oregon State University and the University of Pavia, Italy earning a BS and BA in Mechanical Engineering. I later earned an MS in Ecology from California State University-Hayward. My employment experience spans private industry, Federal, and municipal government as an engineer, project manager, industrial hygienist, and park ranger. Most of my professional career was in industrial hygiene in Alaska and internationally. I have been retired for about 10 years.

I have served the city since 2004 on numerous committees, City council about 8 years, 2 years as Mayor. For most of that time I have worked to improve the quality and serviceability of our city road system. I also was a GVFD responder for about 10 years.

Advocacy Statement

Our city government should function competently and effectively to support and enable the lifestyles and economy of Gustavus. I ascribe to the City Vision Statement, read at each meeting. In addition, I expect our city to be known as a distinctive, professionally-staffed, fiscally-prudent municipality that does things very well—a cut above all the other small towns in Alaska. Our strong reputation pays off in getting grants, agency permits, and through successful relationships with outside governmental and other agencies.

I bring to the council long experience in our city government in various roles. I learn more each year. Our city improves and matures by building skills among staff and council members and by strengthening processes. I feel successful when other council members build skills and achieve their goals. As a second-class city we have adopted limited powers, authorized by our public. We should stick to those functions we can do well. Gustavus is blessed to have private businesses and NGOs that also provide vital services. City government should enable those other service providers and the public to be successful.

I decided to run again for council to support other council members and to complete the road, bridge, and flood control projects I have been managing with the City Administrator. I'll work to see the updated Beach Park cooperative resource management agreement with the State finalized, assuring our wonderful community park can be enjoyed by future generations. I hope to enable city staff to serve the public well.