



GUSTAVUS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2023 Candidates and Official Statements

RACHEL M. PATRICK – CITY COUNCIL SEAT C
(3-year term ending 2026)

BRIAN M. TAYLOR – CITY COUNCIL SEAT D
(3-year term ending 2026)

OFFICIAL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

“The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and are not endorsed by the City of Gustavus. The text of this statement was provided by the candidate.”

Rachel Patrick

Candidate for election to City Council Seat C – 3 Year Term Ending in 2026

Hello fellow community members.

My name is Rachel Patrick, and I am running for Gustavus City Council, Seat C in the upcoming municipal election.

I grew up in Richmond, Virginia. I finished high school while, from the age of 14, I worked my way up as a dishwasher in Mom-and-Pop restaurants to executive chef at private country clubs by age 21. What I've learned from working in a stringent structure of professional kitchens has helped to shape me into the person I am today. I may not currently have much knowledge of local government processes, but I am willing to learn and what I do have is drive, passion, common sense and the ability to function well in high pressure situations.

In 2012 I accepted a job, which led me to working as a Sous Chef at Gustavus's nostalgic Bear Track Inn. What I thought would be a unique summer job ultimately changed the course of my life as I knew it. I met my husband, started a family, had two beautiful children, and set down permanent roots here in Gustavus. This community was like nothing I've ever seen before - so welcoming, caring and safe. I never looked back.

Why do I want to represent our community on the city council? The short answer is I've lived here going on 12 years. I work in this community, and I raise my children here. I CARE what happens in Gustavus. One of my goals is to actually encourage more community participation and communication, as I believe these two items are the foundational blocks to healing a sometimes-divided community. Some of my views and opinions may differ from others', but I think that is exactly why it's time for me to step up and be involved and advocate for those who feel like their voices aren't being heard or are too timid to speak up and ask questions.

In my view, major decisions should be based on the answer to these questions:

1. Is this fiscally responsible?
2. Is this going to benefit the community as a whole?
3. Is this something most members in the community want? If there is a discrepancy in this perception, what is the process to find out?
4. Are there ways to effect compromise?

See you at the polls!

Thank you,
Rachel Patrick.

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Brian Taylor

Candidate for re-election to City Council Seat D – 3 Year Term Ending in 2026

Brian.Taylor@gustavus-ak.gov



Biographical Information

I was born in Utah and spent my youth gazing up at Mount Timpanogos, playing in the Wasatch mountains. Then studied Outdoor Recreation Management at Utah Valley University and worked a while in the climbing/guiding industry before coming to Alaska in 2013, to work in Denali National Park. After three summers there and 100+ nights exploring the Denali Wilderness I knew I couldn't live in the lower 48 anymore.

In 2019, after living in Girdwood for a year I came to Gustavus to work at the lodge for the summer. I've lived in town now since April 2020 with my partner Rachel, spending 2020 and 2021 working for the Park. I now work remotely for an open source software company called Automattic, as well as the Gustavus Visitors Association.

I've been privileged to take extended travels internationally and have made a point to expose myself to many perspectives.

Advocacy Statement

I consider myself technically minded and am curious about details; I strive to be someone who is always learning, and city council has thus far been a great opportunity to learn. With a year of experience on council now I've developed an understanding of our municipal processes and have been proud to help pass a conservatively balanced budget and drive improvements in our policies on funds management to get a better return on the city's capital.

I've enjoyed bringing a younger perspective to the city's deliberations and working with our capable staff and the rest of the council to keep the city of Gustavus operating smoothly. I'm averse to tribal politics and have been happy to find such antics absent in my time on council thus far. We get the best results when we cooperate in good faith, even if we disagree.