

“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.”

Candidate Statement
City Council Seat G

Mike Taylor

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Biographical Statement: A native of Portland Oregon, I first came to Gustavus in 1977. I have been a resident of Alaska since about 1978. I lived and worked in Fairbanks from about 1984 to 2002 while maintaining our Gustavus home. I have lived permanently in Gustavus since 2002.

I hold BS and BA degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State University and a MS in Ecology from California State University at Hayward. I am now retired from my work as a professional engineer and a board-certified industrial hygienist. While in graduate school I was also employed as a seasonal park ranger at Glacier Bay National Park and I returned to the NPS to work at the Visitor Information Station for two seasons after retirement.

I have been involved in the City of Gustavus since incorporation in 2004, serving on committees for the DRC, Roads, Septage services, and Borough evaluations. I was a GVFD responder for about ten years, a city council member since 2014, and served four terms as City Mayor.

Advocacy Statement: I seek reelection to continue progress toward a more sustainable and resilient Gustavus that will serve residents for many decades to come. I hope to build the skills, experience, and confidence of others in City roles to provide tomorrow's leadership. For over 20 years I have managed dozens of City public works projects to upgrade roads, improve drainage, build bridges, build the City Hall addition, establish the Beach Park, upgrade Salmon River Park play equipment, and more. As our local government matures, I'm pleased that others are stepping up to lead projects and initiatives to achieve our best as a distinctive community.

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The life of our community is our people—our lifestyles, activities, businesses, and personal efforts. We thrive in an exceptionally beautiful, diverse natural environment that would be the envy of any town. Our City government is the community operating system running effectively in the background to enable residents to live the lifestyles they choose and businesses to flourish in the land we love. We are an Alaska second class city, a perfect fit for a community with a healthy skepticism toward government and an independent, get-it-done, lifestyle. We run a tight ship with relatively few, but essential, services that we execute well. The City has a strong financial position, runs a budget surplus every year, and has several years operating budget banked in reserve, all despite a low tax rate. Maintaining that financial standing is essential to our future. The character of our people, the professionalism of our staff, and the skills of our City Council have earned Gustavus a reputation equal to that of much larger towns. We can always do better, though! I am proud to serve our community and offer to continue for another term.