

Les S. Gara—House District 20—Democrat

Residence Address:

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Anchorage, AK 99501

Mailing Address:

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E-Mail:

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Web Site:

www.lesgara.org

Age:

53

Place of Birth:

New York City

Spouse's Name:

Kelly

Occupation:

Freelance Fishing/Outdoors writer, part owner, Snow City Cafe, legislator

Length of Residency in Alaska:

28 years

Alaskan Communities Lived in:

Fairbanks 1988-89; Anchorage 1989 - present

Education:

Freeport High School, 1977-81; Boston University, 1981-1985 (B.A. Magna Cum Laude,); Harvard Law School 1985-1988 (J.D. With Honors)

Political and Government Positions:

Alaska Asst. Attorney General, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Litigation; Judicial Law Clerk for Alaska Supreme Court Justice Jay Rabinowitz; Legislator

Business and Professional Positions:

Prior practice as an Asst. Attorney General and attorney in private practice; currently part owner of Snow City Cafe, freelance outdoors and fishing writer.

Service Organization(s) Membership:

Life Member, Alaska Flyfishers Association; started foster care mentorship program now being run by Big Brothers Big Sisters; Founded FosterWear to get good clothing to foster youth; started Laptops For Foster Youth

Special Interests:

Fishing, hiking, rafting and canoeing, fly-tying

Statement:

I believe all people deserve opportunity, regardless of whether they are born with privilege. That means working hard for good schools, quality job training and college, and a strong economy so people can prosper.

I'd like to change the harmful practice in the Legislature of blocking good bills from a vote. As a Democrat, if I am in the majority, I will work to let important issues, like a needed, balanced fiscal plan receive debate and a vote on the floor, as bottling bills up in committee. That practice stopped a good bill that would have protected spouses and children of slain Troopers, police and firefighters.

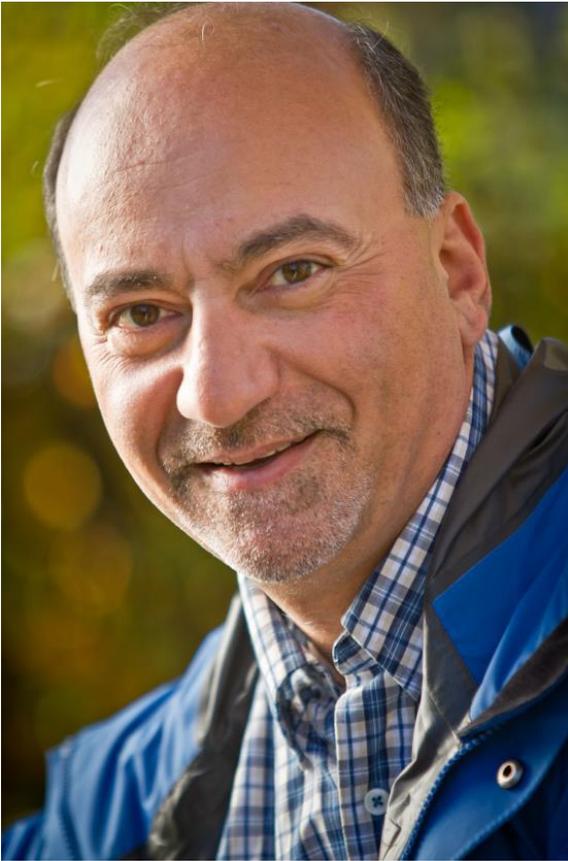
We have to compromise on a fiscal plan so that the burden is shared fairly, and the wealthiest business interests don't keep prevailing when they say they don't want to help. With a \$3.5 billion deficit, Alaska cannot afford hundreds of millions of dollars of oil company subsidies. We deserve a fair share for the oil all Alaskans own in common.

I also believe in cutting government waste and unaffordable projects. I voted against the expensive Anchorage Legislative Office building, the \$6 billion Susitna Dam and \$2 billion Knik Arm Bridge (and related roads).

I have worked hard for a better economy, for seniors and for the next generation. I've written or helped write successful foster care improvement legislation so children have a better chance to succeed.

I believe in vibrant fishing, outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities.

I'll keep working hard for your interests.



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