

**Van Lawrence—House District 2 Representative—Alaska Democratic Party
Primary Candidate (D)**

Other:

Van Lawrence was born and raised in Texas along with three brothers. He holds a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a J.D. from the College of William & Mary. Since settling in Fairbanks forty years ago, Van has been a small business owner, father, and husband. He has devoted himself to the Fairbanks community by serving two terms on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, most recently as deputy presiding officer, and on multiple commissions (FMATS, Road Service, Economic Development, and Recycling), the Pioneer Home Foundation board of directors, and helped organize the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. Lawrence has a long career with Kiwanis, holding every officer position. He was Kiwanian of the Year in 2007 and is the Fairbanks Club's 2019 president-elect. Community activities for youth include serving as assistant coach for his daughter's soccer team and as a judge for "We the People."

Position Statement:

Alaska's overreliance on oil for jobs and tax revenue has left our residents with the highest unemployment rate in the country; as well as continuing budget deficits despite massive cuts in state spending and services, and nearly depleting our savings. As a result, Fairbanks families have experienced stagnant wages, underemployment, more crime, and reduced PFD's.

Too many politicians have sided with the oil industry over the people, even with the decline of oil production. For years our representatives have failed to make the tough choices and investments needed to diversify our economy. It's time to disrupt, and reinvent, what has become the status quo in our state government.

In Juneau, I will work with every Representative willing to collaborate to find practical solutions to our complex problems, rather than be chained to a party-over-people ideology. I will fight for the Interior to get its fair share of State resources. Public schools must be adequately and reliably funded. Infrastructure must be expanded, to include broadband services to rural areas, to help provide the framework needed to promote a diversified economy. I will also fight to protect the Permanent Fund and its Dividends, for Alaska and our families. Change can happen, if we work together. Your vote is just the beginning.



The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections. The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.