

**Ghert Abbott—House District 36 Representative—Alaska Democratic Party
Primary Candidate (D)**

Residence Address:

1016 North Point Higgins Road
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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Email: gvaabbott@gmail.com

Age: 32

Place of Birth: Ketchikan, Alaska

Occupation: Historian

Length of Residency in Alaska: 29 years, total.

Alaskan Communities Lived in:

Ketchikan: January, 1986 – July, 1988

Fairbanks: July 1988 – July, 1993

Anchorage: July, 1993 – April 1998

Ketchikan: December, 2001 - Present

Education:

Graduate of Ketchikan High School, class of 2004.

Bachelor of Liberal Arts: Interdisciplinary Studies, with an emphasis in History and English. University of Alaska Southeast-Ketchikan, May 2013.

Political and Government Positions:

Delegate to the 2008 Alaskan Democratic Convention for then Senator Barack Obama.

Vice Chair of the House District 36 Democratic Party, March 10, 2018 to Present.

Special Interests:

American, Alaskan & Ketchikan History. Social History. Hiking. Magical Realism.

Other:

I have had the honor of presenting to the Alaska Historical Society Conference in 2015, 2016, and 2017. My research has focused on the Red Light economy of 1920s Ketchikan, the resistance mounted against that economy by pioneer reformers and the Ketchikan Native community, and how Ketchikan's Red Light District was portrayed by the national press.

Position Statement:

I stand for a full Permanent Fund Dividend, a full progressive income tax, an increase in state oil tax revenue, and an end to all austerity measures.

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.

For the last four years the political establishment has presented Alaskans with a false choice: consent to a tax on the PFD or watch as essential public services are utterly decimated. The results of this emaciated consensus are now plain to see: the creation of a regressive system of state taxation; cuts to education, healthcare, the pioneer homes, policing, infrastructure, and the Marine Highway System; and the endangerment of our Permanent Fund's long term value through inadequate inflation proofing. The costs of resolving the fiscal crisis are thus being borne entirely by working and middle class Alaskans, while wealthy Alaskans pay practically nothing.

It doesn't have to be this way, there is an alternative. All we have to do is reestablish the 1975 progressive income tax and end the tax deduction currently being given to the oil companies for each barrel of oil produced. These two measures, taken together, would supply enough revenue to largely fill in our state's budget deficit. There would be no need to tax Alaskan's PFDs or draw money from the Earnings Reserve. The Permanent Fund would be cleanly separated from the state's finances and its value would continue to increase, as would Alaskan's PFDs. Essential public services, education, healthcare, pioneer homes, law enforcement, infrastructure, and the Alaska Marine Highway would be fully protected and their costs fairly distributed.

