Elizabeth Ferguson – House District 40 Representative – Democratic Nominee

Residence Address:
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Kotzebue, AK 99752

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Age: 26

Place of Birth:
Anchorage, AK

Occupation:
Secretary to the Board of Education

Length of Residency in Alaska:
26 Years

Alaskan Communities Lived in:
Kotzebue, AK

Education:
Currently seeking BA in Social Science from University of Alaska Southeast

Political and Government Positions:
Native Village of Kotzebue Tribal Council
Inuit Circumpolar Council - Alaska
Legislative Aide, Representative John Lincoln
Program Manager, Northwest Arctic Borough

Service Organization(s) Membership:
Kotzebue Volunteer Fire Department
Kobuk 440

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.
Special Interests:  
Subsisting, boating, and camping.

Other:  
I grew up in Kotzebue and my family’s camp, Napaaqtauchaq, on the north shore of the Kobuk Lake. From my time serving as a volunteer firefighter, a Council Member on the Native Village of Kotzebue Tribal Council, and a Director on the Inuit Circumpolar Council - Alaska Board of Directors, I know what it means to serve my community. I worked in the Alaska Legislature for two years for Representative John Lincoln and gained valuable experience in creating laws and advocating for our district.

Position Statement:  
Our people lived on these lands that are now House District 40 for thousands of years. Our history reminds us of the complex social and economic systems that allowed our people to adapt to challenges.

Today is no different. The way we provide for our families, educate our children, and interact and socialize may continue to change. It is important to have an experienced voice in Juneau to ensure our people in rural Alaska receive the assistance needed to adapt to the uncertainty that we face.

Like all of you, I value and prioritize protecting our way of life, subsistence hunting and gathering, and our beautiful lands and waters. I believe local and Indigenous knowledge should always come first when creating or changing policies that impact our land, subsistence, and culture. Our people know what is best when it comes to educating our children, feeding our families, caring for our elders, and being good stewards to our land.

The people and communities in this expansive district are diverse and solutions brought to the Capitol must reflect that diversity. I believe in locally-based solutions that are reflective of each unique community issue faced throughout Northern and Northwest Alaska. I will prioritize creating meaningful relationships with you to ensure your voices are heard in Juneau and together we can work to find solutions.

As an Inupiaq woman, I value our culture, traditions, lands, and water, and I will continue serving our community with these values in mind.