Neal W. Foster – House District 39 Representative – Democratic Nominee

Residence Address:
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Email: NealFosterForHouse@yahoo.com
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Age: 48

Place of Birth: Nome, Alaska
Occupation: State Legislator

Length of Residency in Alaska: 48 years

Alaskan Communities Lived in:
Nome 1972-1994 and 1997-Current
Anchorage 1994-1997
Juneau for legislative sessions a few months each year 2010-2020

Education:
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, University of Alaska Anchorage
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Stanford University
Legal & Political Philosophy, Study Abroad at Oxford University
Nome-Beltz High School, Valedictorian

Political and Government Positions:
Alaska State Representative 2010-2020
Nome City Council 2008-2009
Alaska Workforce Investment Board 2003-2009

Business and Professional Positions:

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.
Vice-President of Operations, Sitnasuak Native Corporation (President of Banner Wind and Bonanza Fuel) 1998-2009
Economic Development Specialist, Kawerak 1997-1998
Director, Sitnasuak Native Corporation 2003-2018
Director, Bering Straits Native Corporation 2006-2018
Director, Siu Alaska Corporation 2008-2017

Service Organization(s) Membership:
Pioneers of Alaska 2007-Current
Director, RuralCap, 2010-2012
Tribal Member, Nome Eskimo Community

Position Statement:
Rural Alaska is a boundless place filled with rich culture and an adventurous spirit. Its people are known for having a certain toughness and a "can do" attitude.

It's these qualities that will help get us through the next few years. Amidst a global pandemic, low oil prices, and multibillion-dollar deficits...Alaska is at a crossroads. Tough decisions will have to be made, and rural Alaskans have never been shy to step up to the plate.

We are willing to be a part of the solution, but we must ensure that we are not left carrying a disproportionate share of the burden. Many things are at stake including senior benefits, water & sewer, schools, community assistance, health care (and village clinics), roads & airports, and public safety (including our village public safety officers).

One of my biggest concerns is rural Alaska's energy assistance program. PCE (power-cost-equalization) has $1 billion in a fund, and the earnings from the fund reduces electricity costs from Nome to Hooper Bay to Galena. Households in St. Michael, for example, received $1,900 last year. Some want to use the $1 billion for other purposes. This year the funds were reauthorized by a margin of only 1 vote, and no doubt we will see the same fight again next year.

I hope to use my seniority in the House and experience as the chair of the finance committee's operating and capital budgets to defend rural Alaska's interests next January. Thank you for your support.