

FROM THE DESK OF

DOUG BAILY

I'm a lifelong Republican supporting Kelly Cooper for election to the Alaska Legislature. Why? In the fall 1974 I relocated to Juneau with Republican Governor Jay Hammond as his Administrative Assistant tasked with recruiting and vetting Alaskans to serve in cabinet level positions in his administration. Hammond was clear about the criteria to be applied in his appointments: The number one criteria was integrity, followed closely by proven experience and ability to do the job, and political party affiliation was several notches down the list.

Applying these important criteria to Kelly Cooper, I am convinced Kelly is the right choice. She has stellar integrity as a person, a neighbor, a business owner and operator, as a Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly member, and just three years ago was the Woman of Distinction, based on a multi layered review process by citizens from all walks on the South Kenai Peninsula.

Kelly raised her children in our public school system and has a deep appreciation for the many challenges we all face as we ensure our education system, from Kindergarten to community college levels, continues as a priority to strengthen all aspects of our economy. In our current challenge with COVID 19, Kelly has demonstrated a deep commitment to knowing what tools we have to keep our businesses and schools open and our health care system on an even keel.

When it's time to negotiate hard line positions, Kelly is at the table with those who agree with her, but more importantly, she's at the table with those who disagree with her. She's there to listen, learn, ask questions, listen some more, and then emerge with workable solutions. Kelly sees the big picture and people with differing ideas deeply respect Kelly Cooper.

Please join me in voting for Kelly Cooper for the Alaska House of Representatives.

