

Judith “Judi” Slajer

Statement of Qualifications for RPEA Treasurer

I am pleased to offer my local government and nonprofit financial experience to RPEA by seeking election as its Treasurer.

The field of finance is my passion. Proper accounting and timely reporting to our members and government regulators are critical to the legal and sound financial operation of RPEA.



I will use my extensive experience and initiative to provide the following support to RPEA and our membership:

My goal is to provide detailed and timely financial reports for discussion at every Board meeting, and periodically report the financial status of RPEA to its members,

I will establish a professional relationship with our accounting firm to ensure that our books correctly reflect our financial position,

I will work closely with other Board members to ensure that the RPEA annual budget fairly states the correct revenue, both sources and amounts, and provides adequate funds for RPEA to conduct its business,

I will use the technology available in the banking industry and other financial tools to meet the legal obligations of the corporate Treasurer, and

I promise to do my absolute best to protect the retirement and health benefits of State and local governments retirees.

I am a longtime Alaskan and a dedicated public servant. For decades, I worked in three borough-type governments (Ketchikan, Anchorage and Fairbanks) to bring better government response to community needs. RPEA will benefit by adding a diversity of experience which I can offer.

Starting as the first employee of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as its borough clerk, I assisted in organizing the new borough in 1964; then in 1977 I was hired as the first the woman to become Borough Manager in Alaska. During that time, I worked to build a healthy borough structure to do the functions in our charge. A few of those projects included the development and implementation of the first airport master plan, managing a total reassessment of the private property within the borough, arranging financing for a school construction, and completing the historic inventory of structures within Ketchikan.

After receiving my degree in finance and management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I served as the Municipality of Anchorage budget director during the Knowles administration. In addition to managing Alaska's second-largest government budget, I had the daunting task of implementing the first voter-approved property tax cap for Anchorage's operating budget which was at the time over \$360 million dollars. During these years and those that followed in Fairbanks, I worked at a statewide level to initiate new financial programs to benefit all communities by lowering the cost of financing community's capital projects and maximizing their short-term cash investment returns. These efforts, working with others across the State, resulted in the creation through legislative action of the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority and the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool through legislative action.

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My final position in local government was equally rewarding. In 1986 I accepted the position as Chief Financial Officer offered by Fairbanks Borough Mayor Juanita Helms. This job began instantly with the challenge of working with the Assembly and banking community to create a sound and credible investment program for the Borough’s capital and operating monies. These bond and operating monies had been placed at risk, thus the program received considerable public attention. Since retirement in 1998, I have volunteered as a board member, including being Treasurer for six years, for a nonprofit homeowners’ association serving 2,000 residents with a \$2.9 million dollar operating and capital budget.

In 2020, I was honored to be inducted into the Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame. This career in public service has been amazing and rewarding. All the successes would not have been possible without the assistance of very dedicated and talented staff members and fellow officials from other communities across the state. I cherish the lasting friendships created along this journey.

I ask for your vote for RPEA Treasurer and thank you for your consideration. If elected, I will do you proud. If you have questions, I would be pleased to speak with you so contact me via email: jslajer@frontier.com.