

Attn: City Clerk Sheri Pierce,
PO Box 307,
Valdez, AK 99686

To whom it may concern:

I, Michael Jay Stevens, am requesting to be considered as a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Valdez City Council by appointment.

I have called Valdez home since 1996, when my family moved here just as I was beginning elementary school. Over three decades, I've watched this remarkable city grow and transform in countless ways. The only time I've been away for any length of time was during the mid-2010s, when I earned my Bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. After graduating, I returned to Valdez and began working at Prince William Sound College (PWSC), where I've proudly held a full-time position for nearly 10 years.

Throughout my time at PWSC, I've had the pleasure of helping coordinate the Valdez Theatre Conference. This has reinforced, time and again, how truly unique and vibrant our community is. The Conference attracts hundreds of visitors each year, all of whom echo the sentiment that Valdez offers something special. The partnership between the college and the city has fostered countless community courses, events, and activities. I have served on several committees within the college and university system during my time here.

I joined the Library Board at the behest of board members who saw the Board's roster dwindle during Covid. In the 3 years I've served, I've worked alongside other dedicated board members to grow the board and reinvigorate the community's support for our local library, reviving the annual Book Basket auction, and affirming the support of the library's great youth and young adult programming. This experience has taught me valuable lessons about governance and the duties of public service.

As a long-time resident, I am deeply invested in our city's future. I am eager to contribute to the continued growth of our community, including supporting further housing development, more childcare programs and opportunities, and fostering economic diversification.

Thank you for considering my letter. I look forward to the possibility of serving the city that has been my home for so many years.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Jay Stevens", followed by a long horizontal line.

Michael Jay Stevens
PO Box 2527
Valdez, Alaska, 99686