

NEWS RELEASE

Palin Makes Run for Governor Official

May 31, 2006, Anchorage, Alaska—Sarah Palin officially filed as a Republican candidate for Governor today at the Division of Elections.

"It's time for our state to look ahead and think big," Palin said. "The front windshield is bigger than the rear view mirror, and we have many major issues to resolve and a gas pipeline to build."

Palin declared her candidacy on October 18, Alaska Day, before any other Republican candidate joined the race for Governor, declaring, "It is time to take a stand and put Alaskans first". She has been an outspoken critic of Gov. Murkowski's Canadian gasline deal and wants to see entities compete for Alaska's natural gas so Alaskans get the most value for their resources. Palin said she is committed to putting Alaskans to work on the gas line and wants provisions in any gas deal for Alaska hire and North Slope gas to energize Alaska's homes and businesses first.

From day one, Palin's campaign has centered on transparency in state government and on crafting a more fiscally conservative state budget. Palin said her top priorities—education and public safety—come from her commitment to put the people of Alaska first, ahead of any outside special interests.

"We're so rich in natural and human resources," Palin said. "It's time to prioritize for the people and let them be the first to benefit from the wealth we own."

Jeff Lowenfels, local author, master gardener, and gasline expert, has compared Palin to Jay Hammond, who also was a champion of putting Alaskans first. "I had the privilege of working with Jay Hammond," said Lowenfels, "and Sarah Palin is this generation's Jay Hammond."

"With Sarah on the Republican slate against two party darlings, it will be fun to see what Randy Ruedrich does," said Wayne Anthony Ross, a former gubernatorial candidate and another Palin supporter. According to Ross, Ruedrich, as chair of the Alaska Republican Party, has been a strong supporter of Binkley's campaign.

"Now that Murkowski is in the race and Sarah the clear favorite in the only balanced poll so far, the one conducted by Dittman, Ruedrich will need to play his Republican horses very carefully if he is going to help his party stay in the Governor's mansion."

#