

Biographies for Participants for Forum on the
Marijuana Legalization Initiative
Ballot Measure 2

Side Advocating For the Initiative

Bill Parker is a retired deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Corrections and former member of the Alaska House of Representatives. He was co-sponsor of the legislation to decriminalize marijuana in 1975 and is now co-chair of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol in Alaska.

Taylor Bickford is the director of Alaska operations for Strategies 360, a national strategic communications firm, and serves as an advisor and spokesperson for the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, which is the main group supporting the passage of Ballot Measure 2. Born and raised in Alaska, Taylor lives in Anchorage with his wife Dani, daughter Eden, and basset hound, Lucy.

Side Advocating Against the Initiative

Deborah Williams is a resident of Alaska for over 35 years, and is one of the founders of Big Marijuana. Big Mistake. Vote No on 2. As a former Executive Director of the American Lung Association of Alaska, Deborah has been deeply involved in addressing the health, social and economic costs of big tobacco. Deborah has also been engaged in helping youth in Alaska thrive through such programs as the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition, Alaska Youth for Environmental Conservation, the Rotary-Central Middle School 90% by 2020 Partnership, and volunteer tutoring. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Deborah has taught graduate-level classes at UAA and APU, including a class in Public Health Policy, and has published numerous law review and other articles. For her community service, Deborah has received numerous awards including the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award and Rotarian of the Year Award.

Kristina Woolston is originally from the rural Alaska Native village of Naknek in the Bristol Bay Region. She is an Alaska Native shareholder. Kristina has been the Vice President of Government Relations for Chenega Corporation for the past 9 years. Prior to that she was the Community Relations Director for NovaGold Resources (now Donlin Gold) on the Donlin Creek project. Kristina received her degree from Dartmouth College. Kristina was honored as an Alaska Top 40 Under 40, and a national recognition of Native American Top 40 Under 40. Kristina and her husband and their children live in Anchorage where they also own Northwest Strategies.

Moderator

Steve Mac Donald arrived in Alaska in 1981 and began working as a news reporter for KBYR Radio and KTVA Television in 1982. In 1985 he was named News Director of both stations. In 1997 KTUU hired Steve as Assistant News Director and co-anchor of the Channel 2 News Hour. During his time at KTUU Steve served as News Director for four years and is currently the station's Special Projects Manager producing news documentaries, special series and election coverage.