

Biographies of Presenters, Panelists, and Moderators

Forum on Alaska's Fiscal Future

Saturday, October 4, 2014

Rebecca Bernard is an attorney and 15-year resident of Alaska and a mother of two. In January 2014, she joined with other parents to form Great Alaska Schools Anchorage, a parent-driven, nonpartisan coalition that advocates for strong, securely-funded public schools for all Alaska children. Bernard holds a law degree from Stanford and an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College.

Steve Colt is a professor of economics at UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research. He has studied the Alaska economy for about 30 years. His research interests include energy and the environment, sustainable development, and the local and regional fiscal effects of state and federal projects and policies.

Dan E Dickinson, CPA, trained as a geologist at Brown University and holds a certified public accountant's license for Alaska. He has served in several state and municipal administrations, including director of tax for the State of Alaska. His consulting practice concentrates on state and local taxes with a focus on oil and gas.

Gregg Erickson is an economist, consultant, and editor of the *Alaska Budget Report*. He has previously been director of research for the Alaska State Legislature; senior economist for two Alaska governors; resource economist for UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research; and a research fellow with Resources for the Future. He now lives in Bend, Oregon, and has offices in Juneau and Bend.

Mark A. Foster is the Anchorage School District's chief financial officer. He has over 20 years of experience as business consultant for private and public sector clients in energy, telecommunications, utilities, and health care sectors. Among other jobs, he was commissioner on the Alaska Public Utilities Commission, where he participated in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System tariff and quality bank cases.

Pat Galvin was commissioner of the Department of Revenue from December of 2006 to December of 2010. He is currently a vice president at Great Bear Petroleum, an Alaska independent oil and gas company. He is an attorney, with an MBA in Taxation and Financial Planning.

Scott Goldsmith is professor emeritus of economics at UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research, where he has been a public policy researcher since 1975. He was also ISER's director from 2001 to 2005. His areas of specialty include Alaska fiscal analysis and Alaska economic analysis.

Cliff Groh is a lawyer, a writer, and chair of Alaska Common Ground. He was the legislative staff assistant most involved in the creation of the per capita Permanent Fund Dividend program, and has written or co-written chapters in academic books about the Permanent Fund Dividend. From 1987 to 1990 he was special assistant to the Alaska Commissioner of Revenue, specializing in taxation issues.

Andrew Halcro is the president of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. A businessman, Halcro represented an Anchorage district as a Republican in the Alaska House of Representatives for two terms, beginning in 1998, and ran for governor as an Independent in 2006.

John Havelock, a White House Fellow, was Governor Egan's attorney general during the time ANCSA was being passed and when the oil pipeline was being built. He served Governor Hammond on the Growth Policy Council, and Governor Hickel on a school voucher commission. He founded the University of Alaska's Justice program and is a columnist for the *Alaska Dispatch News*.

Sandra Heffern has a master's degree in Rehabilitation Administration from the University of San Francisco. She has worked for the past 30 years in the health and human services delivery system in Alaska. Most recently, she was the owner and operator of Ready Care, a statewide home and community based service organization for twenty-two years.

Brad Keithley is the founder of Alaskans for Sustainable Budgets and president of a consulting company. Previously, he was a lawyer who specialized in oil and gas issues. His clients have included major oil and gas companies, oil and gas pipelines, large and medium independents, and major consumers of natural gas.

Jamie Kenworthy is the manager of the 49th Fund, a \$4 million equity fund to invest in early-stage Anchorage businesses. He is also the former executive director of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.

Gunnar Knapp is director and professor of economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He has been at ISER since 1981.

Steve MacDonald came to Alaska 33 years ago. He began working in the news media in January 1982, with KBYR radio and KTVA television. After 15 years he moved onto KTUU Channel 2, where he has been for the past 18 years. He has been a reporter, producer, anchor, and news director.

Michael Pawlowski is the deputy commissioner of the Department of Revenue and a lifelong Alaskan, a graduate of West High and Alaska Pacific University. Michael has worked for Alaska Permanent Capital Management Co., the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority, and the Alaska State Legislature. In addition to work related to Alaska LNG, Michael is the department's designee on the AIDEA board.

Larry Persily is a 40-year Alaska resident, with 25 years as a news reporter and editor, 10 years as a state official, and the past 4 years as federal coordinator for an Alaska gas line project. While with the state, Persily served as deputy commissioner at the Department of Revenue and, later, as a legislative aide to the House Finance Committee co-chair. He has been active in reporting on and trying to solve the state's fiscal problems in his various roles over the years.

Amanda Ryder has been a fiscal analyst at Alaska's Legislative Finance Division for 14 years and, in addition to other duties, is responsible for coordinating the development of the state's operating and supplemental budgets. She was also previously the director of Administrative Services in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Caroline Schultz is the statewide economist at the Alaska Department of Labor in Juneau. She spent her formative years in Chugiak before attending college in Portland, Oregon, and has lived in Juneau for the past seven years. She survives the rain by playing hockey, skiing, and taking her sailboat out on the occasional sunny day.

Gene Therriault is the energy policy and outreach director for the Alaska Energy Authority. A lifelong Alaskan, Therriault was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives as a Republican from North Pole in 1992 and held a seat in the state legislature for the following 17 years. His legislative service included two terms as co-chair of the House Finance Committee and one term as president of the Alaska Senate.

John Tichotsky is the chief economist for the Alaska Department of Revenue. He has degrees from Dartmouth and Jesus College, University of Cambridge. He worked with the Institute of Social and Economic Research and the Office of Russian Affairs at UAA, and was a senior fellow at the Institute of the North and Alaska Pacific University, a Russia in Asia Fellow at the University of Hawaii (1996-97), and an assistant professor of economics and international trade.

Eric Wohlforth is the founder of an Anchorage law firm and has guided its public finance specialty since 1967. He served as Alaska Commissioner of Revenue from 1970 to 1972, investing \$900 million in lease sale proceeds. From 1995 to 2006 he was on the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation Board of Trustees (the longest such service to date), and was elected vice chair and chair twice.