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Watch Candidate Joe Wright: Voters here will have to make some calculated choices with RCV

## Description

*A Proven Republican Steps Into the Fray: Joe Wright!*



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Watch for a rugby style primary election scrum ((

1. **RUGBY** an ordered formation of players, used to restart play, in which the forwards of a team form up with arms interlocked and heads down, and push forward against a similar group from the opposing side. The ball is thrown into the scrum and the players try to gain possession of it by kicking it backward toward their own side.
2. **BRITISH** a disorderly crowd of people or things.

**)) in the upcoming *Eagle River-to-Eklutna Senate District L* race!**

**Voters here will have to make some calculated choices with the newly established *Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)* in a crowded field if we expect to change the political calculus in Juneau.**

**We know now RCV ([Alaska Division of Elections Explanation of Ranked Choice Voting](#)) is simply an underhanded way to deny Republican's Closed Primary. But NO candidate is running as a *Democrat* in District L even if SHE should.**

The Four candidates running for this redistricted Senate seat are: **Ken McCarty**, **Kelly Merrick**, **Clayton Trotter**, and **Joe Wright**. Upward ambitions have meant a couple of current *House of Representatives* members are running against each other—and RCV could bring a surprise—but that's NOT the rub.

**Honest representation of voters once elected IS the rub!**



[Joe Wright For Senate](#)

**Joe Wright has been working locally for some time to make this district better. He believes he is the viable option for those who are ready for a fresh start. Wright demonstrated fealty when—as chairman of the *District 14 Republican Party*—it became necessary to censure Rep. Merrick for joining the Democrat Minority to give them a Majority Coalition. Her single act of treachery threw all elected Republican House Members statewide to the back of the bus, guaranteeing**

**another do-nothing same-ol-same-ol legislative session in backwater Juneau.**

**Joe Wright explained:** *When this came up at the district level, I formed a committee and they looked at it, evaluated what she had done, and the recommendation was to censor Rep. Merrick. We took it to the **State Central Committee** where they also voted 80 percent to censor her. Last April the **State Republican Convention** also censured Merrick, but here she is running again as a Republican.*

After 24 years in the Navy, Joe Wright chose to move to Eagle River. Today he is active as President of the **Deshka Landing Association**, active in the **Southfork ER Community Council**, on the **Road Board of Supervisors for Chugiak, Birchwood, and Eagle River** under Municipal Code § 27.30.215 (CBERRRSA) and is employed as a top manager for Otis Elevator. Joe Wright has been active in the **EaglExit** effort to separate **Assembly District 2** from Anchorage, and I have interviewed him before about his vision for this district.

[A Vision For Chugiak Eagle River: What kind of future do we want?](#)

Joey Merrick – Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

As the Business Manager for Laborers' Local 341, I take great pride in representing you, the hardworking men and women of our local union. I am committed to making Local 341 the strongest, most successful union in Alaska. I am very honored with the confidence that you all have shown in our team and I very much appreciate the opportunity to continue to work for you.



My wife Kelly, our two sons Hunter and Brody, and our daughter Roxie currently live in Eagle River.

**No shame**, this guy calls the shots for union control of our state.



Visit [WrightForSenate.com](http://WrightForSenate.com)

**Rep. Merrick** might argue that somebody had to break the organizational stalemate at the start of the session, but her candidate financial disclosures tell a different story. In an organized crime syndicate a person of Merrick's position in **The Family** is higher than the typical **Made Man** ((In the American and Sicilian Mafia, a made man is a fully initiated member of the Mafia. To become "made", an associate first must be Italian or of Italian descent and sponsored by another made man. An inductee will be required to take the oath of omertà, the Mafia code of silence and code of honor. After the induction ceremony, the associate becomes a "made man" and holds the rank of soldier (Italian: soldato) in the Mafia hierarchy. Made men are the only ones who can rise through the ranks of the Mafia, from soldier to caporegime, consigliere, underboss, and boss. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Made\\_man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Made_man))). Merrick is an **Underboss**. Joey Merrick is **Boss**.

"Friendship is more than talent. It is more than government. It is almost the equal of family. Never forget that. If you had built up a wall of friendship you wouldn't have to ask me to help."

? Mario Puzo, *The Godfather*

Rep. Merrick's **Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) Start Report** for this election shows top 15 contributors were all unions except one construction company. This was Rep. Merrick's chance to deliver for the forces who think Alaska should be run by government workers and special interest non-profit organizations. Gov. **Bill Walker** appreciates Merrick so much he also kicked in \$1,000, while **Assistant Alaska Attorney General John Skidmore** and **Alaska Division of Public Safety Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan** each paid \$250 homage. Payments from Washington and Oregon union bosses are also listed with APOC. These mob members happily funnel union political contributions to the wife of **Boss Merrick**, because those funds guarantee access and accommodation far beyond anything a mere constituent could expect.

## Who Owns Kelly Merrick?

**Full Disclosure: I am a retired member of this Alaska Laborer's Union and I have voted for Merrick in the past myself.**

These special interests don't vote. They encourage their members who happen to live in Merrick's district to vote but union efforts are designed to create financial indenture at a much more diabolical level. Traditionally Unions give almost exclusively to Democrats, but Merrick's Republican constituency in this historically conservative district of the state makes her duplicity particularly valuable to strong-arm anti-Republican union interests.

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Joe Wright For Alaska Senate District L needs your support!

# Family • Safety • Security

**Reward for Merrick's treachery was chairmanship of the *House Finance Committee*. Of course, following the law in distribution of the *Permanent Fund Dividend* likely never crossed her mind.**

Dear reader, let's suppose you have a burning issue you need to talk to your elected officials about and it is important enough to pay for a trip to Juneau during session. Your appointment with Rep. Merrick to discuss that matter came AFTER all the people and entities on the contributor list had their full measure of access, because they all have on-going immediate Juneau access to the officials for whom WE voted and they bought.

**And, elected officials stay bought in Juneau.**

**Q: How can that change for District L?**

**A: New elected officials!**

*I think when people get down there to Juneau there's a lot of groupthink because they know constituents just can't come knock on their door, continued Wright during our conversation. I have been active in the Eagle River/Chugiak community at many levels and I am known for being easy to get a hold of. I WANT to hear from constituents BEFORE special interests to formulate representative opinions.*

**That's how it's supposed to work; elected officials defer to the wishes of a majority of constituents across the wide range who voted in the last election. Campaign funds are a means of getting the word out, making it possible for regular people to run for office. Of the four candidates running in the primary from Senate District L, two will be forwarded to the general election. Joe Wright, as a former Republican party official, wants those two candidates to be Republicans.**

**Has the Recent *Covid Pandemic* Distorted Our Expectations?**

*The part that really was disappointing to me during the COVID pandemic was they kind of hid out in Juneau, you know, they weren't available—there was a lack of communication, said Wright. We need to get back to normal constituent relations now.*

Joe Wright continued: *My top issues are **Safety, Security and Family**. Security means everybody must get the statutory PFD and Food Security is another important part of that. After the earthquake in November 2019 and during the pandemic, Eagle River business **Mike's Meats** had plenty of meat because **Greg Giannulis** owned the **Mt. McKinley Meat and Sausage** slaughterhouse. He has since sold that packing plant and we need to know how that will impact Alaska Food Security. Eagle River has a role in this discussion.*

**Have Eagle River Chugiak constituents heard anything about this from our current elected legislators? Of course not.**

*The Safety aspect is: "What are we doing to fix things out here like **Artillery Road** and the **Hiland Interchange**?" continued Wright.*

**Politics is about who gets what. Wright says he watched some \$2 Million left over from the Yosemite Drive Upgrade diverted by the three legislators representing Eagle River to the Birchwood Airport and the South Fork Trailhead Wright believes nobody really wanted.**

*Many of us wanted that money to go to the **Starner Bridge** over **Peters Creek** ((Birchwood residents support Starner Bridge replacement, **Chugiak Eagle River Star**, November 19, 2019. <https://www.alaskastar.com/2019-11-19/birchwood-residents-support-starner-bridge-replacement>)), said Wright. *Finally, the legislature came through with the money kicking and screaming right before an election. The money should have been here last year. Now **Aurora Borealis Dr.** ((Muni ends maintenance on Aurora Borealis Road, **Eagle River Star**, October 19, 2017 <https://www.alaskastar.com/2017-09-27/muni-ends-maintenance-aurora-borealis-road>)) was shut down because it goes across private property. That issue hasn't been resolved. So, from a safety standpoint it's important for those people to have reliable transportation in being able to get in and out of neighborhoods.**

**Funny how that works.**

*My constituency will be residents from Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek through Eklutna. And, while there are statewide issues that need attention, I will focus on what I can bring back to the community, declared Wright. This area has gotten the short end of the stick. We see a lot of construction projects going on in other parts of the state, but what do we see here? We HAD to rebuild the **Glenn Highway Bridge** because of the earthquake. That was not an option. But for 30 plus years we've dealt with the **Artillery Road** situation. We've got problems in front of **Chugiak High School** as well as the interchange right in front of **Solid Waste Services**. It should be about **what can we do for the community out here?***

**The last thing and the most important to me is Family. We spent a lot of money on schools, but we're not getting the product out of the schools that we really need. It's a big deal because we are an isolated education community but Eagle River Chugiak has some of the highest performing schools in the district. I think we should be able to build on that.**

As the primary election approaches it appears other candidates who take Union money in this scrum may need to watch out for Wright's sharp elbows.



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**References:**

**Category**

1. Eagle River/Chugiak Community
2. Alaska Legislature
3. ALASKA! PUBLIC EDUCATION

**Tags**

1. Clayton Trotter
2. Dshka Landing Association
3. EagleExit
4. Joe Wright
5. Kelly Merrick
6. Ken McCarty
7. Southfork ER Community Council

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