



**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
November 18, 2025**

The Special Borough Election is Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. The following ballot questions shall be submitted to all qualified Borough voters:

RECALL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JUDY LEASK GUTHRIE

Sponsor Statement of Grounds for Recall: We, the undersigned, formally submit this petition for the recall of Judy Guthrie from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board on the grounds of failure to perform prescribed duties, in violation of AS 14.14.090 and Board Policies 3100 and 4111. Ms. Guthrie failed in her duty to provide financial and administrative oversight of Superintendent Michael Robbins. Under her tenure, the Board approved and failed to prevent expenditures that exceeded authorized budget limits, resulting in a fiscal year 2024 deficit of \$379,786. This violated state law and Board Policy 3100, which requires a balanced budget. The lack of oversight continues: on June 11, 2025, the Board approved contracts exceeding the adopted budget by \$371,629 without identifying additional income or adopting a corresponding budget amendment. Additionally, Ms. Guthrie failed to supervise the Superintendent to ensure compliance with Board Policy 4111, requiring the district to "employ the most highly qualified person available for each open position." The Superintendent has recommended that the Board approve, and the Board has approved on at least one occasion, individuals who held only emergency certification and were not the most highly qualified applicants. This occurred most recently on May 28, 2025. Accordingly, we seek her recall.

Statement by Subject of Recall: BUDGET OVERSIGHT: School district budgets are approved by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) only when it is balanced. The recall states that "the Board exceeded the adopted budget by \$371,629..." This is likely based on partial budget information. As with any budget, modifications happen throughout the year. When these events occur, staff brings requests for amendment to the School Board. The Board gives approval according to the necessity of the request and when the modification is within the limits of the budget. EMPLOY THE MOST HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSON FOR THE POSITION: KGBSD positions are filled by persons with an Emergency Certification issued by the State of Alaska when no other applicants with standard certificates apply. This category is used by school districts in Alaska, and throughout the United States because of the lack of educators going into the K-12 Education field. Experience and education are among many things discussed by a hiring committee as they form their recommendation. Having an opinion about who should be hired compared to the hiring committee's recommendation and the decision made by the KGBSD hiring staff differs greatly. I trust the recommendation of the hiring staff.

Shall Judy Leask Guthrie be recalled from the office of School Board Member?
YES NO

RECALL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JORDAN TABB

Sponsor Statement of Grounds for Recall: We, the undersigned, formally submit this petition for the recall of Jordan Tabb from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board on the grounds of failure to perform prescribed duties, in violation of AS 14.14.090 and Board Policies 3100 and 4111. Mr. Tabb failed in his duty to provide financial and administrative oversight of Superintendent Michael Robbins. Under his tenure, the Board approved and failed to prevent expenditures exceeding authorized budget limits for FY 2025, including Professional & Technical Services and Salaries. This violated state law and Board Policy 3100, which requires a balanced budget. This lack of oversight was demonstrated June 11, 2025, when the Board approved contracts exceeding the adopted budget by \$371,629 without identifying additional income or adopting a budget amendment. Additionally, Mr. Tabb failed to supervise the Superintendent to ensure compliance with Board Policy 4111, requiring the district to "employ the most highly qualified person available for each open position." The Superintendent has recommended that the Board approve, and the Board has approved on at least one occasion, individuals who held only emergency certification and were not the most highly qualified applicants. This occurred most recently on May 28, 2025. Accordingly, we seek his recall.

Statement by Subject of Recall: The petitioners of this recall allege that myself and other board members have not supervised the Superintendent in the hiring of staff. There are no facts to support these allegations, and Alaska statutes regarding recall petitions do not require petitioners to prove their allegations. The School Board approves contracts but does not make hiring decisions and does not have access to or knowledge of the comparative qualifications of any applicants. If the school board attempted to undermine or overrule the decisions of staff, it would leave the district vulnerable to lawsuits from affected personnel. I was elected to the school board to exercise best judgment when it comes to serving our community and its students. I have always attempted to be fair and to follow best practices, board policies, and state law in my role as a member of the school board. The district needs leadership that can weather difficult moments like the budget shortfalls of past years. If you have spoken with me personally about any challenge that faces the district, I have treated you with respect and given you time to share your concerns. I encourage you to vote "no" on the recall petitions before you today.

Shall Jordan Tabb be recalled from the office of School Board Member?
YES NO

RECALL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER KATHERINE TATSUDA

Sponsor Statement of Grounds for Recall: We, the undersigned, formally submit this petition for the recall of Katherine Tatsuda from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board on the grounds of failure to perform prescribed duties, in violation of AS 14.14.090 and Board Policies 3100 and 4111. Ms. Tatsuda failed in her duty to provide financial and administrative oversight of Superintendent Michael Robbins. Under her tenure, the Board approved and failed to prevent expenditures that exceeded authorized budget limits, resulting in a fiscal year 2024 deficit of \$379,786. This violated state law and Board Policy 3100, which requires a balanced budget. The lack of oversight continues: on June 11, 2025, the Board approved contracts exceeding the adopted budget by \$371,629 without identifying additional income or adopting a corresponding budget amendment. Additionally, Ms. Tatsuda failed to supervise the Superintendent to ensure compliance with Board Policy 4111, requiring the district to "employ the most highly qualified person available for each open position." The Superintendent has recommended that the Board approve, and the Board has approved on at least one occasion, individuals who held only emergency certification and were not the most highly qualified applicants. This occurred most recently on May 28, 2025. Accordingly, we seek her recall.

Statement by Subject of Recall: When I became board president, two board members and our superintendent had just resigned amid community uproar. Two weeks later, my father died. The next day, I showed up to a board meeting for one of the hardest votes we've faced, elementary school specialization. Over the next six months, we appointed three board members, passed a difficult budget, ran a superintendent search that failed, and then pivoted to recruit and hire an interim superintendent in six weeks when we had no one on the bench. We held numerous special meetings just to keep the district functioning. The superintendent and staff managed a challenging school year start and responded to a diesel leak that could have put student and staff health at serious risk. The recall petition alleges misconduct. There was none. This recall is about disagreement with board decisions, not wrongdoing. I understand the frustration with difficult choices. But this recall won't fix our fiscal challenges or reverse the specialization decision. What it will do is remove experienced leadership that held this district together during crisis and replace it with appointees learning on the job during critical budget and superintendent decisions. Show up. Speak up. Vote **NO** on the recall.

Shall Katherine Tatsuda be recalled from the office of School Board Member
YES NO

Qualification of Voters: To vote in a Borough election a person must be registered to vote in State of Alaska elections at a residence address within the Ketchikan Gateway Borough at least 30 days before the municipal election at which the person seeks to vote.

Registration of Voters: Persons wishing to register or update addresses may do so at the Borough Clerk's Office, City Clerk's Office, Legislative Information Office, or online at <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/>. Registration closes at midnight, Sunday, October 19, 2025, for voters wishing to register or update addresses for this election.

Absentee Voting: Any qualified voter may vote an absentee ballot in person, or by-mail, by-fax, or by personal representative for special needs voting. Application forms for absentee ballots are available at the Borough Clerk's Office or may be downloaded from the election page on the Borough's website. Applications for by-mail absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than seven days prior to the election. Applications for by-fax absentee ballots must be submitted no later than the day immediately preceding the election. A voter may vote an absentee ballot in person at the Borough Clerk's Office beginning at 8:00 a.m., Monday, November 3, 2025, and ending at 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 17, 2025.

Precinct Descriptions: For the convenience of the voters, there are seven (7) voting precincts in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The Alaska Administrative Code contains the legal descriptions of these precincts. Information regarding precinct boundaries is also available at the Borough Clerk's Office. The polling places for the Special Borough Election of November 18, 2025, are listed for the convenience of the voters, as follows:

- Ketchikan No 1 Gateway Recreation Center, 601 Schoenbar Road
- Ketchikan No 2 The Plaza, 2417 Tongass Avenue
- Ketchikan No 3 AMHS Ferry Terminal, 3501 Tongass Avenue
- North Tongass No 1 North Tongass Fire Station No. 6, 7550 N. Tongass Highway
- North Tongass No 2 North Tongass Fire Station No. 8, 13110 N. Tongass Highway
- Saxman Saxman Community Center, 2841 South Tongass Highway
- South Tongass South Tongass Alliance Church, 376 Old Homestead Road

For additional information, contact Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk, at boroclerk@kgbak.us

1900 First Avenue, Suite 230, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 www.kgbak.us/elections