

## **Congressman-Elect Nick Begich Announces Key Hires in Washington, D.C., and Alaska**

**ANCHORAGE, AK – Dec. 24, 2024** – Today, Congressman-Elect Nick Begich announced key staff appointments in both Washington, D.C., and Alaska as he prepares to begin his service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**The following staff appointments have been made:**

### **Michael Horanburg – Chief of Staff**

Horanburg is a Capitol Hill veteran and experienced political strategist who played a key role in leading the 2024 Begich for Congress campaign. With a strong background in public policy and managing effective teams nationwide, Horanburg previously served as Chief of Staff in the 117th Congress for New Mexico's Yvette Herrell, who represented a district with significant energy resources, a diverse population, and challenges similar to those in Alaska. He will oversee the office's day-to-day operations, provide strategic direction, and serve as Congressman-Elect Begich's primary advisor.

### **Kevin Swanson – Legislative Director/Deputy Chief of Staff**

Swanson brings extensive experience as an Alaska policy expert and Capitol Hill veteran with a comprehensive understanding of the federal legislative process. He previously served as a Legislative Assistant for members of the Alaska delegation, managing issues including transportation and infrastructure—critical expertise as Congressman-Elect Begich joins the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Swanson will develop legislative strategies and manage policy initiatives to address the needs of Alaskans.

### **Silver J. Prout – Communications Director/Fishery Liaison**

Prout, a Kodiak native, is an accomplished communications strategist with experience on Capitol Hill and in the Executive Branch under President Trump. She will manage public relations, media engagement, and ensure Alaskans remain informed about key issues while also serving as the office's liaison on fisheries-related matters.

### **Bre Klayum – Director of Operations**

Klayum, a born-and-raised Alaskan, will oversee the daily administrative operations of the office, ensuring efficiency and facilitating interactions between the Congressman's office and the public. Klayum began her Capitol Hill career as Deputy Scheduler for Senator Dan Sullivan, serving the people of Alaska in that capacity for more than three years.

### **Rick Whitbeck – State Director**

Whitbeck will oversee the Congressman's operations in Alaska, focusing on outreach to constituents and stakeholders while managing regional offices and staff. His leadership will be instrumental in ensuring Alaskans' voices are heard and their needs addressed. Whitbeck will lead a team of Regional Directors and Constituent Liaisons dedicated to assisting residents with issues related to federal agencies.

*"I am honored to introduce this outstanding team of dedicated professionals who will be pivotal in delivering real results for Alaska," said Congressman-Elect Nick Begich. "Together, we are committed to advancing Alaska First policies, responsibly unlocking our state's immense natural resources, and improving the lives of hardworking Alaskans. This team has the expertise, determination, and vision to ensure Alaska's priorities are not only heard but acted upon at the national level, paving the way for a stronger, more prosperous future for our state."*

Congressman-Elect Nick Begich is committed to unlocking Alaska's tremendous potential and serving as the voice for all Alaskans in the U.S. House of Representatives. His term begins on January 3, 2025, but he is already collaborating with President Trump's official transition team, members of Congress, House Leadership, and Alaska stakeholders to deliver results for the state and nation from day one.

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