

Binkley files for Senate seat

Representative John Binkley formally filed as a candidate for the state senate last week. This seat is currently held by retiring Sen. John Sackett. Binkley was elected to the state House in 1984. He has served on the House Finance Committee, the Special Committee on Fisheries, the Subsistence Committee, and as Chairman of the Local Option Committee. He was appointed a member of the U.S. Negotiating Team, working to stop the interception of Alaska salmon on the high seas.

Sen. John Sackett of Ruby, and Robert Nick of Nunapitchuk will serve as co-chairmen of Binkley's election committee. In accepting the co-chair, Sackett said, "I am proud to say that I was instrumental in encouraging John Binkley to run for the state House two years ago. He has certainly fulfilled all of the potential I saw in him. We need a person with compassion who is a hard worker. John Binkley has shown to me that he is the person who can continue to give our district the strong, effective voice that we need."

Nick, who is chairman of the Lower Kuskokwim School District Board, and president of the Statewide

Association of School Boards, served as Binkley's campaign chairman two years ago. He said, "It is important, with the retirement of John Sackett, that we have a senator who has proven he can and will work hard for our district. John Binkley has put a tremendous amount of time and determination into his job as our representative. In the last two years he has earned the respect and friendship of his colleagues in the legislature. He has joined with other rural legislators, speaking out on those issues that are important to us. I intend to spend my time during the upcoming campaign, traveling with John Binkley and speaking out on his behalf."

Binkley plans to travel throughout the district during the campaign, talking with people. "The most rewarding experience I had during my last campaign was being invited into people's homes, sitting down over a cup of tea, and discussing those things that were important to them... My work on the protection of our salmon stocks, local control of alcohol, securing, once again, the right to hunt and fish for subsistence, was all in answer to the concerns of those people I visited."