

# Lauds Dist. Judge Pay Hike Proposal

Barry Jackson, Democratic candidate for the State House of Representatives, today commended Governor Hickel for proposing to raise salaries of district judges.

"If elected, I will support a salary increase. However, the low salary is not the only reason for the lack of applications for appointment to the district court bench," Jackson said.

Another major factor is the progressive reduction of responsibilities given to district judges, according to Jackson.

"These courts lost probate jurisdiction shortly after statehood and most recently have lost juvenile court jurisdiction. Now that we have raised the standards to be appointed district judge and the Governor is prepared to pay an adequate salary, it is time to reverse this trend and give the district judges

equivalent responsibilities," Jackson concluded.

"The District Courts are the courts close to Alaska natives, especially in rural Alaska. We must have capable, dedicated District Judges," Jackson added.