
John Binkley Biography

John Binkley, 53, is a third generation Alaskan who was born and raised in Fairbanks. His grandfather came to Alaska during the Gold Rush in 1898, not as a gold miner but as a riverboat pilot. John has been a tireless worker his whole life. From working in the family riverboat business as a youth, to building his own tug-and-barge business in Bethel with his wife Judy, to serving Alaskans in a wide range of public roles – including the Alaska State House of Representatives and Alaska State Senate, John has distinguished himself by his commitment and hard work.

John's professional experience includes serving as Chairman and CEO of Riverboat Discovery (1991-2005), President of El Dorado Gold Mine (1993-2005) and Owner of Northwest Navigation Tug & Barge Company, (1977-1986). His government experience includes serving in the Alaska State Senate (1986-1990), Alaska State House of Representatives (1985-1986) and the Bethel City Council (1982-1985). John's extensive record of civic service includes serving as Chairman of the Alaska Railroad Corporation Board of Directors, serving on the ENSTAR Natural Gas Board of Directors, the Alaska Airlines Advisory Board, and as President of the Alaska Visitors Association. He has received numerous awards, including being named as one of the Top 25 Alaskans by the Alaska Journal of Commerce in 2001.

John's lifetime of experience, his strong work ethic and the values that guide him have prepared him for the monumental job of Governor of Alaska. He brings his core values of family, faith, personal responsibility and accountability to his open and inclusive leadership style. John believes the can-do spirit that built our state should be encouraged and not held down with excessive government regulation. He also believes that as Alaskans, we can responsibly develop our resources and preserve the unique environment that makes our state a special place.

John recently received his Associate Degree in Maintenance Technology: Airframe and Powerplant from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He attended Western Michigan University, where he studied engineering, and is a graduate of Lathrop High School in Fairbanks. He and his wife Judy have four children (Ryan and daughter-in-law Sabrina, Wade, James and Kai and son-in-law John Sims) and, as of February, a new grandchild, Simon.