



ALASKA IN THE NEWS

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JIM DUNCAN NAMED COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION *Knowles promotes former Juneau Senator from Deputy Commissioner*

Praising his commitment to public service and skill in negotiating contracts with 12 state employee unions, Gov. Tony Knowles today named Jim Duncan of Juneau as commissioner of the Alaska Department of Administration. A former State Representative and Senator, and most recently deputy commissioner of the department, Duncan succeeds Bob Poe who resigned to become executive director of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.



Gov. Knowles and newly appointed Commissioner of Administration Jim Duncan share a lighthearted moment with outgoing Commissioner of Administration Bob Poe at a news conference Friday morning, August 25 where Gov. Knowles named Duncan the new commissioner.

"Jim Duncan's years of public service have given him an intimate knowledge of the how the State of Alaska runs and he will do an outstanding job as commissioner of the Department of Administration," Knowles said. "He helped us negotiate fair and equitable contracts for our hard-working state employees and will continue to meet challenges ahead, such as revamping the state's telecommunications services, modernizing state government, and delivering essential services to Alaska's senior citizens."

Duncan, 58, has a Master's of Business Administration from Oregon State University. He served on the Juneau Assembly and was a lawmaker for more than 24 years, half in the State House of Representatives and three terms as Juneau's Senator from 1987 until 1999. He also was an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration and Government, University of Alaska Southeast from 1982 until 1997.

Knowles hired Duncan in February of 1999 as a special assistant on labor issues where he was active in the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with 12 public employee unions. In June, Duncan was named deputy commissioner of Administration, with responsibility over the divisions of Personnel, Motor Vehicles, and Risk Management, among others.

"My work on labor issues last year was very rewarding and I am excited by the opportunity of continuing the work of the Knowles Administration," Duncan said. "I look forward to the challenges as commissioner finding ways to use new technologies to make state government more accessible to the public, and continuing to honor the commitment we made to state employees through the collective bargaining process."

The Department of Administration has responsibility over state employee contracts, municipal grants, retirement programs, Pioneer's Homes, the Longevity Bonus program, the Alaska Public Offices Commission, Public Defender Agency, Public Broadcasting Commission, and telecommunications