



Alaska State Legislature Representative Joe Hayes

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MEDIA ADVISORY

ALASKA STATE REP. JOE HAYES HELPS INCREASE AFRICAN-AMERICAN VISIBILITY

Alaska State Representative Joe Hayes (D-Fairbanks), 30, was sworn in on Jan 8, 2001 as the seventh African-American representative to serve in the Alaska State House of Representatives. Representative Hayes is the youngest African-American member to be elected and the second African-American legislator elected from the interior of the state.

Hayes, formerly the chief of staff for Alaska State Representative Tom Brice, has been a commissioner for the Fairbanks Health and Human Services Commission and served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Born in Manhattan, the third of ten children, Representative Hayes entered the Air Force after high school. He was the first in his family to earn a college degree, graduating from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a degree in Political Science in 1997.

"I feel that I am in a wonderful position to increase the political visibility for African-Americans in Alaska. I have introduced legislation that promotes economic development and protects children," Hayes said.

"Joe brings an intelligent, passionate voice and is a welcome addition to our caucus. He will serve his district well," said House Democratic Leader Rep. Ethan Berkowitz.

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