



CITY MANAGER/ KETCHIKAN PUBLIC UTILITIES GENERAL MANAGER

City Manager's Office /
Ketchikan Public Utilities
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

Annual Salary: \$235,000 - \$245,000 DOE/DOQ

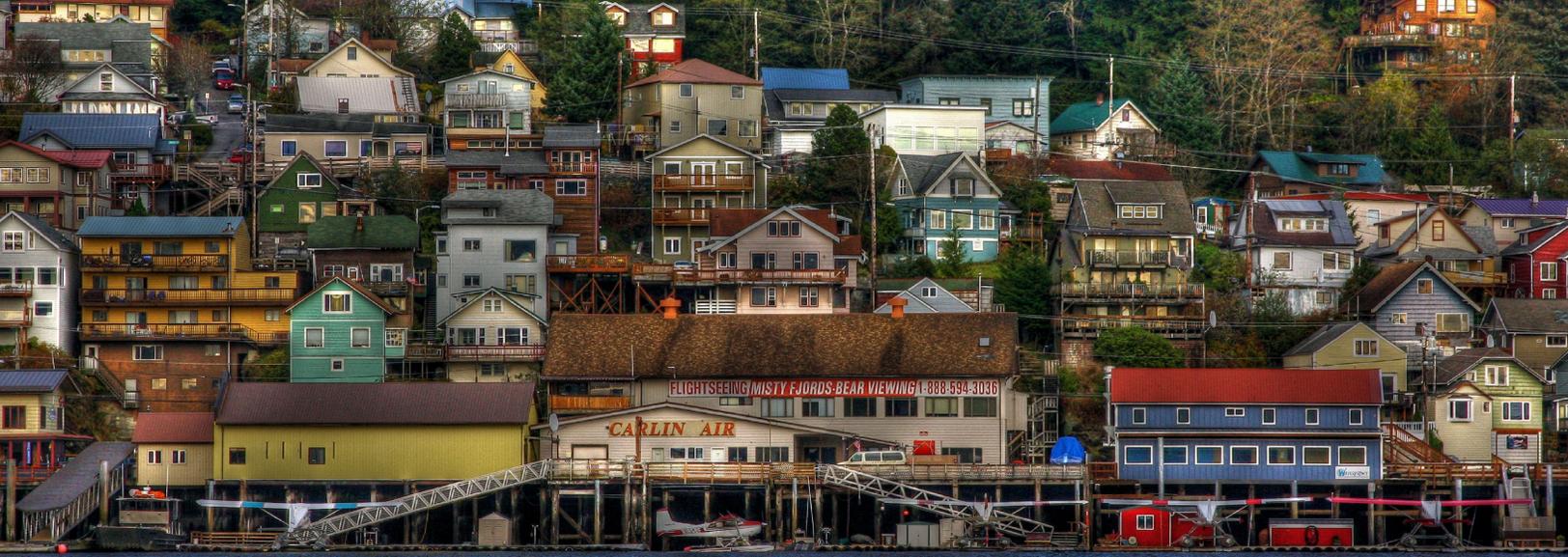


Are you a strategic, community-driven leader who can oversee complex municipal operations while guiding long-term utility planning and development? If so, apply to be the City of Ketchikan's next City Manager / Ketchikan Public Utilities General Manager!

We're looking for an exceptional, supportive executive who is:

- Experienced in public administration and revenue-supported utility operations
- Skilled in strategic planning, finance and budgeting, and infrastructure management
- A strong communicator and relationship-builder across agencies and communities

Ketchikan: Alaska's First City and the Salmon Capital of the World — read on to learn more about this opportunity!



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Ketchikan, Alaska, is a close-knit island community of roughly 8,150 residents known for its stunning natural surroundings, rich cultural heritage, and strong sense of place. As Alaska's First City and the Salmon Capital of the World, Ketchikan is a hub for tourism, outdoor adventure, and Native arts.



POPULATION
8,150

Located on Revillagigedo Island in the heart of the Tongass National Forest — about 680 air miles north of Seattle — Ketchikan is only accessible by air or sea, but it's far from disconnected. Daily flights, marine highway routes, and barge services connect this remote paradise to the world, while local amenities like PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center and the University of Alaska Southeast campus support everyday life.



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$73,000

The community offers vibrant attractions, including live theater, art festivals, historic boardwalks, and breathtaking natural landscapes. Popular activities include ziplining, sportfishing, hiking, boating and flightseeing in Misty Fjords, and exploring the world's largest collection of totem poles.



MEDIAN HOME VALUE
\$350,000

Historically a seasonal fish camp for the Tlingit people, Ketchikan grew rapidly with the arrival of canneries, logging, and maritime industries. Today, it blends that frontier spirit with modern amenities and a thriving cruise port economy, while preserving its architectural charm and artistic legacy.

[Living in Ketchikan](#)



GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

Ketchikan operates under a council-manager form of government. The Mayor and seven City Council members are elected at-large for staggered three-year terms.

The City provides a full range of services, including:

- Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services
- Public Works and Port Operations
- Ketchikan Public Utilities (Electric, Water, and Telecommunications)



THE JOB

The City Manager/Ketchikan Public Utilities General Manager serves as the Chief Administrative Officer, overseeing the daily operations of all departments and municipal utility systems. In this role, the City Manager will build strong relationships with Councilmembers, staff, strategic partners, and community members while gaining a deep understanding of municipal and utility operations, established processes, and existing systems. The position is responsible for closely scrutinizing operating and capital budgets to ensure the efficient use of allocated funds, developing strategic priorities in collaboration with leadership to address the most critical community needs, and undertaking asset management planning for key infrastructure and equipment.

Reporting to the City Council, the new City Manager/ Ketchikan Public Utilities General Manager will:

- Reinforce cost-control and new-revenue exploration as early priorities
- Manage the City's cruise-ship port services and support tourism growth
- Oversee operations across 11 departments and multiple utility divisions
- Implement Council policies and support strategic planning initiatives
- Manage a combined annual budget of approximately \$252.5 million.

- Lead a workforce of approximately 320 full-time employees, increasing to around 400 during the summer with temporary positions.
- Foster strong community partnerships and respond to citizen needs

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

- GENERAL GOVERNMENT
- KETCHIKAN PUBLIC UTILITIES - ELECTRIC, WATER, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE / KPU GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE



EMPLOYEES
320
FULL-TIME

GENERAL
GOVERNMENT
\$102.3
MILLION

KPU
\$59.3
MILLION

KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2025

- UNDERTAKE AN ORGANIZATION-WIDE STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORT
- TRANSITION UTILITY DIVISIONS TO OPERATE AS SELF-SUPPORTING ENTERPRISES
- INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PLANNING



IDEAL CANDIDATE

The next City Manager will be a seasoned municipal executive who combines broad, full-service city management expertise with deep knowledge of revenue-supported utilities and enterprise operations, particularly seaport or cruise-ship facilities. A visible, supportive leader, they will thrive in Ketchikan's community-centered environment and approach public service with energy and purpose while actively supporting tourism growth and new-revenue opportunities.

The successful candidate will exhibit exceptional emotional intelligence, approachability, and diplomacy; and forging strong relationships with elected officials, employees, residents, and regional partners. They will excel at collaborative problem-solving, strengthening partnerships with neighboring island agencies and other stakeholders to tackle shared challenges.

Strategically, the ideal candidate brings proven skill in municipal finance, cost-control, and capital-improvement planning, coupled with the foresight to lead complex, long-range initiatives that balance high housing costs with sustainable service delivery. Demonstrated business acumen, a commitment to workforce development and continuous improvement, and a track record of overseeing multi-division operations round out the profile needed to guide Ketchikan through its next chapter.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

REQUIRED:

- Residency requirement: An October 2025 Charter amendment passed by voters expanded the residency area throughout the road system of Revillagigedo Island
- Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a related field
- 7-10 years of progressively responsible local government experience in a full-service city or similar organization
- At least 4 years in a high-level administrative or executive role

PREFERRED:

- Master of Public Administration (MPA), ICMA-CM, and/or CPM credentials
- Experience in managing utility operations or enterprise-funded services
- Advanced degrees or certifications in related fields



SALARY & BENEFITS

Compensation: \$235,000 - \$245,000 DOE/DOQ

Health Benefits: Medical, dental, vision, and life insurance

Paid Leave: Paid time off (vacation/sick), holidays

Retirement: Alaska Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Tier IV — 8% employee contribution with a 5% employer match

Additional Perks: Relocation assistance, vehicle provided, professional development and business expense reimbursement, cell phone reimbursement

HOW TO APPLY

Apply Here



For more information, contact:

Clay J. Pearson, Senior Vice President

claypearson@governmentresource.com | 713-816-8639

The City of Ketchikan is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.