

City of Dillingham
House District 37 / Senate District S

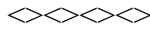
~ 11/24/2020 ~

31st Alaska State Legislature ~ 2nd Interim

NOVEMBER 2020 – LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Cliff Stone / City Lobbyist

~ Alaska’s Division of Elections to Certify Results ~



With all of the absentee ballots finally counted, the division should be able to certify the election results by November 25, 2020. The Alaska House and Senate have still not organized a majority for several reasons. Although House Republicans will have 21 members, there are members of that party who sit on a fringe that is uncomfortable for other members of that caucus. That’s putting it as diplomatically as I can express. Last year the R’s had 23 members and still could not organize with a “pure” bloc of their elected members.

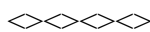
If I were betting on the horses, I would put my money on a coalition once again. Dillingham’s own Bryce Edgmon has headed up a majority coalition of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans the last four years. I’m not sure if it’s in the cards for him to be Speaker once again, but he will certainly have a leadership role if they indeed form a coalition.

Although the Senate still has 13 Republicans this go around, there are philosophical differences within their ranks that center around the question of a full PFD, other budgetary issues, and binding caucuses. Those thirteen members have met at least once to discuss how to move forward with forming a majority. I believe there is a high likelihood of a coalition this year with some or all of the Senate Democrats joining such an alliance. All of those concerns expressed above for the Senate also apply to the House and the debate they’re having regarding the formation of a majority caucus.

The moderates who could join such a coalition this time around are Senator Gary Stevens of Kodiak, Senator Click Bishop of Fairbanks, and Senator Bert Stedman of Sitka. These folks have been part of coalitions before. The unknown senator in joining a coalition is Senator Natasha von Imhof of Anchorage. Unlike her colleagues above, she has only served in predominantly Republican organizations.

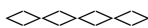
Since there are lots of new legislators, I’ve attached a spreadsheet dated Nov. 19, 2020 with this report to give you their names under one roof so to speak. Once they all get to Juneau and get sworn in, their names, districts, contact info, and photo’s will be coalesced onto the legislature’s website. Until that time, you’ll have this handy reference I’ve provided. The 32nd Legislature convenes on January 19, 2021.

The other big and surprising news is the passage of Ballot Measure 2. This act establishes ranked-choice voting for the general election. Voters would have the option to “rank” candidates in order of choice. This act would get rid of the party primary system, and political parties would no longer select their candidates to appear on the general election ballot. Instead, this act would create an open nonpartisan primary where all candidates would appear on one ballot. Please refer to my 2020 September Lobby Report as it provides greater detail on this ballot measure. If you have specific questions, let me know.



COVID-19

In addition to all of the election news is the fact that the pandemic has literally exploded all across the country. Numbers across the board are higher now they were in late spring. They only number still lower is the number of deaths per day, but is gaining ground fast. Over 12 million people across the U.S. have now been infected, with over 3 million of those being recorded in the first three weeks of this month. Alaska is among one of the highest per capita rate in the country. All 50 states have or have had COVID-19 emergency declarations put into place, particularly since this latest surge began in late October.



GOVERNOR'S CORNER

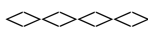
<http://gov.alaska.gov>

Handy phone numbers for Governor's offices: Anchorage: 907-269-7450 and Juneau: 907-465-3500

Governor Dunleavy has issued new COVID-19 Outbreak Health Orders for the state that supersede his Health Mandates under the March 11th Disaster Declaration. Go to the following page for details:
<https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2020/11/15/governor-issues-covid-19-outbreak-health-orders/>

New rules for travelers are constantly being updated at the state's Travel Information Page:
<https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>

Once again, the governor announced several new appointments and reappointments to State of Alaska boards and commissions. You can review this list on his website by clicking on the Newsroom icon leading to his press releases at the website above. For a list of vacancies, and to apply for a board appointment, you can go to the following link: <https://gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions/>



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

! COVID-19 ~ Information ! / <https://covid19.alaska.gov>

In Alaska, a COVID-19 Help Line has also been set up at **211** or dial: 1-800-478-2221

* U.S. REAL ID Compliant license – deadline extended to October 1, 2021.
- <http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/>

Online Public Notices for Alaska <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/default.aspx>

2020 Legislators Contact List <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/whoswho.pdf>

Representative Bryce Edgmon: 907-465-4451 // Senator Lyman Hoffman: 907-465-4453

Congressional Delegation websites (Current DC phone numbers will be listed on these sites)
<http://murkowski.senate.gov/public> www.sullivan.senate.gov <http://donyoung.house.gov>

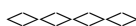
Note: Your emails to congress may or may not go through as their servers have had issues; likely because of the pandemic and the heavier volume of mail.

Anchorage Phone Numbers

Murkowski: 907-271-3735

Sullivan: 907-271-5915

Young: 907-271-5978



~ End Report ~

Happy Thanksgiving. God bless all of you from my family to yours. Stay safe and strong! ~ Cliff