



April 17th, 2026

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

There are just over 30 days remaining in the 120 day legislative session. The main focus of the past two weeks has been the fiscal year 2027 operating budget, House Bill 263. I spent last week presiding over long House floor sessions, as the House worked through more than 70 amendments with most failing to pass. We've also begun work on the capital budget, as the Senate Finance committee unveiled their capital budget that will be on the Senate Floor next week.



Signing SB 64, the elections reform bill, on its way to the Governor who has two weeks to make a decision on it

Operating Budget Moves From the House Floor

The House Majority Coalition advanced an operating budget that exemplifies our caucus's philosophy of taking a balanced approach to supporting all areas of government. [You can see more details here.](#) It includes a \$1,500 Permanent Fund Dividend, \$500 more than last year, while also making critical investments in energy relief, education, and public safety.



At ease during a long floor session working through the operating budget

Rapidly rising fuel costs remain one of the biggest challenges facing Alaska families, particularly in rural communities where households often pay double or even triple for energy. That is why we fully funded heating assistance and Power Cost Equalization and are working to expand the Bulk Fuel Loan Program to help communities manage those costs.

At the same time, the FY27 budget prioritizes funding for schools and public safety, ensuring we are maintaining the core services Alaskans depend on. The \$1,500 PFD at a cost of \$1 billion provides meaningful direct support alongside targeted investments that reflect the realities many communities are facing. This dividend had bipartisan support from the majority and minority caucuses.

This budget provides relief where it is needed most, supporting essential services and making responsible decisions that keep Alaska on stable financial footing. The budget now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Overview of the Operating Budget as Passed in the House

- A \$1,500 Permanent Fund dividend for every eligible Alaskan
- \$17.5 million for the Alaska Heating Assistance Program, helping families across rural Alaska manage the highest energy costs in the nation
- \$148 million in additional education funding for K-12 school districts
- 100% funding for Regional Educational Attendance Area school districts, ensuring that our rural schools receive their full share of state support
- 100% school bond debt reimbursement, honoring the state's commitment to communities that invested in building and improving their schools
- Power Cost Equalization is fully funded and accounts for increased fuel costs
- \$3.8 million to cover the state's share of federal Head Start funding, keeping early childhood education programs running in our communities
- \$5.7 million for the Infant Learning Program
- \$7.5 million for child care centers
- \$1.7 million for Village Public Safety Officer retention and increased costs
- \$38 million for the Disaster Relief Fund
- \$55 million for fire suppression
- \$1.7 million for domestic violence and sexual assault services

- \$2 million for food bank grants
- Community Assistance distributions totaling \$30 million



Last Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the House met all day and into the night to work through budget amendments



SUPPORTING AND INVESTING IN ALASKANS

The House passed an operating budget including a **\$1,500 Permanent Fund Dividend** along with major investments in **energy relief, education, and public safety**.

Full funding for **heating assistance** and **Power Cost Equalization** will help rural Alaska families dealing with high energy prices. This balance provides relief where it is needed most, supporting essential services and making responsible decisions that keep Alaska on stable financial footing,

 \$1,500 PFD Permanent Fund Dividend	 \$5.7 million Infant Learning Program
 \$17.5 million Heating Assistance Program	 \$1.7 million Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
 \$148 million Additional Education Funding	 \$55 million Fire Suppression
 100% funding REAA School Districts	 \$38 million Disaster Relief
 100% funding School Bond Debt Reimbursement	 \$1.7 million Village Public Safety Officer retention
 \$7.5 million Child Care Centers	 \$2 million Food Bank Grants
 \$3.8 million Head Start Programs	 \$30 million Community Assistance Distributions

RELIEF. SAFETY. EDUCATION. STABILITY.

ALASKA HOUSE MAJORITY COALITION

Capital Budget

The Senate Finance Committee unveiled its version of the fiscal year 2027 capital budget this week. The budget totals \$2.5 billion and prioritizes statewide needs, with a strong focus on deferred maintenance and school facilities.

The budget includes \$57 million for K-12 school major maintenance, funding 18 projects from the state's ranked list. I am glad to see that Pribilof Island School District and Lake and Peninsula School District both have projects on the list of funded projects. The total deferred maintenance package across state facilities is roughly \$100 million.

This is only the Senate's half of the capital budget. The House will add its own priorities, with the same focus on deferred maintenance and school facilities. The K-12 major maintenance list totals over \$400 million statewide, and both bodies are hoping to fund roughly half of it combined.

Talk to the Tundra: How a Yup'ik Village Heals Together

I co-hosted a screening of [Talk to the Tundra: How a Yup'ik Village Heals Together](#), a documentary exploring how Rep. Jimmie's home community of Toksook Bay has been grappling with grief, loss tied to suicide, and a lack of mental health resources for young people after they finish school. The more we talk and work together, the more we can do to save lives. If you have not seen it yet, I encourage you to [watch the documentary here](#).



Rep. Jimmie and I hosted the screening in the Senate Finance Committee room to a full crowd

Bristol Bay at Juneau Traditional Games

The Bristol Bay Angels were in Juneau for Traditional Games last weekend and excelled. Among the medal-winning performances were Boyce Anderson (right) and Ari Angasan Ray in one foot high kick, Liv Harvilla in Alaskan high kick, Albert Larson, Shea Nelson, and Puni Semaia in stick pull, and Adeline Moses in one hand reach. Good luck to these athletes and everyone from District 37 competing this weekend at Statewide Senior NYO Games in Anchorage.



As always, thank you for your continued support and for staying engaged in what's happening in Juneau. It's my honor and privilege to represent you. My office is here to help — please do not hesitate to reach out.



Meeting with British Consul-General Eleanor Kiloh, who is in Alaska for the Arctic Encounter Symposium

Boya Edgman

Office phone: (907) 465-4451

Toll free: (800) 898-4451

Contact my staff:

Amory: Amory.Lelake@akleg.gov

Tyra: Tyra.Mackinnon@akleg.gov

Tristan: Tristan.Walsh@akleg.gov

Jason: Jason.Katz-Brown@akleg.gov

Coming Up

Follow all the Legislature's proceedings on [Gavel Alaska](#).

Monday, April 20

- **House Education** 8:00 AM – Presentation: Celebrating Excellence in Education; [SB 20](#) CPR Curriculum; [SB 143](#) Municipal School Board Terms; City Councils
- **Senate Resources** 9:00 AM – [HB 117](#) Commercial Fishing; Set Gillnet Cooperative; [SB 255](#) Municipal Grant Land; Mat-Su Borough Transfer
- **House Judiciary** 1:00 PM – [SB 9](#) Surrender of Infants; Infant Safety Device
- **House Resources** 1:00 PM – Consideration of Governor's Appointee: Regulatory Commission of Alaska; [SB 230](#) Jonesville Public Use Area
- **House Finance** 1:30 PM – [HB 271](#) Kitchen Lights Unit Royalty Modification; [HB 195](#) Pharmacist Prescription Authority
- **Senate Judiciary** 1:30 PM – Presentation: Alaska Rape Trends 1976-2023 by Alaska Justice Information Center
- **Senate Labor & Commerce** 1:30 PM – [SB 259](#) Property Tax Assessment Increases; [SB 272](#) Health Information Exchange
- **House Labor & Commerce** 3:15 PM – [SB 211](#) Extend Occupational Licensing Boards; [HB 285](#) Health Information Exchange; [SB 185](#) Insurance; Rebates; Advertising; [SB 35](#) Delivery Network Companies; [SB 181](#) Employment Information Disclosure; [SB 164](#) Eliminate Tax Discounts; Consideration of Governor's Appointees
- **Senate Education** 3:30 PM – [HJR 39](#) Waive Visa Fees for Teachers; [SCR 17](#) Regional Educational Attendance Areas; [HB 28](#) Teacher/State Employee Student Loan Program
- **Senate Resources** 3:30 PM – [SB 275](#) Natural Gas Projects/Income Tax/Surcharge; [SB 280](#) Oil & Gas Property Tax; Municipal Tax

Tuesday, April 21

- **House Community & Regional Affairs** 8:00 AM – [HB 162](#) Digital Product Repair
- **House Tribal Affairs** 8:00 AM – [HB 384](#) Definition of 'Victim Counseling Center'; Presentation: AFN Report on the Overrepresentation of Alaska Native People in

the Criminal Justice System

- **House Finance** 9:00 AM – [SJR 29](#) Constitutional Amendment: Education Fund
- **Senate Resources** 9:00 AM – [SB 280](#) Oil & Gas Property Tax; Municipal Tax; [HB 117](#) Commercial Fishing; Set Gillnet Cooperative
- **House Military & Veterans' Affairs** 10:15 AM – [HB 382](#) Military: Joint Armed Services Committee; [HB 299](#) Veterans; Sentence Program; Criminal Procedure
- **House Energy** 1:00 PM – Presentation: The Regulatory Commission of Alaska and Energy Projects
- **House Transportation** 1:00 PM – [HB 366](#) Use of Heavy Petroleum as Marine Fuel; [HB 302](#) Travel Insurance
- **Senate Community & Regional Affairs** 1:30 PM – [SB 16](#) Refuse Utility Regulations; [SB 265](#) Criminal Negligent Homicide; Failure to Assist; [SB 250](#) Data Centers, Utilities
- **House Finance** 1:30 PM – [HB 362](#) Respiratory Care License; [SJR 29](#) Constitutional Amendment: Education Fund
- **Senate Transportation** 1:30 PM – [SB 148](#) Autonomous Vehicles
- **House Health & Social Services** 3:15 PM – [HB 225](#) Fluoride Supplements, Public Water System; [HB 273](#) Dental Insurance & Direct Care Agreements
- **House State Affairs** 3:15 PM – [HB 188](#) Welcoming Alaska Office; [HB 218](#) Tanana Valley State Forest; [HB 226](#) AHFC: Reduced Interest on Certain Loans; [HB 377](#) Public Records: Audio & Video; Municipal Costs
- **Senate Health & Social Services** 3:30 PM – Consideration of Governor's Appointees to Various Health Boards
- **Senate State Affairs** 3:30 PM – [SB 282](#) Military: Joint Armed Services Committee; [HCR 9](#) Declaration of Independence Anniversary; [SB 239](#) Motor Vehicle Registration; [SCR 11](#) Legislative Commission on State Seal

Wednesday, April 22

- **House Education** 8:30 AM – Presentations: Overview and History of Regional Education Attendance Areas; [HB 237](#) Mathematics Instruction
- **House Finance** 9:00 AM – [HB 261](#) Education Funding
- **House Judiciary** 1:00 PM – [SB 167](#) Criminal Conviction Overturned: Receive Past PFD; [HB 318](#) Social Media/Minors
- **House Resources** 1:00 PM – [HB 381](#) Oil & Gas Property Tax; Municipal Tax
- **House Finance** 1:30 PM – Presentation: Deferred Maintenance by Office of Management & Budget and Department of Transportation; [SB 41](#) Public Schools: Mental Health Education
- **Senate Judiciary** 1:30 PM – Consideration of Governor's Appointee: Alaska Police Standards Council

- **Senate Labor & Commerce** 1:30 PM – [HJR 38](#) Public Safety Telecommunicators; [SJR 25](#) Supporting US-Mexico-Canada Agreement
- **House Labor & Commerce** 3:15 PM – [SB 181](#) Employment Information Disclosure; [HB 234](#) PERS: Emergency Dispatchers; [HB 292](#) Insurance: Pediatric Neuropsych Disorders; [SB 180](#) LNG Import Facilities; [HB 335](#) Disaster Emergency Plan for Pets; [HB 350](#) Qualified Entity Income Tax
- **Senate Resources** 3:30 PM – [SB 280](#) Oil & Gas Property Tax; Municipal Tax
- **Task Force on Education Funding** 3:30 PM – Presentations: Residential School Funding; Correspondence Program Funding; Overview of Charter Schools in Alaska

Thursday, April 23

- **House Community & Regional Affairs** 8:00 AM – [SB 63](#) Local Boundary Commission; [HB 291](#) Municipal Property Tax Exemptions; [HB 255](#) Senior Citizen Grants Dividend Raffle
- **House Tribal Affairs** 8:00 AM – [HB 384](#) Definition of 'Victim Counseling Center'; [HB 307](#) Court-Ordered Compensatory Visitation
- **House Finance** 9:00 AM – [SB 214](#) Capital Budget
- **Senate Resources** 9:00 AM – [SB 280](#) Oil & Gas Property Tax; Municipal Tax
- **House Fisheries** 10:00 AM – [HB 356](#) Commercial Fishing Vessels/Micro-Fishery
- **House Military & Veterans' Affairs** 10:15 AM – [SJR 30](#) Support Military & Increase Infrastructure
- **House Energy** 1:00 PM – Presentation: Fuel Supply Chain Concerns by Division of Community & Regional Affairs and Alaska Municipal League
- **House Finance** 1:30 PM – [HB 314](#) Architects, Engineers, Surveyors; Registered Interior Design; [HB 195](#) Pharmacist Prescription Authority
- **House Health & Social Services** 3:15 PM – Consideration of Governor's Appointee: State Medical Board; Presentation: UAA College of Public Health: Health Talent Pipelines and Workforce Development
- **House State Affairs** 3:15 PM – [HB 379](#) Service Area Elections; [HB 300](#) State Employees: Meals/Travel Expenses
- **Senate Health & Social Services** 3:30 PM – [SB 281](#) Healthcare Compacts; Rural Health Program

Friday, April 24

- **House Finance** 9:00 AM – [SB 214](#) Capital Budget
- **House Judiciary** 1:00 PM – [HB 367](#) Consumer Data Privacy Act
- **House Resources** 1:00 PM – Presentation: Alaskans' Views of Energy Options by Alaska Center for Energy and Power and ISER; [HB 381](#) Oil & Gas Property

Tax; Municipal Tax

- **House Finance** 1:30 PM – [HB 261](#) Education Funding; [HB 193](#) Unemployment Benefits; Paid Parental Leave
 - **Senate Labor & Commerce** 1:30 PM – Presentation: Alaska LNG Pipeline Workforce Plan
 - **House Labor & Commerce** 3:15 PM – [HB 325](#) Industrial Hemp; [HB 386](#) Gaming; Electronic Pull-Tabs; [SB 185](#) Insurance; Rebates; Advertising; [SB 164](#) Eliminate Tax Discounts
 - **Senate Education** 3:30 PM – [SB 66](#) State-Tribal Education Compacts
 - **Senate Resources** 3:30 PM – [SB 280](#) Oil & Gas Property Tax; Municipal Tax
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Representative Edgmon's Office

120 4th St

Juneau, AK 99801-1162

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