

Juneau Commission on Aging

Dear Assembly Members,
Thank you for your service to our community. The Juneau Commission on Aging is charged with advising the Assembly on matters related to seniors. Seniors over 55 now comprise **30% of Juneau's population**. Juneau's elders buy goods and services, volunteer extensively, and provide support to family members in our community. Many are retired with good benefits and a desire to remain in our community while contributing to its well-being. During your upcoming retreat, may we respectfully suggest that the following items be included in CBJ Assembly Priorities.

Juneau Commission On Aging 2020 Senior Survey Findings

Seniors are healthier and better off than in previous survey years:

- 28.7% of Juneau residents are 55 and older**
- 84% own their own homes and pay taxes
- 80-90% (depending on age) drive their own cars
- 63% volunteer in the community
- 95% over 65 have Medicare Insurance
- 66% over 65 have State of Alaska Retirement
- 40% have Long Term Care Insurance
- 42-46% (depending on age) take continuing education classes (UAS/CS)
- 72 – 84% (depending on age) recreate weekly (walking, hiking, swimming, biking, gyms, skiing)

** AKDOL has updated this figure to 30% in 2023



Assembly Goals 2025

Assembly Goals-Support of the JCOA/2025 Assembly Meeting			
1. Housing - Assure adequate and affordable housing for all CBJ residents			
Item	Implementing Actions	Responsibility	Notes
A1	After completion of A111, develop a long-term housing plan with project. Include project funding & PPA budget. Recommendation: develop a long-term housing plan with project. Include project funding & PPA budget. Recommendation: develop a long-term housing plan with project. Include project funding & PPA budget.	Assembly, Manager's Office, CBO	
A2	Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan.	Assembly, Manager's Office	
A3	Continue to review and track progress towards the goals of the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan.	Assembly, Manager's Office	
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A8	Continue to review and track progress towards the goals of the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan.	Assembly, Manager's Office	
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A10	Continue to review and track progress towards the goals of the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan. Review the Housing Action Plan. Recommendation: change, update, and develop a new plan.	Assembly, Manager's Office	

Item 1: Housing: Include *Universal*

Design as a preferred priority for building age friendly housing for people of all ages. 84% of Seniors own their own homes in Juneau. Many would downsize if more age friendly housing were available - potentially opening up more housing units for working age families. The JCOA continues to promote the concept of Universal Design that meets the needs of community members of all ages and abilities, while allowing aging at home and in community with minimal assistance.

Item 4: Promoting Community Wellness, Safety and healthy aging for all ages by supporting a CBJ Community Center. This year, JCOA actively promoted the concept of a CBJ Community Center using the Marie Drake

Complex to provide recreational opportunities, wellness classes, informational courses and other resources to ensure seniors living in Juneau are able to continue to contribute to the community. While the Marie Drake Complex remains in question, the concept of a multi-generational CBJ Community Center remains a viable mechanism to support healthy maturing for people of all ages, while targeting our elders. Seniors contribute significantly and want to continue to live in the community we love. People of all ages are enabled to continue to contribute by striving to be as healthy as possible.

Assembly Goals-Approved at the JCOA/2025 Assembly Meeting			
4. Community, Wellness, and Public Safety - Juneau is safe and welcoming for all citizens			
Item	Implementing Actions	Responsibility	Notes
A1	Address and honor Juneau's Indigenous culture and place names. Develop a naming policy. Consider the impacts of recognizing additional and/or repeated holidays, including Elizabethan Day, Indigenous People's Day, and Juneteenth.	Assembly, Manager's Office, Human Resources Committee	JCOA evaluated naming policy. Holiday discussions are anticipated to take place during collective bargaining.
B	Explore government to government relations with tribes, working on projects meant to grow effective communication, trust, and partnerships. Create an Assembly lesson to tribal meetings.	Assembly, Manager's Office	Public Safety and Solid Waste MCA amendments signed.
5. Sustainable Community - Juneau will maintain a resilient social, economic, and environmental habitat for existing population and future generations.			
Item	Implementing Actions	Responsibility	Notes
A1	Implement a zero waste or waste reduction plan, including development of the Zero Waste Subdivision.	Assembly, Manager's Office, EPW, Finance	Waste characterization and solid waste flows (i.e. transfer station, landfill, or incinerator) studies are underway. Anticipated reports next year.
B	Identify and prioritize the most cost-effective energy efficiency and electrification upgrades in CBJ facilities. Recommendation: none.	Assembly, Manager's Office, all departments	Ongoing: multiple grants in process, significant facilities maintenance integration.
C	Implement projects and strategies that advance the goal of reliance on 80% of renewable energy sources by 2045. Recommendation: change. Identify the next major step to achieving the goal of reliance on 80% of renewable energy sources by 2045.	Assembly, Manager's Office, all departments	Incremental progress towards fleet electrification - new vehicle purchases are assessed for EV options.
D	Develop mitigation and resilience strategies aimed at reducing community risk and helping Juneau adapt to climate-related hazards that have been identified in the T22 ADRIC Report. Recommendation: change. Continue developing GLOF mitigation and resilience strategies with partner agencies.	Assembly, Manager's Office, EPW, Law, P&S, O&M	Ongoing, code revisions underway.
E	Develop strategy to reduce abandoned/unused vehicles.	Assembly, Manager's Office, EPW, Law, P&S, O&M	

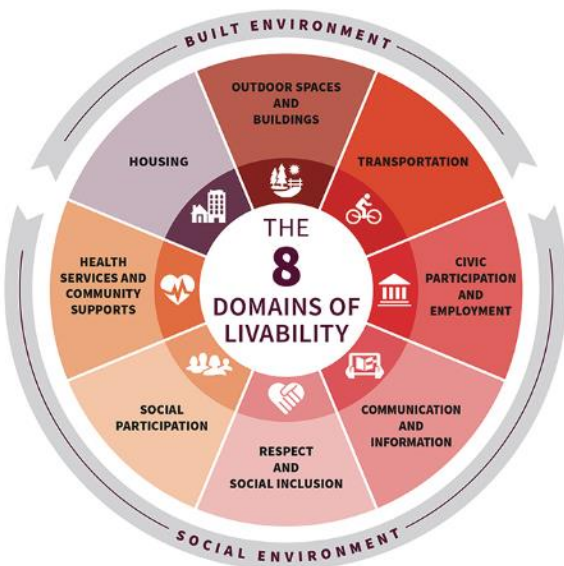
Assembly Action to Move Forward: P = Policy Development, F = Funding, S = Support, O = Operational Issue

Item 5: Sustainable and Age-Friendly Community Planning. The CBJ Assembly joined the *Age-Friendly Network* in 2023 and the next step is to engage in the planning process. Age-Friendly Community Planning was developed by the World Health Organization and has been utilized throughout the world. This planning tool looks at eight (8) domains of livability that make a community viable for all ages, as well as aging in place. It is a tried-and-true mechanism that allows for comparability with other communities, as well as determining areas for improvement. The JCOA recommends that the CBJ join the JCOA and AARP in implementing this AARP planning process as a mechanism to determine how Juneau could be more "livable" for people of all ages.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. The JCOA will present our annual update at the CBJ Assembly Meeting January 6, 2025 and will be able to answer more of your questions at that time.

Deborah Craig, Chair
Juneau Commission on Aging

<https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa>



Aging! So cool, everyone is doing it!