

2021 Conference of Young Alaskans (COYA)

Strengthening Alaska Local Governments' Future



Saturday, July 31

Possible travel day for delegates

Sunday, August 1

5:30 PM Welcome Dinner

6:00 PM Orientation – Introduction and agenda

- **Nils Andreassen**, Alaska Municipal League
- Introduction to Facilitators
 - **Carole Triem**, City and Borough of Juneau
 - **Austin Otos**, Ketchikan Gateway Borough
 - **Meghan Topkok**, City of Nome
 - **Chelsea Tremblay**, Petersburg Borough
 - **Sabrena Combs**, City of Palmer

7:00 PM **Community Café**

Structured as a world café, stations will be set up for small groups of delegates to discuss with one another the interest they have in local government, knowledge or gaps, and what the future might look like. Rotations will allow full participation, and delegates will report out on outcomes.

- What do we know about our local government?
- What do we want to know?
- What would we change?
- What are we missing?

8:30 PM Adjourn

Monday, August 2

7:00 AM Breakfast and Welcome

- Mayor **Bryce Ward**, Fairbanks North Star Borough
- **Lee Ryan**, Ryan Air; COYA Alum

8:30 AM **Expert Speed Dating**

Experts will convey to small groups of delegates information that is relevant to understanding and working to address local government issues. Experts will be drawn from federal, state, local, and tribal governments; from the private and nonprofit sector; and from the university and research. Issues will range from education to law



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enforcement, including fiscal policy, business development, innovation, health sanitation, and transportation.

10:00 AM Break

10:30 AM **Local Government Fishbowl**

Municipal officials will meet with delegates in a fishbowl discussion to address current challenges and opportunities, with an opportunity for all delegates to listen and contribute.

Noon Lunch and Plenary

Legislators will discuss their experience in local government or COYA, and their perspective on the relationship between the State and its political subdivisions.

- Sen. **Peter Micciche**; Mayor, Kenai Peninsula Borough (TBI)
- Sen. **Elvi Gray-Jackson**; Assembly, Municipality of Anchorage (TBI)
- Sen. **Jesse Kiehl**; Assembly, City and Borough of Juneau (TBI)
- Rep. **DeLena Johnson**; Mayor, City of Palmer (TBI)
- Rep. **Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins**, COYA Alum (TBI)
- Rep. **Tiffany Zulkosky**, COYA Alum; Mayor, City of Bethel (TBI)

1:30 PM **Vision Statements**

Based on a proposed list of priorities, small groups will meet in "open space" to consider vision statements that consider how local governments should approach these now and into the future.

- Strengthening local control through home rule and borough government
- Tax base and economic development
- Quality of life and sustainability of communities
- Relationship between State and localities
- Intergovernmental collaboration
- Infrastructure and services

3:00 PM Break

Vision Planning (continued)

Small groups will settle into their last iteration to finalize the vision statement.

4:30 PM Break and Activity

6:00 PM Dinner and Plenary: Presentation and discussion of vision planning

7:30 PM Small Groups meet and revise statements, if necessary, develop goals

9:00 PM Adjourn



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Tuesday, August 3

7:00 AM Breakfast – Mayors Dialogue

- **Clay Walker**, Denali Borough
- **Pat Branson**, City of Kodiak
- **Vern Halter**, Mat Su Borough
- **Fannie Suvlu**, City of Utqiagvik
- **Bob Sivertsen**, City of Ketchikan

8:30 AM **Goal-Setting**

Small groups will reconvene to discuss how the vision for local government can be applied to the activities of local government. Delegates will develop goals and associated recommendations for consideration at the State and local level.

- Public Safety
- Early Childhood Learning and Education
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Quality of Life
-

10:00 AM Break

10:30 AM **Goal-Setting** (continued)

Noon Lunch – “If I Were Mayor”

Delegates will perform “If I were Mayor...” as spoken word.

1:00 PM Plenary: Presentation and Discussion of Goals

Small groups will report out on their goals and recommendations, with time for plenary discussion and feedback.

3:00 PM Break

3:30 PM Presentation and Discussion of Goals (*continued*)

5:00 PM Activity

7:00 PM Ambassador Dinner

Delegates will be joined by sponsors, community leaders, and local government officials.

8:00 PM Small groups finalize products

9:00 PM Adjourn



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Wednesday, August 4

- 7:00 AM Breakfast and Keynote
- **Clarence Anthony**, NLC Executive Director ()
- 8:30 AM Final Report – review, challenge and confirmation of consensus
Facilitated session with voting for approval of goals and recommendations.
- 11:00 AM Break
- Noon Lunch and presentation Prep
- 1:00 PM Presentation to the Alaska Conference of Mayors
Discussion and Reflections
- 2:30 PM Adjourn
- Travel home

COYA Staff/Volunteers

1. Josie Bahnke (confirmed)
2. Suzanne LaFrance (confirmed – unable to be present)
3. Sabrena Combs (confirmed)
4. Bryce Ward (confirmed)

Subject Matter Experts



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