



NEWS FROM THE ALASKA CAPITOL

City of Whittier

Last week in Juneau, significant attention was directed toward the FY26 supplemental budget, a crucial financial plan that allocates funds to address current fiscal year shortfalls due to funding deficiencies or unexpected costs. The Senate amended bill notably includes provisions for disaster funding, wildfire management, and critical funding to fulfill the state's matching requirements for federal construction dollars. This year, it was initially projected that fulfilling these financial needs would necessitate a draw from the constitutional budget reserve (CBR), requiring three quarters vote to tap into the fund. The Senate managed to meet that requirement, achieving a unanimous vote of 20-0.

Conversely, the House unanimously passed HB289; however, the vote to fully fund the supplemental budget saw a division along party lines, resulting in failure to fund HB289. The House Majority opted to return the bill to the Rules Committee rather than advancing an unfunded proposal. This procedural move highlights the ongoing polarization regarding fiscal strategies in the legislature.

A focal point of discussion amid these budgetary concerns was the release of the state's spring revenue forecast, which updates the revenue outlook based on current and projected oil prices. With the ongoing war in Iran and disruptions in global oil supply, lawmakers awaited insights on how elevated oil prices would impact state finances.

The recently announced revenue adjustment was substantially higher than prior projections, with an increase of \$545 million for FY2026 and \$510 million for FY2027. The revised forecast is based on an oil price of \$91.09 per barrel for the remainder of FY2026 and an anticipated average of \$75 for FY2027. This financial update has positive implications, as it appears sufficient to eliminate the current year's deficit, even considering known supplemental requests, ultimately leaving a modest surplus of \$44 million.

However, this forecast has generated some questions. Earlier in March, Legislative Finance Director Alexei Painter indicated that oil prices would need to average \$105 per barrel to entirely close the current year's deficit, utilizing price sensitivity tables previously established by the Department of Revenue. In essence, the current forecast surpasses projections by approximately \$150-\$200 million, prompting an expectation for more comprehensive information to substantiate these revised figures.

The implications of this revenue forecast for HB 289 are significant. The House Majority is now positioned to enact a balanced budget without dependence on minority votes. The leverage sought by minority members, who withheld their approval of the CBR draw for the supplemental budget, has effectively diminished. Nevertheless, should oil prices experience a sharp decline before the conclusion of the legislative session, the necessity for a CBR vote pertaining to the supplemental budget could re-emerge, prompting renewed debates about fiscal strategies and priorities.

This week's developments underscore the complex interplay between legislative decision-making and external economic factors, highlighting the challenges faced by lawmakers in navigating fiscal responsibilities while addressing the needs of their constituents. It will be interesting to see the next steps for HB289, timing is of the essence because of the Meet the Match dollars.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS OF INTEREST

Mar 16, 2026

House FINANCE

Mar 16, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

[Committee Page](#)

ELECTIONS; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Presentation: Spring Revenue Forecast by; Department of Revenue; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- [SB 64](#)
- [HB 263](#)
- [HB 265](#)

Mar 17, 2026

House FINANCE

Mar 17, 2026 09:00am | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP;
APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Presentation: FY27 Governor's Amendments
by; Office of Management and Budget; MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS; Bills
Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- [HB 263](#)
- [HB 265](#)
- [HB 52](#)

Senate FINANCE

Mar 17, 2026 09:00am | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

ELIMINATE TAX DISCOUNTS; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; TRS CONTR RATE;
PERS/TRS SOC SECUR OR SBS; -- Testimony --; CONST. AM: EDUCATION FUND; -
- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on
AKL.tv**

Bills:

- [SB 55](#)

Senate COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 17, 2026 01:30pm | BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

Committee Page

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS; -- Public Testimony --; MUNI GRANT
LAND; MAT-SU BOROUGH TRANSFER; -- Public Testimony --; MUNICIPAL SCHOOL
BOARD TERMS; PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT INCREASES; -- Public Testimony --
; GENERATED OBSCENE CHLD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL; -- Testimony --;
CONTRACT: LICENSING SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS; -- Testimony --; **Streamed
live on AKL.tv**

Bills:

- [HB 13](#)
- [SB 255](#)
- [SB 143](#)
- [SB 259](#)
- [SB 247](#)
- [SB 258](#)

Mar 18, 2026

Senate TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 18, 2026 07:30am | SENATE FINANCE 532

[Committee Page](#)

FY27 Request, FY26 Update, & Major Issues

Bills:

- *(None)*

House FINANCE

Mar 18, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

[Committee Page](#)

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Presentation: Leases by Department of; Transportation and Public Facilities; UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS; PAID PARENT LEAVE; -- Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- [HB 263](#)
- [HB 265](#)
- [HB 193](#)

Senate RESOURCES

Mar 18, 2026 03:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

[Committee Page](#)

NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Bills:

- [SB 275](#)

Mar 19, 2026

House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 19, 2026 08:00am | BARNES 124

Committee Page

AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS; -- Testimony --; SENIOR CITIZEN GRANTS DIVIDEND RAFFLE; -- Testimony --; FIREFIGHTER/EMS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION; -- Testimony --; DIGITAL PRODUCT REPAIR; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- [HB 282](#)
- [HB 255](#)
- [HB 286](#)
- [HB 162](#)

House FINANCE

Mar 19, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Presentation: Alaska Energy Authority; PEACE OFFICERS/FIREFIGHTERS: DISABILITY; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- [HB 263](#)
- [HB 265](#)
- [HB 210](#)

Senate COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 19, 2026 01:30pm | BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

Committee Page

GENERATED OBSCENE CHLD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; CONTRACT: LICENSING SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; SICK LEAVE EXEMPTION: FISH PROCESSORS; -- Testimony --; PUBLIC MEETINGS: EXEMPT MUNI SVC AREA BDS; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Bills:

- [SB 247](#)
- [SB 258](#)
- [SB 268](#)
- [SB 153](#)

Senate TRANSPORTATION

Mar 19, 2026 01:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

[Committee Page](#)

Overview: Alaska Marine Highway System; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Bills:

- *(None)*

Mar 20, 2026

House FINANCE

Mar 20, 2026 09:00am | ADAMS 519

[Committee Page](#)

-- Please Note Time Change --; APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS;
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- [HB 280](#)

How to Watch Live Committee Meetings

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5. Scroll down, find your meeting and click on the “Audio/Video” option on the right side of the screen.