



Alaska Legislative Report

Rising global oil prices tied to the ongoing war involving Iran have captured the attention of lawmakers at the Alaska State Capitol. As of this writing, the price of oil reached \$91275 per barrel, with fluctuations continuing throughout the day. While the long-term trajectory of oil prices remains uncertain, the recent increase could provide some relief to Alaska's state budget, which relies heavily on petroleum revenues.

Despite the positive signal from higher prices, budget officials and legislators are urging caution. The increase may not be sufficient to fully offset the projected state budget deficit, particularly if the price spike proves temporary. Analysts note that sustained higher prices would be necessary before the state could rely on them as a meaningful solution to Alaska's fiscal challenges.

Budget Process Moves Forward

House Finance subcommittees have completed their detailed reviews of individual departmental budgets. Over the coming week, these subcommittees will present their recommendations to the full House Finance Committee, where the various pieces will be assembled into the broader operating budget proposal.

Each subcommittee is chaired by a majority member of the House Finance Committee and includes members from policy committees that most closely oversee the agencies under review. Their role is focused and somewhat limited in scope. Subcommittees evaluate the "numbers section" of the operating budget—line-item funding levels and technical adjustments—rather than broader fiscal policy questions.

Major statewide issues such as K-12 education funding and the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) are handled separately by the full Finance Committee and legislative leadership.

Most of the adjustments made by subcommittees this year were relatively minor. However, several chairs proposed targeted increases in a few key areas. These

included adjustments to Medicaid provider reimbursement rates, as well as modest increases to certain grant programs that have struggled to keep pace with inflation.

Congressional Address

Next week, U.S. Representative Nick Begich is scheduled to address a joint session of the Alaska Legislature. His remarks will mark the final appearance in this year's series of addresses from Alaska's congressional delegation, which traditionally brief state lawmakers on federal priorities, funding opportunities, and issues affecting Alaska.

Looking Ahead

As the session progresses into its middle weeks, lawmakers face continued pressure to balance Alaska's budget while addressing rising costs across multiple sectors. Oil prices will remain a key variable in that equation, but legislators appear cautious about relying too heavily on market volatility to solve long-standing fiscal challenges.

With ten weeks left in the legislative session, budget negotiations, energy policy debates, and broader fiscal discussions are expected to intensify in the weeks ahead.

Committee Hearings of Interest

Mar 09, 2026

House FINANCE

Mar 09, 2026 09:00am | ADAMS 519

[Committee Page](#)

-- Please Note Time Change --; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Subcommittee Closeouts;; Department of Environmental Conservation and; University of Alaska; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

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

Senate FINANCE

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

[Committee Page](#)

K 12 Major Maintenance Scoring and Ranking; Department of Education and Early Development; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- (None)

House FINANCE

Mar 09, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

[Committee Page](#)

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Subcommittee Closeouts;; Departments: Military and Veterans Affairs, Labor; and Workforce Development, Natural Resources,; Public Safety, Fish and Game, and Education and; Early Development; ELECTIONS; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265
- SB 64

Senate FINANCE

Mar 09, 2026 01:30pm | SENATE FINANCE 532

[Committee Page](#)

-- Please Note Time Change --; RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.; Equable Institute; Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER); ; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- HB 78

Senate RESOURCES

Mar 09, 2026 03:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

[Committee Page](#)

SUPPORT NATIVE CORP BUSINESS DEVELOP PRGM; SULFUR CONTENT OF MARINE FUEL; -- Testimony --; PUBLIC LAND:SALE/LEASE/COMMERCIAL DEVELOP; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- SJR 26

- SB 253
- SB 224

Mar 10, 2026

House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 10, 2026 08:00am | BARNES 124

Committee Page

No Meeting Scheduled

Bills:

- *(None)*

Senate FINANCE

Mar 10, 2026 09:00am | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION; -- Invited & Public Testimony --;

FISHERIES PROD DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT; -- Invited & Public Testimony --;

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- SB 41
- SB 130

House FINANCE

Mar 10, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH

BUDGET; Subcommittee Closeouts; APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL

BUSINESS; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265
- HB 280

Senate COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 10, 2026 01:30pm | BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

Committee Page

No Meeting Scheduled

Bills:

- *(None)*

Senate FINANCE

Mar 10, 2026 01:30pm | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- *(None)*

Senate TRANSPORTATION

Mar 10, 2026 01:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

Committee Page

Presentation: State of Alaska Prompt Payment; Parity by; The Foraker Group and Alaska Municipal League; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- *(None)*

Mar 11, 2026

House FINANCE

Mar 11, 2026 09:00am | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Committee Substitute; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265

Senate FINANCE

Mar 11, 2026 09:00am | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

-- Testimony --; RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.; Department of Administration, Division of; Retirement and Benefits;; Legislative Finance Division; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- HB 78

House FINANCE

Mar 11, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; Ends at 3:30 pm; Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Delta Junction;; Dillingham, Glennallen, Valdez, Wrangell;; Homer, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, Tok, Off Nets; - Please call/arrive 30 min. prior to end of; allotted time or testimony will close early; - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately; after testifying to keep lines open; - Continue to access meeting through [akleg.gov](#); - The hearing may be televised on Gavel, please; check listings; - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a; group with the same message; - Submit written testimony to; by Friday March 13;; 2026, at 5:00 pm; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265

Senate FINANCE

Mar 11, 2026 01:30pm | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; State IT - Needs, Challenges and Solutions; Office of Information Technology; Office of Management and Budget; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- *(None)*

Senate RESOURCES

Mar 11, 2026 03:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

Committee Page

Presentation: Railbelt Transmission Update by; Curtis Thayer - Executive Director,; Alaska Energy Authority; Presentation: Port of Alaska Energy Project by; Terry Umatum, Director, Don Young Port of Alaska; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled;

Streamed live on [AKL.tv](https://akl.tv)

Bills:

- *(None)*

House FINANCE

Mar 11, 2026 04:30pm | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; Ends at 6:30 pm; Off Nets; - Please call/arrive 30 min. prior to end of; allotted time or testimony will close early; - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately; after testifying to keep lines open; - Continue to access meeting through akleg.gov; - The hearing may be televised on Gavel, please; check listings; - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a; group with the same message; - Submit written testimony to; by Friday March 13,; 2026, at 5:00 pm; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265

Mar 12, 2026

House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 12, 2026 08:00am | BARNES 124

Committee Page

ALCOHOL SALES: LOCAL OPTION; -- Testimony --; FIREFIGHTER/EMS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; PERS: EMERGENCY DISPATCHERS; -- Testimony --; JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 155
- HB 286

- HB 234
- HB 309

House FINANCE

Mar 12, 2026 09:00am | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; ELECTIONS; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- SB 64

Senate FINANCE

Mar 12, 2026 09:00am | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

University of Alaska; FY 27 Budget Request; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled;

Streamed live on [AKL.tv](https://akl.tv)

Bills:

- *(None)*

House FINANCE

Mar 12, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; Ends at 3:30 pm; Fairbanks, Kenai, Bethel, Cordova, Kotzebue,; Nome, Utqiagvik, Off Nets; - Please call/arrive 30 min. prior to end of; allotted time or testimony will close early; - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately; after testifying to keep lines open; - Continue to access meeting through akleg.gov; - The hearing may be televised on Gavel, please; please check listings; - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a group with the same message; - Submit written testimony to; by Friday March 13,; 2026, at 5:00 pm; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265

Senate FINANCE

Mar 12, 2026 01:30pm | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; PERMANENT FUND POMV AVAILABLE FOR APPROP; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled;

Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)

Bills:

- SB 274

Senate TRANSPORTATION

Mar 12, 2026 01:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

Committee Page

Presentation: De-icing Roads with Graphite; Nanoplatelets by; Hannah Leatherman, Seward High School; Presentation: DOT&PF Winter Road; Maintenance Update (Cont. From Jan 27) by; Alaska Department of Transportation & Public; Facilities; **Streamed live on [AKL.tv](#)**

Bills:

- *(None)*

Mar 13, 2026

House FINANCE

Mar 13, 2026 09:00am | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

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

Bills:

- HB 280

Senate FINANCE

Mar 13, 2026 09:00am | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

No Meeting Scheduled

Bills:

- *(None)*

House FINANCE

Mar 13, 2026 01:30pm | ADAMS 519

Committee Page

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; Ends at 3:30 pm; Anchorage, Mat-Su, Off Nets; - Please call/arrive 30 min. prior to end of; allotted time or testimony will close early; - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a group with the same message; - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately; after testifying to keep lines open; - Continue to access meeting through akleg.gov; - The hearing may be televised on Gavel, please; check listings; - Submit written testimony to; by Friday March 13, 2026,; at 5:00 pm; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Bills:

- HB 263
- HB 265

Senate FINANCE

Mar 13, 2026 01:30pm | SENATE FINANCE 532

Committee Page

-- Please Note Time Change --; No Meeting Scheduled

Bills:

- *(None)*

Senate RESOURCES

Mar 13, 2026 03:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

Committee Page

NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Bills:

- SB 275

How to Watch Live Committee Meetings

1. Go to AKLEG.GOV at the time of your desired committee hearing

2. Click on the 5th tab to the right, "Live Now"
3. Scroll down to your meeting and select "Watch Now"

Call-In Numbers

- From Anchorage and Juneau: (907) 586-9085
- From anywhere else around the state (toll free): 1-844-586-9085
- Let the operator know which committee hearing you need to be connected to.

How to Watch Previous Committee Meetings

1. Go to AKLEG.GOV
2. Click on 4th tab to the right, "Meetings"
3. Click on "Both Schedule" from the menu on the left
4. Make sure your date range is properly reflected in the date boxes on the right side of the screen.
5. Scroll down, find your meeting and click on the "Audio/Video" option on the right side of the screen.