



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

March 2020 Community Council Update

Thank You for Attending Anchorage Caucus & Mid-Session Constituent Meeting — Thank you to all who took the time to attend Anchorage Caucus or our Mid-Session Constituent Meeting to share your thoughts about the legislative session. I always appreciate feedback from my friends and neighbors in Anchorage and the opportunity to discuss the many challenges we face as a state and solutions that serve all Alaskans.

Start of Session Newsletter & Constituent Survey — One of the most important components of my work as your Representative is hearing from West Anchorage constituents on the issues that matter to you. Each household should have received our Start of Session Newsletter and survey in your mailbox! You can complete the survey by hand and mail it to our office, or you can save a stamp and complete our survey online: <https://forms.gle/fwxmsBCrjNTCTvps8>.

The survey will remain open until March 6. Please take a moment to share your thoughts and suggestions. I appreciate your feedback!

House Passes Supplemental Budget — On February 26, the House passed a supplemental budget, House Bill 234, that addresses healthcare expenses the state incurred, the high cost of last summer's wildfires, and funding shortfalls for essential services including the Alaska Marine Highway System. The bill approves spending \$298.6 million of unrestricted general funds and an overall total of \$526.2 million of state and federal money. The supplemental budget includes:

- \$120 million of state funds and \$143.4 million of federal funds for Medicaid provider payments, spending necessary due to the governor's unsuccessful attempt to implement drastic reductions to the Medicaid program;
- \$110.5 million to pay for wildland firefighting costs incurred last summer and fall;
- \$8.6 million to restore Adult Public Assistance to ensure payments for low-income Alaskans, which the governor vetoed last year;
- \$8.3 million to restore the Adult Preventive Dental Program, which the governor vetoed and attempted to eliminate last year;
- \$7.1 million for the Alaska Marine Highway System to avoid a reduction in the operating schedule for the spring and summer of this year;
- \$6.7 million for the Department of Public Safety to address a personnel shortfall within the Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers;
- \$6 million to help the Alaska Psychiatric Institute increase its capacity;
- \$3 million to address the severe damage caused in Anchorage, Kenai, and Mat-Su by the November 2018 earthquake;
- \$150,000 to re-open the District Attorney's Office in Utqiagvik.

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