



Alaska State Legislature

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Serving the Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain Communities

June 2022 Community Council Update

Legislature Passes Budget — The legislature passed a budget that does not overdraw the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account and includes a \$2,550 dividend and a \$650 one-time Energy Relief Check. The approved versions of the budget contain approximately \$17.8 billion in total spending. \$9.5 billion came from the state's unrestricted general fund; \$972 million the designated general funds, and \$5.4 billion in federal spending. An additional withdrawal of approximately \$450 million from Constitutional Budget Reserve, which requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ supermajority of votes in the House and Senate, was not approved when 11 house members voted against the savings withdrawal. The state's operating budget is approximately \$13.4 billion — with \$7 billion from the unrestricted general fund — while the capital budget is \$3.7 billion with \$1.1 billion from the unrestricted general fund. Based on the current projections for oil revenue, this budget allows us to put \$1 billion into our savings account.

Here are some highlights:

- **\$2.4 billion** total will be left in our FY22 savings accounts, with **\$1.1 billion** in the Statutory Budget Reserve and **\$1.2 billion** in the Constitutional Budget Reserve, helping our state prepare for a drop in revenue when the price of oil drops;
- **\$711 million** will be spent to **forward fund K-12 education**, which will help prevent teachers from receiving pink slips and providing certainty to Alaskan families and educators that classes will start on time;
- **\$395 million** will be spent to **refill the Higher Education Investment Fund**, which helps Alaskan students continuing their education, both for merit scholarships and needs-based assistance;
- **\$2.5 million for Pre-Kindergarten**, giving Alaskan children entering school a head-start in their learning and better preparing them for every stage of their education;
- Paid the formula amount for FY23 school bond debt reimbursement and Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAA) and repaid the previous years' amounts that were reduced or vetoed, totaling **\$299 million for school bond debt**, and **\$117 million for REAA**;
- Added **seven new Alaska State Troopers positions**, primarily in rural areas;
- **Increased funding** for the **Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**;
- Provided **pay raises** for Alaska's **Village Public Safety Officers**; and
- Provided pay raises and retention bonuses for **prosecutors** and other professionals in the criminal justice system to help improve public safety in Alaska.

Personal Legislation — My office passed multiple pieces of personal legislation, including: HB 62, which modernizes Alaska's marriage statutes to eliminate child marriage under 16 years of age and keep Alaska open for business; HB 416, which allows the legislature to make appropriations for one-time retention bonuses for prosecutors and other non-union State employees; and HB 99, which amends and updates the governing laws for physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants practicing in Alaska.