



Alaska State Legislature

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Serving the Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain Communities

November 2022 Community Council Update

General Election — The Alaska Division of Elections has several online resources available on their homepage including looking up your polling place, viewing a list of polling places, and finding where to vote early: <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/>.

DOT Winter Condition Resources — Winter is finally here, and that means snow! The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has many winter season resources for you to stay informed:

- [Winter Road Maintenance Priority Map](#)
- [Studded Tire Information](#)
- [Winter Driving Tips](#)
- [Winter Vehicle Emergency Kit](#)
- Anchorage Snowplowing Hotline: (907) 338-1466

To access these and other winter season resources, visit: <http://dot.alaska.gov/winter-conditions.shtml>. The Municipality of Anchorage also has a snow removal status map and other resources for Anchorage residents: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/operations/streets/Pages/default.aspx>.

Don't Forget to Plug at 20 Degrees — Text your zip code to (907) 312-2014 to receive a free text when the temperature for your zip code dips below 20 degrees. Reasons to plug at 20 degrees:

- To Reduce Engine Wear: Start-up is a period of maximum engine wear and minimum fuel efficiency. Cold oil circulates slowly, leaving engine components unprotected. Block heaters pre-heat engines, allowing them to reach operating temperature sooner and get lubrication to the moving parts. Heat is also available for cabs and windshields sooner - benefiting drivers.
- To Reduce Air Pollution: A study performed by Sierra Research in Anchorage and Fairbanks compared emissions from vehicles at cold temperatures. The local testing established that use of block heaters substantially reduced start-up emissions and fuel consumption.
- To keep your neighborhood clean: On days with inversions and still air, pollution from vehicle cold starts and idling disperses very slowly. Some of the highest CO levels in Anchorage are found during the morning hours in neighborhoods where traffic is low but many cars are started cold after parking outside overnight. The encouragement to "Plug @ 20" is a reminder to plug even when vehicles start with relative ease.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/health/Admin/environment/AirQ/Pages/WhyPlug20F.aspx>.