



Operating Budget Moves from House with Few Reductions - Total Spending Over \$11 Billion

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House Bill 286, the operating budget, was on the House Floor for nearly two weeks and the House Republicans have tried to serve our constituents. We heard 84 amendments, most calling for a reduction to government spending. The House Majority felt several amendments didn't fit in the operating budget and were ruled out of order, therefore were not voted on, while proposals addressing the permanent fund were moved to the bottom of the list.

Some of our amendments would have reduced the budget over \$6 million and eliminated travel and positions that have been vacant over one year. We shouldn't fund positions that have been vacant that long. Other efforts to reduce spending by the Republicans eliminated unspent departmental funds and reduce slush funds that could be spent on anything.

Our office submitted two amendments with intent language: 1) to honor the will of the voters and adjourn session after 90 days and 2) called for any extended or special session somewhere other than Juneau, in attempt to reduce the budget by a million. These, like many others, were ruled out of order.

It's too bad my amendment to move money from the governor's contingency fund won't be utilized to assist with the John Sturgeon case, protecting our state's rights and sovereignty before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and US Supreme Court; it was defeated on the floor. We owe his efforts a debt of gratitude.

Despite the objections and proposed spending cuts offered by the Republicans, the operating budget has increased over a billion dollars compared to last year's budget. We have essentially shirked the responsibility of balancing the budget from the finance table and placed it on the kitchen table.



Representative Rauscher on the House Floor

Alaska's Budget - How'd we get here?

Our constitution requires Alaska's budget to be funded each year. So why are we in the situation we are in as a state financially? I believe Alaska has a budget and spending problem.

Alaska cannot afford to continue to spend money like we did when oil was over \$100 a barrel, and money was flowing in as fast as the oil moved down the pipeline.

- Alaska's projected revenue for FY 19 is \$2.1 billion and the Governor's proposed budget spends \$4.6 billion in state general funds.
- The Governor proposed an operating budget that called for spending an additional \$400 million above last year's spending, according to legislative finance.
- During the budget subcommittee review process in the House, amendments were made to the budget (that is already \$400 million more than last year) by the democrat-led majority calling for additional spending.
- Constitutional Budget Reserve is no longer available to cover the gap between income and spending; our savings have been depleted.
- The House majority plans to tap into the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account to cover the \$2.5 billion spending gap.
- The House Majority is calling for the use of the Permanent Fund to allow for continued overspending by the government in the future.

The only sustainable solution, and way to protect the Permanent Fund, is to make budget reductions and cut spending. As long as democrats control the House majority, state spending will continue to increase and not only will they spend your Permanent Fund but they will continue to push for additional taxes.

Jonesville Public Use Bills Moving

House Bill 6 has passed the House unanimously April 5th, and its companion bill, Senate Bill 65, passed the Senate unanimously on March 28th. One of the versions will need to pass the opposite body to become a law.

Without the adoption of the Public Use Area we'll continue to see the mayhem, alcohol and drug use that has discouraged Alaskans from enjoying this beautiful mountain-side retreat.

Co-Sponsored Alaska Decoration of Honor legislation

It is a honor and privilege to be listed as a co-sponsor to Senate Concurrent Resolution 14, which recognizes those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of Alaska, surrendering their life in the protection of our state and country. The resolution recognizes the three men from Alaska who died in the line of duty and were posthumously awarded the Alaska Decoration of Honor.

We are honoring:

Private First Class Hansen B. Kirkpatrick
(Died July 3, 2017)

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jacob Sims
(Died October 28, 2017)

Staff Sergeant David T. Brabander
(Died December 11, 2017)

Sponsored Resolution to Secure Federal Funds for District Schools

House Joint Resolution 29 is moving forward in the House, and was heard in the Finance Committee.

The resolution calls for permanent authorization of the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000, which provides funding for schools located in, or near national forests. The program expired in 2017 and my legislation calls for a permanent re-authorization by the federal government.

Liquor License Legislation Passed the House

Our office worked with both club and tourism related liquor license holders before session to find a solution to an issue that put their liquor licenses in jeopardy. Our office brought forward legislation to protect these businesses that were otherwise in good standing with the ABC board.

This legislation addressed the mandatory hours that establishments, such as the Delta Sportsman's Association, local Lions Clubs, and VFW posts, had to be open. The change allows them more flexibility, which is important to the smaller communities in my district.

The Legislation also grandfathered in the number of rental room requirements at the time a license was issued for the many Roadhouse establishments along the Richardson and Glenn Highways. Two establishments, the Long Rifle Lodge and the Delta Sportsmans Club, will appreciate these changes.

House Bill 301 has passed the House and is now in the Senate.



I want to hear from you

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District 9 Public Notices

Alaska DOT Marine Highway Tank Replacement - the proposal will remove and replace eight underground storage tanks and above ground storage tanks currently used by the Alaska Ferry System. Tanks in Valdez are among those to be replaced.

[Learn More.](#)

Prince William Sound Science Center Land Use - The proposal is to use land within Prince William Sound, in Canoe Passage, and the northwest side of Montague Island between Rocky Bay and Port Chambers for underground passive acoustic receivers to track fish. [Learn More.](#)

Pogo Mine Hardrock Exploration and Reclamation Permit - a multi-agency permit has been received for mining exploration and reclamation in the Good Pastor Mining District near Delta Junction. [Learn More.](#)



I have enjoyed visits in my Juneau office from the Mat-Su Homebuilders Association, local 4H students, the Governor's Council on Disabilities, and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action. Please contact my office to arrange a visit if you plan to be in Juneau.

The screenshot shows the Alaska State Legislature website. The header includes the site name and a search bar. A left sidebar contains navigation links: HOME, SENATE, HOUSE, BILLS & LAWS, COMMITTEES, PUBLICATIONS, GET STARTED, INFORMATION OFFICES, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES, and LINKS. The main content area features a 'CAPITOL UPDATES' section with a photo of Senator Mike Shower and a '30TH LEGISLATURE SCHEDULES' table.

1st Regular Session: January 17, 2017 - May 17, 2017	1st Special Session: May 18, 2017 - June 16, 2017
2nd Special Session: June 16, 2017 - July 15, 2017	3rd Special Session: July 27, 2017 - July 27, 2017
4th Special Session: October 23, 2017 - November 21, 2017	2nd Regular Session: January 16, 2018 -

Below the schedules, there is a 'POPULAR' section listing '2018 Prefiled Bills - 2nd' and '2018 Prefiled Bills - 1st', and an 'OF INTEREST' section listing 'Capitol Restoration Information' and 'Constitutional Court'. A chat bubble on the right says 'Questions? Chat with LJO staff'.

Click the picture to follow all bills and to see upcoming testimony opportunities. This is the easiest way to keep you informed of what we are doing here in Juneau.



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