

**From:** Senator George Rauscher sen.george.rauscher-akleg.gov@shared1.ccsend.com  
**Subject:** The latest news for you  
**Date:** January 30, 2026 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** d29@mtaonline.net



**Senator**

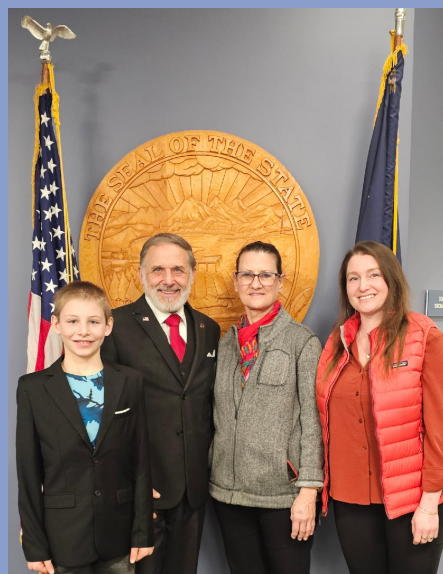
## **Rauscher's Report**

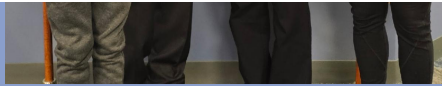
**Senate District O – Alaska at its Best!**



**The 34th Alaska State Legislative Session  
January 2026**

**Sutton/ Valdez / Chickaloon / Eureka / Greater Farm Loop / Fishhook /  
Sheep Mountain / Glacier View / Kings Lake / Anderson-Clear / Big Lake /  
Cantwell/ Denali Park / East Schrock / Healy / Houston / Knik Goose Bay  
No. 4 / Trapper Creek / Susitna / Talkeetna / Willow**





The second regular session of the 34th Alaskan Legislature has officially begun as of January 20th, 2026. I moved from the House to the Senate and now represent District O as a Senator which includes District 29 and District 30. Replacing the previous Senator, I remain a Senate minority member. The session will run for 121 days unless a special session is called. Keep on reading to hear my updates from the Capital!

### **Governor Dunleavy's Fiscal Plan:**

As you may have heard, the Governor recently rolled out his proposed fiscal plan. Below are the core components of the fiscal plan. We will be tracking these bills closely and updating everyone regularly.

**SB 227/HB 284** imposes a statewide sales and use tax, modernizes Alaska's tax system, adds a per barrel oil infrastructure fee, phases out the corporate income tax, and statutorily sunsets the sales tax beginning January 1, 2034, contingent on passage of companion legislation among other things. SB 227 will be heard in Senate Resources next Friday, February 6th at 3:30 pm. HB 284 will be heard in House Finance next Thursday, February 5th at 9 am and 5:30 pm.

Read about SB 227 here: [SB0227A](#)

Read about HB 284 here: [HB0284A](#)

**SB 222/HB 274** includes a sunset review of executive branch agencies. SB 222 has been referred to Senate Finance while its House companion (HB 274) has been referred to House Labor & Commerce then House Finance. Neither have been calendared yet.

Read about SB 222 here: [SB0222A](#)

Read about HB 274 here: [HB0274A](#)

**SB 223/HB 275** has a statutory 1% spending cap. All spending is subject to appropriation and so any budget passed by the legislature can blow past this cap. SB 223 has been referred to Senate Finance while its House companion (HB 275) has been referred to House Finance. Neither has been calendared yet.

Read about SB 223 here: [SB0223A](#)

Read about HB 275 here: [HB0275A](#)

**SJR 23/HJR 30** contains a 50/50 PFD Spending Split constitutional amendment and a 5% POMV draw. SJR 23 has been referred to Senate Finance while its House companion (HJR 30) has been referred to House Finance. Neither has been calendared yet.

Read about SJR 23 here: [SJR023A](#)

Read about HJR 30 here: [HJR030A](#)

### **Senate Finance:**

Senate Finance has been hearing the governors 2027 statutory spending proposal, in preparation for writing the FY 2027 budget. They also heard an overview this week of the governors' vetoes from FY 2026 last year.

### **Committees I sit on:**

I currently sit on three committees: Senate Transportation, Senate Resources, and the Joint Armed Services Committee. I am still chairing the Thursday morning Prayer Caucus and monthly Prison Ministry.

Senate Transportation has heard STIP updates from DOT which is the state/federal four-year transportation plan. We also heard a winter road maintenance update from DOT for various regions across the state.

Senate Resources has heard a few presentations since the beginning of session. We first heard a presentation from Pegasus consulting on megaproject risks. We also heard a presentation from Gaffney Cline on gaslines and will continue to hear from them throughout session. DOT also presented to our committee on how to prepare Alaska's transportation infrastructure for the Alaska LNG Pipeline. In regard to bills, Senate Resources heard and held SB 75 regarding Timber Management Leases. The bill was heard last year and just had its first hearing this year. It was set aside by the Senate Resources Chair which we assume will be heard at a later date. Comments to Senator Rauscher's office regarding bills are kept on file and placed in a bill folder for future hearings.

### **Mat-Su Delegation:**

This year, I was selected chair of the Mat-Su delegation where we will be discussing priorities that are important to our communities. We plan to hold bi-weekly meetings starting next week. I look forward to working with the delegation regularly to ensure our constituents needs and priorities are addressed.

### **My Bills:**

So far this session, I have introduced SB 228 Public Schools Opioid Awareness Program and SB 229 Campaign Finance Reports. These bills were also introduced during the previous session. Recently, an executive order was signed on the federal level that aims to address and combat drug addiction. There seems to be support for SB 228 so I am hopeful we can move it along this session. Many more of my bills are scheduled to be introduced on the floor in the coming weeks so keep an eye out as you may recognize many from the previous year.

Read about SB 228 here: [SB0228A](#)

Read about SB 229 here: [SB0229A](#)

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## **Alaska Federal Subsistence Management Program**

Next Tuesday, February 3, 2026, federal agencies will hold a public open house in Anchorage as part of a formal review of the **Federal Subsistence Management Program**. This review is led by the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and will shape how wildlife is managed on federal public lands in Alaska.

### **Event Details**

**When:** February 3, 2026 | 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Gordon Watson Conference Room  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503

### **Virtual Participation**

**Microsoft Teams:** [Click here to join the event](#)

**Call-in number:** (833) 436-1163

**Conference ID:** 829 130 64#

### **Additional Information**

Written public comments on the Federal Subsistence Management Program review are due **February 13, 2026**. Comments may be submitted to: [subsistence@ios.doi.gov](mailto:subsistence@ios.doi.gov)

More information about the review process is available at:

[https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/FSMP\\_Scoping\\_Process](https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/FSMP_Scoping_Process)

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**This week in photos:**



For National School Choice Week, the House and Senate joined Governor Dunleavy for a ceremonial signing of the Alaska School Choice Proclamation, which aims to promote, support, and increase education choices for our children and commends Alaska's educators.

My colleagues in the Senate minority!



As always, my door is always open if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. If you want to set up a meeting, please contact my office at 907-465-4859.

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**Community Contacts**

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