



# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

## January 2021 Community Council Update

**Virtual Pre-Session Constituent Meeting** — Please join me virtually for an opportunity to discuss the upcoming legislative session before we return to Juneau.

**When:** Tuesday, January 12 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

**Where:** <https://zoom.us/j/97380458818?pwd=UTJJR1ISdEFhVTVHaVoyRO1nakFNdz09>

For more information and to RSVP, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/881053432699859>.

**Budget** — The governor has proposed a budget for FY22 that largely flat funds essential services and includes two dividend payments totaling \$5,000 per person. The governor's dividend proposal is for a supplemental 2020 dividend of \$2,000 in the spring and a regular 2021 dividend of \$3,000 in the fall for a total of \$5,000 per person. The other components of the proposed FY22 budget remain largely unchanged from the current fiscal year. The governor also proposed a \$350 million capital bond for voters to approve to upgrade the state's roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure. The Governor's proposed operating budget for FY22 (not including the dividends) is \$195.8 million less in Undesignated General Funds (UGF) than FY21.

In addition to the FY22 5% draw of \$3.1 billion from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve (based on 5% of the total market value of the entire Permanent Fund—the "POMV draw") already slated to pay for state government, the governor is proposing taking an extra \$3.2 billion from the Earnings Reserve Account (ERA) to pay for the two dividends. In sum, the governor proposes a total withdrawal of \$6.3 billion from the ERA, which is more than twice the 5% amount allowed under state law.

The governor's proposal is not fiscally sustainable without substantial new revenue or substantial reductions, and it is not a responsible action plan for Alaska. Once again, it will fall to the Legislature during the 2021 session to come up with a responsible financial strategy that strengthens our economy, supports essential services, improves public safety, and moves Alaska forward.

Public input is very important. Please email [Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov) or 269-0130 with any questions or concerns. You can contact Governor Dunleavy at [this web page](#) or via phone: 465-3500.

**Vaccine Distribution** — Starting Wednesday, January 6 at noon, Alaskans aged 65 and older can sign up to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccinations for this age group will begin on January 11. Alaskans 65 and older can make appointments to receive the vaccine by visiting the state's vaccine [website](#). Groups that will soon be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine include teachers, first responders, grocery store workers, and inmates. For more information on who is included in Tier 2, 3, and 4 of Phase 1b, please click [here](#).

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