



# Alaska State Legislature

## Representative Matt Claman

### April 2021 Community Council Update

**Constituent Survey Results** — Thank you to everyone who completed year's constituent survey. As we work toward a responsible action plan to address the state's financial challenges, feedback from our West Anchorage community remains one of our best sources of information. We have compiled the information and analyzed the results. You can see the comprehensive survey results here: [www.repmattclaman.com](http://www.repmattclaman.com). Here are some of the highlights:

- 74% of West Anchorage constituents gave the Governor's FY2022 budget proposal, which includes a \$5,000 dividend, a failing grade (D or F).
- 73% support using Permanent Fund earnings to help pay for essential services.
- 79% believe we should not pay a statutory dividend and 77% chose increasing the dividend payment as their last choice for using any new revenue.
- 82% of West Anchorage constituents believe Alaska should continue to fully support Medicaid expansion.

**House Passes Emergency Declaration** — Last week, the House passed House Bill 76, the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration. Alaska health providers, community leaders, and organizations that care for vulnerable populations all testified that the disaster declaration should be extended so the governor has every tool at his disposal in the face of a worldwide pandemic. HB 76 allows Alaska to operate airport testing sites for out-of-state travelers during the upcoming summer tourism season, off-site testing and vaccination clinics, waivers to healthcare providers so they can provide healthcare for patients remotely, and to continue receiving \$8 million a month in federal SNAP benefits.

HB 76 does not force business closures, mandate masks, or force vaccination.

HB 76 is supported by: National Federation of Independent Business, Alaska Miners Association, Resource Development Council, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, Alaska Pharmacists Association, American College of Emergency Physicians, Alaska Emergency Medicine Associates, Providence, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, Foraker Group, Petersburg Medical Center, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Alaska Native Health Board, Alaska Food Bank, Alaska Municipal League, and the Alaska Chamber.

**Operating Budget** — Our focus remains on the budget and carefully reviewing the American Rescue Plan Act—\$1.9 trillion in federal relief funds to help Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, House Finance Subcommittees finished their work and forwarded their recommendations to the full House Finance Committee for further review. In the coming weeks, Alaskans will have an opportunity to give public testimony on the operating budget. I will keep constituents apprised via my e-newsletter and Facebook page. The legislature will also be looking at ways to best spend the federal funds for state government to support those most impacted by COVID-19 and get our economy back on track.

Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov  
(907) 465-4919

[http://akhouse.org/rep\\_claman/](http://akhouse.org/rep_claman/)

*Serving the Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain Communities*