



Capitol Newsletter

Representative Julie Coulombe - District 11 - Lower Hillside

April 13, 2023

Dear friends and neighbors,

We are at day 87 of the legislative session, and my colleagues and I in the House have made significant progress on the operating budget. Last week, after four days of debate and many disagreements as well as agreements, the House pulled together to make it through close to 100 floor amendments. Soon, we will vote to pass the budget and transmit it to the Senate, at which time it is customary for the Senate to pass and send the capital budget to the House. This triggers the '24-hour rule,' when standing committees are no longer required to publicly notice meetings with the 7-day requirement in order to speed bills along in the legislative process. The next step is the Conference Committee on the budget, made up of three members of each body, who will convene to work out the differences between both sides' budget proposals. The main issues that are yet to be resolved in the operating budget are the funding sources for the budget (which accounts we spend from), and the Permanent Fund Dividend amount.

I appreciate how many Alaskans I have heard from throughout the whole budget process. As a new legislator, it has been enlightening to me, and it has been encouraging to see so many of my friends and neighbors follow the process that truly care about Alaska's future. Constituent input is of the utmost importance to me - my door is always open!

If you have comments or questions, you can always call me at (907) 465-3879, toll free at (888) 269-3878, or email me at rep.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov. You can also join me for a virtual constituent event on Saturday - please see the bottom of this newsletter for details.

Representative Julie Coulombe
House District 11

Rep. Julie Coulombe
State Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3879

888-269-3879

rep.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov

1500 W Benson Boulevard,
Suite 410
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-269-0222

Alaska House Majority
akhousemajority.com

Staff

Edra Morledge

Chief of Staff

edra.morledge@akleg.gov

Daniel Robbins

Legislative Aide

daniel.robbins@akleg.gov

Magy Elliot

Legislative Aide

magy.elliott@akleg.gov

Contact the Governor

Governor Dunleavy's
Anchorage office may be
reached at 269-7450, or
email him at gov.alaska.gov

Visit the state website

www.alaska.gov

Track Legislation

Visit the Legislature's
website

www.AKLeg.gov

Committee Membership

[Chair: \(H\) Administration
\(Fin Sub\)](#)

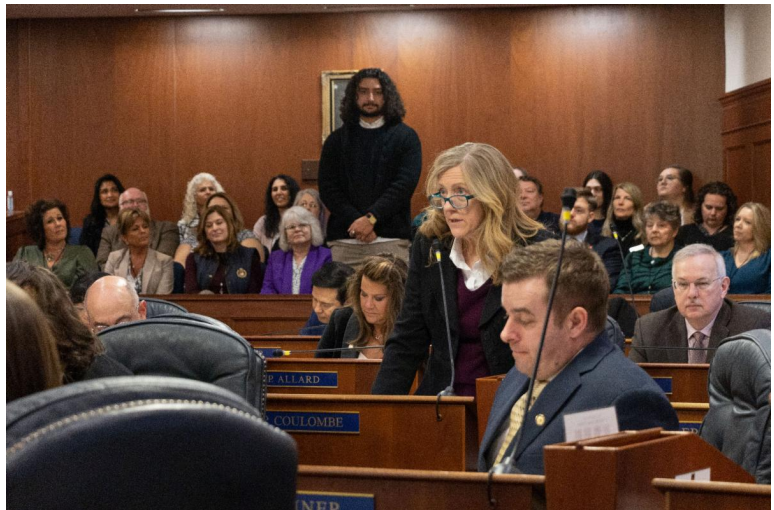
[Chair: \(H\) Public Safety
\(Fin Sub\)](#)

[Chair: \(H\) Education and
Early Development \(Fin
Sub\)](#)

[Member: \(H\) Finance](#)



Alaskans For Prosperity visited the Capitol in March to meet with legislators and testify on legislation important to their work.



I had the honor of introducing constituent Nate Salima while he was in town to visit policymakers.

Member: (H) University of
Alaska (Fin Sub)

Community Councils & HALO

Abbott Loop CC

President: Bruce Roberts

907-952-9969

brucearoberts@hotmail.com

Hillside CC

President: Carmela

Warfield

907-229-3913

carmelajwarfield@gmail.com

Huffman/O'Malley

President: Gretchen

Stoddard

HOCCpresident@gmail.com

HALO

President: Katie Nolan

presidentHALO@gmail.com



The Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Partnership and I collaborated on a Lunch and Learn event in the Capitol.

My bill [HB 134](#), Transfer Fees, had it's first hearing in Community and Regional Affairs committee meeting. Transfer fees are a one time, taxed fee added to the title transfer on any real estate property. Prohibiting transfer taxes will help first time homebuyers, senior citizens looking to aid their finances by selling their homes and families looking to for bigger accommodations.







I had a nice meeting with constituent and Board of Fish appointee Greg Svendsen.

Personal Legislation

[HB 89](#) strengthens the childcare system in two ways: 1) it will expand the number of families who can afford childcare by making subsidies more inclusive, and 2) it will align the subsidy level to reflect the actual cost of care.

[HB 116](#) increases the percentage of funding that the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse receives from the Restorative Justice Account. This account is where non-eligible offenders' permanent fund dividends are deposited in order to help restore individuals after victimization.

[HB 124](#) removes the burdensome requirement that an individual hold an Alaska drivers license for one full year prior to obtaining their commercial drivers license. This is an unnecessary barrier to employment, particularly to refugees and those trying desperately to enter the workforce, when all other state and federal safety and training requirements must still be met.

[HB 134](#) prohibits new real property transfer fees from being assessed by municipalities or the state. This is not a current fee (or tax) that exists yet, but it is becoming a common way for municipalities to further tax property owners in the Lower 48.

Co-Sponsored Legislation

This month I will highlight one of the measures I am co-sponsoring, [HB 149](#), which relates to nursing licensure and joining the [Nurse Licensure Compact](#). This legislation streamlines the licensure and regulation of nurses by permitting Alaska to join 39 other states that recognize a multistate license with uniform qualifications and practice expectations. This will reduce barriers to licensure, enhance license mobility, and increase opportunities for nurses to practice in Alaska. Two of my legislative priorities are helping families and individuals get into the Alaskan workforce and bolstering our state's economy -- HB 149 fits right in line with those goals.

Seward Highway O'Malley to Dimond Update

Currently, DOT's design staff is working hard on the Seward Highway O'Malley to Dimond Update. In addition, they are taking a look at updating the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). However, this project will not be funded until after 2023. On a side note, while DOT is hoping to use Advanced Construction (AC), their ability to do that is limited this year. It is more likely the AC project will advertise in fall 2023 for construction in 2024.

It should be noted that DOT is seeing an increase in their bids, so they may not have the legislative authority to move forward with the Seward Highway O'Malley to Dimond Update until later this fall. There is an advantage to this—DOT typically gets better prices for their projects when they advertise in the fall. Furthermore, they may have some work to complete with regard to their utilities. There is a main Alaska Communications System (ACS) connection that is taking more coordination than DOT anticipated. There are two things slowing this down, other utilities (outside of DOT's control) and Right of Ways (ROW's).

DOT is going to keep pushing hard on delivering the Seward Highway O'Malley to Dimond Update and use this intervening time to reconnect with the community—including seeing if they can ameliorate concerns that the Abbott Loop Community Council (ALCC) raised at their last meeting.

2023 Resilience (Firewise Awareness) Program

Community event in May at Hilltop or Campbell Science Center to overview the Resilience Program with fire rigs, tables for agencies, and some fun. Stay tuned for the date/time!

Alaska Free Clinic: Free Medical, Vision and Dental Services

Clinic Hours: Saturday April 15th 6am - 6pm • Sunday April 16th 6am - 1pm

Alaska Free Clinics: Anchorage



“Partnering to Care for our Neighbors”

You're Invited!

If you've had trouble connecting with the health care system or have gaps in the coverage you need, this completely free clinic is for you. Come to the O'Malley Sports Complex at 11051 O'Malley Centre Dr. (Near the Alaska Club South) On April 15th and 16th.

Community Volunteers have been Amazing

Dozens of local doctors, dentists, optometrists, nurses and health care professionals have volunteered their time to help their neighbors. 20+ professionals are traveling here at their own expenses to support Alaskans in need. The Girl Scouts of Alaska even donated 120 boxes of their prized cookies!

Sponsors and Providers include:

Providence Alaska Foundation, Alaska Nurses Association, Alaska Regional Hospital, Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute, Mountain View Lions Club, Credit Union 1 and Anchorage Neighborhood Health.

Learn More:

www.gofundme.com/f/alaska-free-clinics-2023

Questions:

Dawn (907) 444-2847

Russell (907) 223-1213



Clinic Hours: Saturday April 15th 6am - 6pm • Sunday April 16th 6am - 1pm

JBER Outreach to Anchorage Recreational Community



JOIN US

What: JBER Outreach to Anchorage Recreational Community

When: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Where: Loussac Library, Wilda Marston Theatre

Who: JBER Leadership, Training Range Managers, Public Affairs, Environmental Engineers, Community Partnerships

Topics: Safely accessing military lands for recreation, iSportsman permits and app, JBER Connect app

For more info, please contact:

Joy E. Boston
673d ABW Community Partnerships &
Alaska Native Liaison
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
DSN: 317-551-1598
Comm: (907) 551-1598
Cell: (907) 223-0721
joy.boston.2@us.af.mil

2023 Military Appreciation Event

2023 Military Appreciation Event



For 30 years, the Anchorage Chamber has closed out Military Appreciation Week with a bang! To make our appreciation for the military bigger than ever, we would like to invite you to stop by and say thank you to the active military members and their families.

This year's event will take place on base at Cottonwood Park Playground with free food and live music for 4,000 military members and their families. Please let us know if you would like to attend at any time between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm to participate in the outdoor fun.

[Learn More](#)

Anchorage Chamber Citywide Cleanup



Citywide Cleanup

Join us in cleaning 2.8 million pounds of trash in Anchorage, Eagle River, and Girdwood at CitywideCleanup.org

HALO and Community Council Schedule

The [Abbott Loop Community Council](#) generally meets on the last Thursday of each month and the meetings usually run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on

Thursday, April 27th.

The [Hillside Community Council](#) generally meets on the first Wednesday of each month and the meetings usually run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3rd.

The [Huffman / O'Malley Community Council](#) generally meets on the third Thursday of each month and the meetings usually start at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th.

[HALO](#) generally meets on the first Thursday of each month and the meetings usually start at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 4th.

Employment and training services available through the Alaska Job Center can prepare you for a great job! Alaska's Job Centers can help you overcome barriers that may have prevented you from finding sustainable, rewarding employment.

At an Alaska Job Center, you can access **free**:

- Aptitude, skill, and interest assessments
- Funding for training and support services using state and federal grants with ongoing case management
 - Occupational skills training
 - Short-term training to upgrade or enhance your current job skills
 - Apprenticeship opportunities with key trades
 - On-the-job training with private employers
 - Relocation assistance for full-time permanent employment
 - Support services during training or to obtain/maintain employment
- Workshops to enhance your job search, resume, and cover letters
- Resource rooms that provide easy access to computers, copiers, fax machines, and phones
- Internet access to current jobs listings that exist locally, statewide, and nationwide
- Assistance from trained staff with your job search activities

Referrals to Community Partner Services for:

- Adult education and GED services
- Young Alaskans age 14-24
- Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training (known as MASST for workers age 55 and older)
- English language learners

If you are interested in learning more about job training, and the free resources that exist to help you find or advance in your career, contact the Anchorage Midtown Job Center at (907) 269-4800, or in-person at 3301 Eagle Street, Suite 101 or the Anchorage Muldoon Job Center at (907) 260-0000 or in-person at 1251 Muldoon Road, Suite 101.

ZOOM TOWNHALL
TALK TO REPRESENTATIVE
COULOMBE



LIVE

**15 APRIL 2023
AT 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86986943913?pwd=M2taTC9Zam1HSzJGSG10ZStlRmJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 8694 3913
Passcode: x9qHJe

All constituents should label themselves as constituents when joining!

Send Us A Message



Rep. Julie Coulombe | Alaska State Capitol, 4th Avenue & Main Street, Juneau, AK 99801