



Capitol Newsletter

Representative Julie Coulombe - District 11 - Lower Hillside

May 15, 2023

Dear friends and neighbors,

Today is day 119 of the constitutional 121-day legislative session, and it is looking like a budget may not be finalized by the time we are obligated to gavel out on Wednesday. There are several scenarios that can take place at that point: 1) vote to extend ourselves for 10 more days - this would take a 2/3 vote in both bodies, 2) we could adjourn and call ourselves back into a special session and choose what is on the docket, which also takes a 2/3 vote in both bodies, or 3) Governor Dunleavy has 1 hour after our adjournment to call us into a special session where he decides what is on 'the call.' The budget negotiations are ongoing as I write this, so everything is subject to change and it is impossible to predict how we will end the session and get back home to our families and our constituents.

I want to use my opening remarks to address an issue with a vote I took that was seen as controversial to some, and to explain a little further why I voted the way I did. Last week, the floor voted on [HB 2](#), a bill to allow the state to deny contracts with entities that boycott Israel. Let me first say that I strongly support Israel. My vote was due to two factors: 1) the bill was amended to exclude the [Permanent Fund Corporation](#) that in my estimation would have the largest chance of facing such decisions; and 2) the bill would have instituted more bureaucratic red tape by laying the burden on the [Department of Administration](#) to take time and resources to vet contractors, create regulations, and require contractors to 'prove' they were not boycotting Israel. I believe there are ways we can show our support to Israel that don't add to more red tape, and also include the investment decisions of the Permanent Fund Corporation. At this time, there are no state contracts that would be affected if the bill had been passed. I will be looking at different ways to support Israel that are more effective and send a clearer message to our ally Israel.

In wrap up, I want to thank all of the constituents, friends, and family members that helped me through my first legislative session. It has been a whirlwind at times, especially the last several weeks. I couldn't have done it without receiving the feedback and support from concerned and caring constituents - your 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

Session:

State Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3879
888-269-3879

rep.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov

Interim:

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:

www.AKLeg.gov

Committee Membership

Chair: (H) Administration



I presented [HB 134](#) -- my bill to preemptively prohibit any new transfer fees or taxes on real property transfers -- to the Community & Regional Affairs for the second time. The testimony was overwhelmingly supportive of this pro-Alaskan, common-sense legislation that will help new homebuyers, seniors selling their homes, and our housing market overall.



Constituent Patrick Fitzgerald stopped in to talk about the issues the Teamsters are working on in the building.

(Fin Sub)

Chair: (H) Public Safety

(Fin Sub)

Chair: (H) Education and

Early Development (Fin

Sub)

Member: (H) Finance

Member: (H) University of

Alaska (Fin Sub)

Boards and Commissions

Governor's Childcare Task

Force

State Council for Interstate

Adult and Juvenile

Offenders Supervision

Alaska Commission on

Postsecondary Education

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



It is always great to have folks stop by my office to talk about issues important to them!



Last Friday I introduced and passed [SB 123](#), Senator Kaufman's CDL bill, on the House Floor. SB 123 is the companion to my CDL bill, [HB 124](#).



I met with constituents Lindsey and Charlie Banning on Wednesday, May 10th.



I had an impromptu meeting with a mother and her daughters. I am always looking for ways to help families.





I had many productive conversations with my colleagues on the House Floor this session.



My CDL bill, [HB 124](#), was heard in House Labor and Commerce last month. This bill removes the one year driver's license requirement currently in place for CDL applicants. I eventually carried and passed the companion bill, [SB 123](#), on the House Floor after it passed in the Senate.



Alaska Department of Revenue Treasury Division

The mission of the Alaska Unclaimed Property Program is to collect and safeguard unclaimed property and to reunite owners with their lost and misplaced property. This includes items such as bank accounts, contents of safe deposit boxes, wages, insurance benefits, security deposits, stock dividends and other funds that remain unclaimed for three years or more. Click [HERE](#) to see if you have any unclaimed property!

Personal Legislation

[HB 89](#) strengthens the childcare system in a number of 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, and 3) it will incentivize tax breaks for employers to donate to daycare facilities, and 4) it will increase the maximum individual tax credit limit, and 5) it will eliminate a sudden drop-off of subsidies for higher income families, and lastly 6) it will provide grants to the highest performing/quality daycare facilities. This bill was heard for the first time in the House Finance Committee last Thursday. I hope to use it as the vehicle for the recommendations that will be coming out of the [Governor's Task Force on Child Care](#) that I was appointed to serve on.

[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. This bill is currently in the House Finance Committee, where we will take it back up next session.

[HB 124/SB 123](#) 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. This bill passed both bodies in the last two weeks and is heading to the Governor to sign.

[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. This bill is still in the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee. We will pick it back up again next year.

Co-Sponsored Legislation

This month I will highlight another piece of legislation that I am co-sponsoring, [HB 3](#). This is Representative Kevin McCabe's Gold and Silver as Legal Tender bill. This bill prohibits cities and boroughs from imposing a tax on the sale of specie. It also defines legal tender as a recognized medium of exchange for the payment of debts and specie as gold or silver valued based on its metal content and in the form of a coin or bullion stamped with its weight and purity. HB 3 will bring Alaska into full compliance with the United States Constitution with the policies, practices, and procedures of this State with respect to the use of gold, silver, and specie as legal tender in the payment of debt. HB 3 passed the House last week and will work its way through the Senate next session.

OPEN HOUSE



Free Public Parking behind Alaska Regional Hospital!

ANCHORAGE FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1264 AND THE
ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT INVITE YOU!

AFD OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 10AM-2PM

AFD Training Center- 1150 Airport Heights Drive

Free Lunch - Tiny Turnouts for Kids - Photo Opps
Vehicle Extrication Demo - Rope Rescue Demo
Face Painting - Urban Search and Rescue Demo
Safe Kids Alaska Car Seat Inspections 10am-12pm



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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, May 18th.

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, July 5th.

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, May 18th.

[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, June 1st.

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.

[Send Us A Message](#)



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