

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Spenard Community Council
June 7, 2023

- The first session of the 33rd Legislature ended on May 17th with a special session called by the Governor because the House did not concur with the Senate's version of the budget. Fortunately, leadership from both the Senate and the House worked through differences and the 10 hour special session ended with a balanced budget and a surplus. Highlights below.
 - Balanced budget with a \$84 Million surplus and a \$1,304 PFD.
 - Largest increase to K-12 education in our history - \$175 million allotted for education which represents a \$680 increase in the BSA.
 - \$7.5 million for child-care block grants that would go towards wages, and more services for child-care.
 - Head-Start - \$5 million.
 - Home and Community-based Waiver Services - \$7.5 million in undesignated general funds (UGF), and \$7.5 million in federal receipts.
 - Department of Corrections - \$1 million to assist re-entry housing.
 - Rural Public Radio Grants - \$1 million to ensure residents had access to emergency information.
 - \$10 million was moved from the capital budget- half went to Statehood Defense and the other half was moved to the Alaska Travel Industry Association's operating budget.

My Bills-

- Senate Bill 22 ([Juneteenth](#)) is so close to being law- It is currently in House Finance and will be heard during the next session which begins on January 16th, 2024. The bill will then move to the Rules Committee and the House floor for a vote. The Senate approved the bill 16-4 before the end of the session.
- Senate Bill 23 ([Use of Force](#)) is in State Affairs and will be heard again during the next legislative session.
- Senate Bill 24 ([Mental Health Education](#)) remains in Senate Finance and will be heard during the next legislative session.

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- Senate Bill 30 ([Filipino Heritage Month](#)) was a companion bill to HB23 which was passed both the Senate and the House and is now permanently in State Statute.
- Senate Bill 32 ([Chokehold Ban](#)) remains in Senate State Affairs and will be heard during the next legislative session.
- Senate Bill 43 ([Sex-ed](#)) had its first hearing in Senate Education and will be heard during the next legislative session.
- Senate Bill 131 ([Asian- American/ Pacific Islander Program](#)) will have its first hearing in Senate State Affairs during the next legislative session.
- Senate Bill 81 (Office of Victims' Rights: Compensation) was passed and our attorney's will be paid what they deserve.
- Senate Bill 143 ([Education for Deaf & Hearing Impaired](#)) was introduced as a companion bill to HB111 sponsored by Representative Allard's and will be heard during the next legislative session.

Co-Sponsored Bills-

- House Bill 8 ([Electric-assisted Bicycles](#)) was passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- House Bill 51 ([Designated Refrigerant Use; PFAS use/disposal](#)) was by the passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- House Bill 56 ([Veterinarians; controlled substance data](#)) was passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- House Bill 78 ([AK Community Health Aide Appreciation Day](#)) was passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- House Bill 112 ([Profession of Pharmacy](#)) was passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- House Bill 123 ([Articles of Incorporation for ANCSA Corps](#)) was passed and is awaiting the governor's signature.
- Senate Bill 119 ([State ID Card for prisoners](#)) was passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

It was an honor to be part of the Senate Majority working together on behalf of the citizens of Alaska. I enjoyed being part of the Leadership Team in the Senate and Chairing the Legislative Council Committee which oversees the Legislative Affairs

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Agency. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf during the next Legislative Session.

Always feel free to reach out to me during the Session and the Interim. I'm here for you. Enjoy the Summer!!

Always representing your interests!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elvi Gray-Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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