

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you are well and are enjoying the last bit of fall before Winter begins. I want to give you a brief update on coming recommendations by the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, a vacancy in the State House, and highlight some events and career opportunities in our community.

As always, it is an honor to serve our community and I am here if you have questions, need assistance with an issue you may be facing, or to share your thoughts, ideas, or concerns. You can reach me by email at <u>Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg</u>, on my personal cell at 907-240-8986, or at our office at 907-465-4931.

2023 Permanent Fund Corporation Recommendations

The Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation recently met and discussed the status of the fund as well as the challenges facing its long-term success. In recent years, earnings from the Permanent Fund have become the single largest source of income for the state and provide over half of the state's revenue. Over the past five years, the growth of the Permanent Fund has failed to keep up with inflation and the annual draw for government services, putting at risk the future viability of the fund. Beyond that, if this trend continues, the spendable portion of the fund used to pay for dividends and the state government may run out of money. If these funds were the run out, our state would face a severe financial crisis.

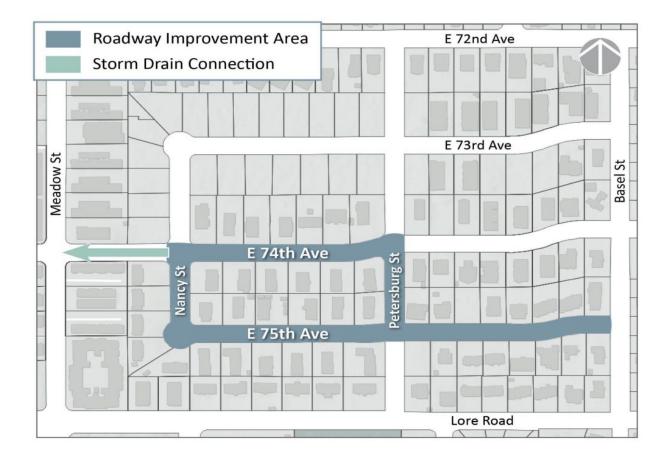
As a result, Permanent Fund Corporation leadership has been looking into possible statutory or constitutional changes that would protect the long-term success of the fund. One potential solution is combining the Permanent Fund's two accounts (Earnings Reserve and Fund's Principal) into one account while capping the amount that can be withdrawn annually from the fund's overall value. While this is not a new idea and legislators have introduced similar legislation, the Permanent Fund Corporation is expected to provide its own recommendations for proposed changes to the governor and legislature later this year and I'll make sure to keep you informed when it comes out.

Vacancy In the House

I want to begin by congratulating my colleague, Josiah Patkotak, on his recent election to serve as the mayor of the North Slope Borough. I have enjoyed my time serving with him and know that the residents of the North Slope will be well served with him as mayor. With Patkotak's election, there is now a vacancy in the state for House District 40 which he served. The governor now has 30 days to appoint a replacement. This will be the first vacancy since the 2020 ballot initiative and leaves legal uncertainty around who the governor may appoint and whether it requires confirmation from members of the legislature. This may have impacts on the dynamics of the State House but whoever is chosen to serve out the remainder of the term, I look forward to working together on behalf of all Alaskans.

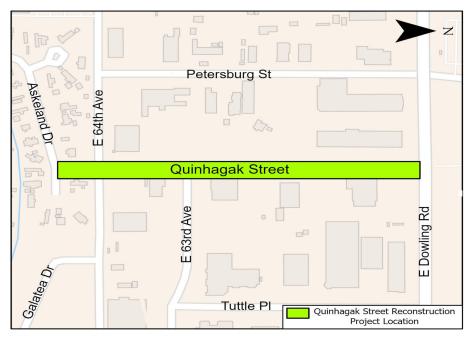
74th and 75th Ave. improvements

The Municipality of Anchorage Project Management & Engineering Department is planning to upgrade 74th Ave., Nancy St., Petersburg St., and E. 75th Ave. Possible improvements include a new road foundation, asphalt pavement, curb and gutter, storm drain system, pedestrian facilities, and new street lighting. The city is asking for feedback from local residents. You can learn more or share your thoughts by visiting <u>74th-75thavereconstruction.com</u>.



Quinhagak St. Upgrade and Open House

The Municipality of Anchorage is planning to upgrade Quinhagak Street between East Dowling Road and Askeland Drive. An open house will be held on November 2nd from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Polaris K-12 School. If you can't attend the meeting or would like to stay updated on the project, please visit <u>https://quinhagakstreetreconstruction.com/</u>.



UAA Alumni Association Homecoming

It was great to see friends old and new at the UAA Alumni Association Homecoming Luncheon and UAA College of Business and Public Policy Showcase over the weekend. A strong and vibrant university is key to having a bright future here in Alaska and keeping our youth in the state.



Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention

The AFN 2023 Convention will take place October 19th through the 21st at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage. The convention is free and open to the public and is always an insightful and rewarding experience. I encourage friends and neighbors to stop by and join these events. Convention details can be found at <u>nativefederation.org/convention/</u>.

Local Career Opportunities

Trailside Elementary is currently looking for applicants for their Administrative Assistant and Special Education Paraprofessional positions. Kassun Elementary is also looking for a Special Education Paraprofessional and Special Education Teacher. The Anchorage School District (ASD) also has numerous other positions if you or someone you know is interested in making a positive impact on our student's education while making some money at the same time. ASD openings and applications can be found at: <u>applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp</u>

Anchorage Housing Action Week

The Anchorage Assembly has designated October 30th through November 4th as Anchorage Housing Action Week. Several events will take place this week centered around housing access and the work the city is doing to address homelessness. A calendar of events can be found at <u>AnchorageHousingAction.org</u>

Below are some additional resources for staying up-to-date and engaged:

Watch Committee Meetings – Most committee hearings are broadcast on Gavel Alaska at <u>360north.org</u> or through the Live Now tab on the AK Legislature's <u>home page</u>. House and Senate floor sessions are also available on Gavel Alaska at <u>ktoo.org/gavel</u>.

Access Budget Materials – The Office of Management and Budget website has many helpful tools and presentations relating to the state budget. You can find these resources, and more, at <u>omb.alaska.gov</u>.

Keep Track of Bills – If you're interested in learning more about a bill from this session or from years past, you can learn more at <u>akleg.gov/basis/Home/BillsandLaws</u>. Just type in a bill number in the search bar (ex: HB 234) at the top of the page. You can also text a bill number (ex: HB 234) to 559-245-2529 to enroll in text alerts.

Use Your Legislative Information Office (LIO) – LIOs are a great local resource for navigating the legislative process. The staff at the LIO can help you research bills and issues, navigate the state computer system, and participate in hearings by providing

public testimony. You can chat with LIO staff Monday-Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM through their new chat interface, located in the lower right corner of <u>akleg.gov</u>.

Contact the Anchorage LIO – You can reach the LIO by phone (907-269-0111) or email: <u>LIO.Anchorage@akleg.gov</u>.

Warmly, Representative Schrage

PS - I am honored to serve as your Representative. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our office anytime.

