



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the start of the holiday season and all the fresh snow on the ground around Anchorage. In this update, I'll share a brief overview of our state's finances, community news, opportunities for public input, and a reminder that the Affordable Care Act open-enrollment period is now underway.

As always, I am here to answer questions, assist with any issues you may be facing, or hear your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Representing the diverse views of our community is my priority, and hearing directly from friends and neighbors like you helps me do that. You can reach me by email at Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov, on my personal cell at 907-240-8986, or at our office at 907-465-4931.

Coffee with Calvin

Thank you to the community members who joined us last Saturday for our constituent coffee - I truly enjoyed the conversation. Our next coffee will be held on Saturday, January 3rd, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Kaladi's on Brayton Drive. I look forward to seeing you there!



Future Budget Hurdles

Alaska's budget challenges will likely be exacerbated during this upcoming session due to low revenue and unplanned expenses. In the Alaska Department of Revenue's most recent forecast for Fiscal Year 2027, they assume \$67 per barrel of oil. However, Brent Crude is currently hovering at about \$63 and is projected to decrease in the coming months. For each \$1 change in oil prices, the state's tax revenue changes by about \$30 to \$40 million.

State revenue from oil is volatile and revenue from federal funding is similarly uncertain at this time. In late October, the state Legislature heard a presentation from the Department of Health regarding additional state costs due to the new Medicaid mandates. While the exact monetary amount is unknown, the Legislature will likely need to allocate more state funding toward healthcare than in previous years. This is just one example of federal changes impacting our state budget, and we expect more in the future.

The State of Alaska has also incurred unexpected expenses through multiple Disaster Declarations. While the Legislature allocated funds for the Disaster Relief Fund, those funds were partially vetoed by the Governor and will not be sufficient to cover the costs of providing support to Western Alaska and to our local Food Banks. These funds are necessary for Alaskans, and I expect the Legislature to pass a supplemental budget to backfill Disaster Relief monies.

The Governor's proposed budget, which is generally the Legislature's starting point in budget creation, will be published in mid-December. I will continue to provide budget updates as we get new information, and as the legislative session begins.

Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment

The Affordable Care Act open-enrollment period began on November 1st and will continue through January 15th, 2026. You can learn more and sign up at [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) (or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov) for Spanish speakers).

Anchorage Community Council Boundary Changes

Every ten years, the Municipality of Anchorage is required to review the boundaries for the city's community councils. The Anchorage Assembly has put forward a proposal for the new boundaries, with no significant changes to our local Abbott Loop Community Council. While our council would remain as is, the proposal recommends 12 substantial changes, including two council mergers. To view the current and proposed maps, please use the links below:

Current Map: <https://communitycouncils.org/downtown/council-map/>

Proposed Map <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/26279421/anchorage-bowl-community-councils-boundaries.pdf>

There will be an opportunity for public input on these maps at the regular December 2nd Assembly meeting and you can provide written testimony at <https://moaonlineforms.formstack.com/forms/assemblyphonetestimony>

Public Input Opportunity – Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan "CWPP" is now available online, and this is your chance to offer comments. Remember that the deadline for comments is the end of this month, so get your comments in now!

If you missed the recent CWPP Town Hall, you can watch it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/@AnchorageFire>

And the Draft CWPP is available here:

https://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Wildfire/Pages/CWPP_Update.aspx

Use the "quick start guide" on that page to learn how to work the CWPP and navigate directly to your areas of interest. Remember that the CWPP will be guiding our future, and your participation is vital.

How to Stay Involved in the Legislative Process

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

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 <https://omb.alaska.gov>.

Keep Track of Bills – Interested in tracking bills through the legislative process? You can follow along on BASIS: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Home/BillsandLaws>. Just type in a bill number in the search bar (ex: HB 36) at the top of the page. You can also text a bill number (ex: HB 36) 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 AKLeg.gov.

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

Warmly,



Representative Schrage

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

Contact Representative Calvin Schrage



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