



**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
North Star Community Council
November 10, 2021**

Happy November Everyone!

- ❖ The 4th Special Session ended on November 2nd and it's unfortunate that we didn't get much done after gaveling in on October 4th. As you may remember from my previous newsletter, the Governor called legislators back into a special session to discuss a plethora of items with the main item being a supplemental PFD. There were several bills introduced from both the Senate and House to address new revenue, constitutionally protecting the PFD, and more. You can find additional information at www.akleg.gov. Special Sessions are expensive especially when nothing gets done so I was pleased to hear that the Governor said he will not call another special session.
- ❖ Outside of Juneau, plenty is happening here in Anchorage. I'm busy responding to emails, attending community council meetings, and more. I was honored to be selected to attend the Council of State Governments West's legislative training in September and was also selected to attend the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute's (LEHI) training on energy issues to include climate change. LEHI held a graduation ceremony for 28 West Coast legislators and the event was held at a venue where you could see the Capitol from the balcony. It was inspiring to see our Capitol from that view. We were also given actual graduation certificates from the University of Idaho. Learning is forever, and I'm honored to be selected to participate in providing solutions that will not only benefit me but also my constituents and the people of Alaska.
- ❖ Anchorage midtown voters voted to retain Assemblywoman Meg Zaletel who represents a portion of my Senate District. She is doing an amazing job on behalf of "our" constituents, and I'm so pleased the people have recognized and appreciated her efforts. I'd also like to thank the entirety of our Assembly for their efforts to keep our community safe.



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Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

On Friday, November 5th, The U.S. House passed an enormous infrastructure bill, totaling \$1.5 trillion. The infrastructure bill will bring billions to Alaska for roads, ports and broadband. For Alaska, this milestone reflects how important the bill will impact the 49th State. Here is what Alaska can expect:

- **\$3.5 billion in federal highway funding for Alaska over five years, to build new roads and highways, and rebuild and maintain existing ones.**
- **\$225 million goes to Alaska to address more than 140 bridges considered to be “structurally deficient.”**
- **\$1 billion over five years for essential ferry service to rural Alaska communities.**
- **\$73 million to build new ferries for Alaska.**
- **More than \$180 million over 5 years will support water and wastewater projects in Alaska through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.**
- **\$75 million for the Denali Commission to build out rural infrastructure in Alaska.**

In The Coming Months

As we quickly approach the next legislative session which begins on January 18th, you can expect more activity in the Legislature especially as legislators begin to pre-file bills. In my December newsletter, I will be sharing my list of pre-filed bills.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving

Always representing your interests!

Interim: 907 269-0174 Session: 907-465-4930

Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov or Besse.Odom@akleg.gov