



Representative Calvin Schrage

*Proudly serving our friends and
neighbors in House District 12*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Winter is here and the 2024 general election is finally over allowing us to resume our monthly newsletters as normal. I am honored to have been re-elected to continue representing our amazing Abbott Loop - Lower Hillside community in the State House. I am looking forward to all that we can accomplish this next session by working together and staying focused on the real problems facing Alaskans, including ensuring stable and adequate education funding, fiscally responsible state spending, affordable and reliable energy, and investing in Alaska's infrastructure. In this update, I'll provide an overview of organization in the House and Senate, as well as highlight some of my personal priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

I am here if you have questions, need assistance with an issue you may be facing, or to share your thoughts, ideas, or concerns. I work hard to represent the diverse views of our community and hearing from friends and neighbors such as yourself helps me accomplish this. You can reach me by email at Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg, on my personal cell at 907-240-8986, or at our office at 907-465-4931.

Alaska State House organization

Shortly after the election concluded, I joined a group of representatives from across the state, including independents, Democrats, and Republicans, in forming a majority coalition in the State House. Dillingham Rep. Bryce Edgmon will serve as House Speaker, Kodiak Rep. Louise Stutes will serve as Rules Committee Chair, and Anchorage Rep. Chuck Kopp will serve as Majority Leader. Full membership and committee assignments have yet to be finalized as some elections remain close and other members supportive of these principles may join our majority. Our coalition is organized around key principles, including:

- Balanced budgets that honor the Percent of Market Value (POMV) spending cap.
- Stable and predictable public education funding to reduce class sizes and improve outcomes.
- Retirement reform to fill critical public safety, resource permitting, teaching, and other positions.
- Energy development to drive investment, create jobs, and lower costs.

Senate Organization

The Senate will continue their Coalition and has announced key leadership positions, including Sen. Gary Stevens continuing to serve as Senate President, Sen. Cathy Giessel as Majority Leader, Sen. Bill Wielechowski as Rules Chair, Sen. Lyman Hoffman as Finance Chair for the operating budget, Sen. Bert Stedman as Finance Chair of the capital budget, Sen. Donny Olson as Finance Chair for legislation, Sen. Kelly Merrick as Majority Whip, and Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson as Chair of the Legislative Budget & Audit committee. Similar to the House, some State Senate races remain close and full membership and committee assignments have yet to be announced.

Legislative Priorities for the 34th Legislature

While we have made real progress over the last four years and held the line against harmful policies over the last two while in the minority, much work is left to be done and I am committed to continue fighting to address the real challenges facing Alaskans and supporting Alaska's workers, families, and students. My priorities include:

- Investing in education to ensure our students, teachers, and families have the resources and stability necessary to provide a high-quality education for our youth.
- Promoting fiscal responsibility in state spending while prioritizing the services Alaskans depend on.
- Unlocking Alaska's abundant natural resources responsibly and investing in renewable energy projects to provide reliable and affordable energy for Alaskans and create good-paying jobs.
- Supporting Alaska's workers and providing a fair, livable, and competitive retirement for our workers and families.
- Prioritizing investments in Alaska's infrastructure to ensure safe and well-maintained roads and community infrastructure, addressing our growing deferred maintenance backlog, and modernizing Alaska's infrastructure.
- Empowering Alaskan voters to ensure voting is fair, accessible, and secure and limiting money in politics by reinstating reasonable and constitutional campaign contribution limits.

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

Watch Committee Meetings – Most committee hearings are broadcast on Gavel Alaska at 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 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 omb.alaska.gov.

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 akleg.gov/basis/Home/BillsandLaws. 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 contact 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 me or our office anytime.

Contact Representative Calvin Schrage

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