



Representative Calvin Schrage

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



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to the first Keeping Current with Calvin newsletter of the 34th Legislature and the new year! I am honored to have been sworn in as the state representative for my third term representing our amazing Abbott Loop - Lower Hillside Community. As always, I am here if you have questions, need assistance with an issue you may be facing, or if you'd like 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.



Rep. Schrage shaking hands with Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom after being sworn in.

Mid-Session Office Availability

Join us for a mid-session constituent coffee to discuss the upcoming legislative session and share your thoughts, ideas, and priorities.

When: Saturday, February 22nd at 1 PM

Where: Kaladi Brothers on Brayton. (6921 Brayton Dr, Anchorage)

Take our Constituent Survey

Survey Link: forms.gle/vPqXGfYXPEusNYFK7

Legislative Update

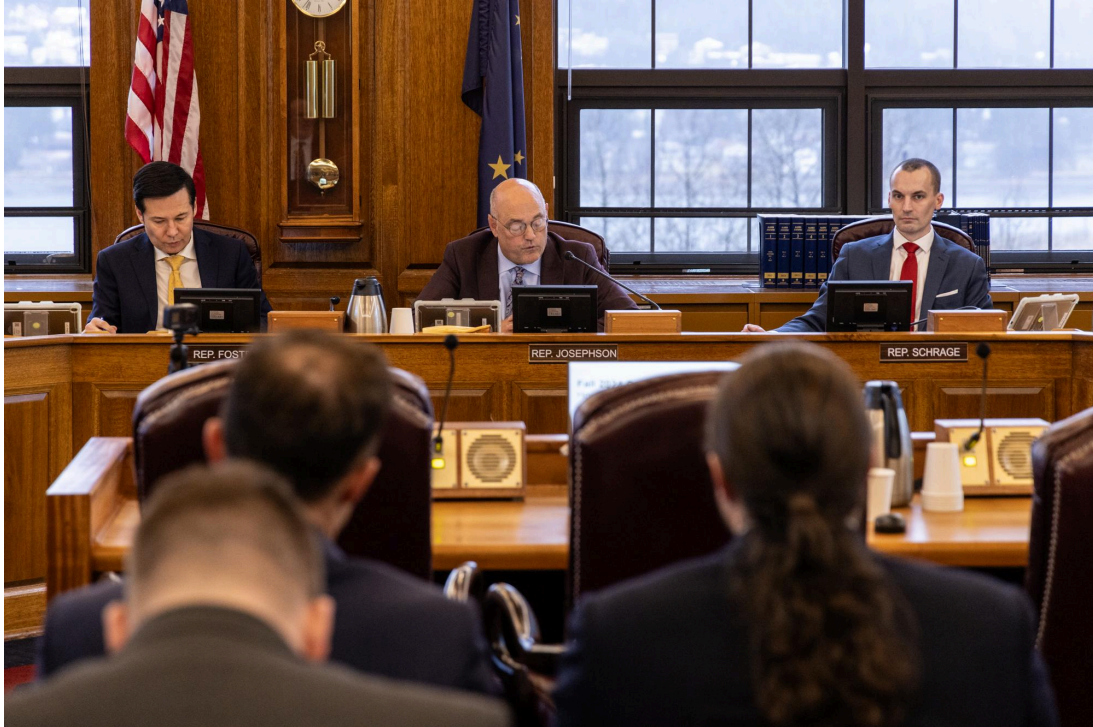
The 34th Alaska Legislature gavelled in earlier this month with Representative Louise Stutes being elected Speaker Pro-Tempore and Representative Bryce Edgmon elected as Speaker of the House. With the speaker vote completed, the Committee on Committees met shortly after to finalize the committee membership for the 34th legislature.

A complete list of committee membership can be found on [AKLEG.gov](https://akleg.gov).

Finance Committee Update

During the first week of the 2025 Legislative Session, the House Finance Committee heard various updates about Alaska's fiscal situation, including presentations from the Department of Natural Resources regarding our oil production forecasts and from the Office of Management and Budget regarding the Governor's proposed budget. Next week, we will continue to hear budget updates, including an overview of Alaska's PERS and TRS retirement system and liabilities and an overview from the Department of Revenue of our savings accounts and investment funds. All meetings can be found on AKLEG.gov or KTOO's Gavel to Gavel.

We will also begin our subcommittee process in earnest next week, which is when the legislature digs into the details of each department's budget. As the Chair of three budget subcommittees, I will be guiding the budget research process for the following state agencies: Department of Natural Resources, Department of Administration, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. I look forward to working with all 59 other legislators to study and make changes to our state budget that will benefit all Alaskans.



Rep. Schrage during the first finance committee meeting, hearing from DNR officials.

Capital Budget Update

As Capital Budget Co-chair, our office has been hard at work analyzing the proposed capital budget as well as infrastructure needs of the state as the legislature gets ready for the budget process. We're also working with legislative offices in the House as they individually coordinate with community councils, organizations, local governments, and stakeholders in their communities to enter potential capital projects for consideration in the budget.

Office Update

This year my office is carrying several pieces of legislation including the campaign finance and election reform bills, similar to those we carried in the previous legislature, and two new bills regarding changes to the Accountancy Act and legal protections for EMTs and paramedics stabilizing government and search and rescue dogs.

[HB16 - Campaign Finance](#): This legislation would reinstate fair, reasonable, and constitutional campaign contribution limits in Alaska's state and local elections. HB16 has been referred to the House State Affairs and House Finance Committees.

[HB 43 - Elections](#): This legislation will help empower Alaskan voters to participate in our electoral system while upholding the integrity of our elections by: implementing ballot curing, eliminating the witness signature requirement, establishing same day voter

registration, pre-paid postage for absentee ballots, expediting election results, and extending the early voting period.

[HB 70 - "Rico's Law"](#): EMTs and paramedics that attempt to stabilize injured dogs who are used in law enforcement, other government duties, or search and rescue operations are put in serious risk of litigation. This legislation would protect EMTs and paramedics who are operating within their scope of practice from unnecessary and overburdening litigation.

[HB XX - Accountancy Act Modernization](#): My staff is working to file this legislation that would make several modernizing changes to the accountancy act and allow the Board of Public Accountants more control over granting CPAs who are licensed in a different state with similar licensure requirements the ability to practice in Alaska.

[HB69](#) Public Testimony details:

As you may know, Alaska's school funding formula, the Base Student Allocation (BSA), has been flat funded for nearly a decade. School districts have had to make hard decisions in recent years, including closing Abbott Loop Elementary, due to the lack of funding. Our House Majority is committed to addressing this issue, and has introduced HB69 for early consideration. This legislation would increase the Base Student Allocation by \$1000 this year, \$404 in the following two years, and tie an annual increase to inflation for every year after that. **Public testimony will begin at 5 PM on Wednesday, January 29th** and the Co-Chairs will take testimony until everyone who signed up or calls in before 7 PM have been heard. Call 907-963-9085 or email House.Education@akleg.gov to testify from Anchorage.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mark your calendar, join the conversation, and let your voice resonate!

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HB 69
EDUCATION FUNDING

Wed. Jan. 29th: State Capitol Rm 106
8AM-10AM & 5PM-Finish

For 5PM testimony, the Co-Chairs will begin at 5:00pm and will take testimony until everyone who calls in or signs up by 7:00 pm is heard.

Call-in Numbers:
Anchorage 907-563-9085
Juneau 907-586-9085
Other locations 844-586-9085

Submit Written Testimony to:
House.Education@akleg.gov

For more information and to stream committee meetings, please visit: www.akleg.gov

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

PFD Application Deadline - Monday, March 31st

The deadline to apply for your PFD is two months away but it's always better to get it out of the way rather than rushing to complete it at the last minute or forgetting! Apply today at mypfd.alaska.gov.

Municipality of Anchorage Election - Tuesday, April 1st

The local Anchorage elections are coming up soon. Expect to cast your vote for assembly, school board, school bonds, and more! Register to vote, learn how to vote, and ask questions at muni.org/elections

Chugach Electric Association Election - Friday, May 30th

You can cast your vote online for your local utility board starting in late April! Last year, Chugach entered each voter into a drawing to win a free year of electricity so be sure to cast your vote early. Learn more at www.chugachelectric.com/your-cooperative/news-community/annual-meeting/annual-meeting-election

Additional Resources to Stay Involved and Follow the Legislative Process

Federal Appropriations Requests – The FY26 Appropriations and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) portals are now live on [Senator Murkowski's website](#).

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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