

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE FINANCE:
Operating Budget Co-Chair



CAMPBELL PARK
•
DIMOND BUSINESS
DISTRICT
•
EAST SAND LAKE
•
MIDTOWN
•
TAKU-CAMPBELL

REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Date: April 09, 2025

To: Midtown Community Council

From: Representative Andy Josephson

Re: April update

Hello Neighbors,

The 34th Legislative session has reached day 79. It has been a busy session as co-chair of the House Finance Committee. The House Finance Committee has passed the operating budget out of Finance and it is in the Rules Committee currently awaiting calendaring to the House Floor.

This past weekend there were two Town Hall Meetings in Anchorage. The morning town hall hosted by Senator Gray-Jackson, Representative Galvin and myself. The afternoon was an all Anchorage Delegation Town Hall. Thank you all for attending, sending in comments and what a great turn out we had!

Legislation

Applicability of Human Rights Commission: HB23 This bill has been referred to House Finance and is schedule to be heard Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Employment discrimination is investigated by one or a combination of entities, i.e., the local, state, or federal commissions. The state commission (Alaska State Commission on Human Rights) currently lacks jurisdiction over employment discrimination complaints filed against non-profits. This means over 44,000 employees in Alaska have to rely on their local commission (if there is one) or the federal commission. I believe Alaskans deserve consistent employment discrimination coverage that is investigated by Alaskans. This legislation would give the state commission jurisdiction while providing exemptions for religious institutions

Polystyrene Food Ware Ban: HB25 This bill has been referred to House Rules and is awaiting calendaring to the House Floor. Polystyrene (commonly understood as Styrofoam) is stubbornly non-biodegradable. Other alternatives to carry-out food containers are readily available and widely used, such as fiber-based containers. This legislation would ban restaurant use of polystyrene food ware containers, a simple step toward tackling global plastic waste.

Budget

Last week, two budget bills made significant progress in the House. The first was the supplemental budget. A supplemental budget revisits last fiscal year's budget and appropriates funds to cover unexpected costs. HB 56 (the Fast-Track Supplemental) included language to fill the \$81 million deficit from last year (because of lower-than-expected oil prices) and pay for other Governor requests (such as fire suppression and disaster relief). This bill passed on the House Floor 21 yeas to 19 nays. The CBR draw, which requires a vote of at least 30 members, failed. This means that the future of the supplemental budget is uncertain, but it is now with the Senate.

The second budget to reach a new milestone last week was the operating budget. The House Finance Committee completed public testimony and the amendment process, and the members moved it out of committee with a vote of 6 yeas to 5 nays. A total of 96 amendments were submitted, many of which were withdrawn or not offered. The budget now awaits to be scheduled on the House Floor, where another amendment process will take place between all members of the body.

Anchorage Transportation Fair: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Time: Anytime between 3:00PM and 7:00PM

Where: Alaska Airlines Center, Axillary Gym, 3550 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK

Website: <https://anchorage-transportation-fair-baker.hub.arcgis.com/>

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Featured Projects

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[Seward to Glenn Connection Planning and Environmental Linkages Study](#)

[Spenard Road Rehabilitation: Minnesota Drive to Benson Boulevard](#)

[Anchorage Traffic Calming/Pedestrian Safety](#)

[Forest Park Drive Surface Rehabilitation/Neighborhood Greenway](#)

[Dowling Road Surface Rehabilitation: Lake Otis Parkway to Elmore Road](#)

Closing

I want to convey my deep appreciation to House District 13 for electing me to be your representative once again. Know that I will continue to work tirelessly for you. My office doors are always open to address your questions, concerns, or anything else you need. Call my staff at (907) 465-4939 to schedule an in-person or teleconference appointment. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Take care,

