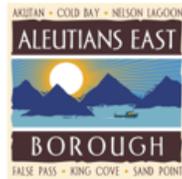


In the Loop



To all,

Below is the link to the AEB Assembly meeting packet for this Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Due to Covid-19, the Assembly meeting will not have public locations. All Assembly Members will dial in from individual locations, for the purpose of following the mandates, social distancing and protecting the public health.

The meeting will be broadcast on KSDP Public Radio. If you do not have the radio station broadcasting in your community, you can go to KSDP website to stream the meeting (link below).

Prior to and during the meeting, Public Comments on Agenda items or Public Comments on other issues can be e-mailed to ltanis@aeboro.org, Subject: *April Assembly Meeting*, to be read at the appropriate time during the meeting.

Thank you,

*Tina Anderson
Clerk/Planner
Aleutians East Borough*

Link to Assembly packet [here](#).

Link to KSDP to stream meeting:

<http://apradio.org/>

Email: ltanis@aeboro.org to send in Public Comments on Agenda items or Public Comments.

(Sharing press release from the Governor's office)



Governor Dunleavy Signs FY2021 Budget, Utilizes Federal COVID-19 Funds

April 7, 2020 (Anchorage, AK) – On Monday, April 6, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed into law the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget, prioritizing public safety, education, state preparedness for natural and public health emergencies, economic development, and holding the line on State unrestricted general fund spending while preserving a balance in the State's traditional savings accounts. House Bill (HB) 205, as enacted, maintains a balance in the constitutional budget reserve, takes advantage of Federal funds for COVID-19 response and stabilization, maintains spending across various programs and components at a level consistent with FY 2020, and funds an incomplete Permanent Fund Dividend.

“My administration worked to make a number of difficult, but necessary, decisions. The actions I’ve taken with this budget provide stability in times of uncertainty and allows our State agencies to maintain their core functions of serving Alaskans. We have been presented the unique opportunity to capitalize on a one-time fund source through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, allowing us to reshape pieces of the final FY 2021 budget. Now, as we face a drop in oil prices and face a global health pandemic, is not the time to irresponsibly increase our State’s budget,” **said Governor Mike Dunleavy.**

“This bill was sent to me with an estimated \$1,000 Permanent Fund Dividend – once again ignoring the decades-old statutory calculation that is still in place, and just as importantly, ignoring the catastrophic fiscal realities of thousands of out-of-work Alaskans unable to buy food and pay rent due to the government-mandated economic slowdown. If ever there was a time to follow the statutes and put Alaskans first, now is the time,” **observed Governor Dunleavy.** “Our state constitution gives the governor the power to subtract, not add to the budget. Though many Alaskans have asked me to pay out the full PFD, this is something I can’t do without the Legislature supporting the PFD.”

“With the Legislature still in session, it is my hope, and the hope of thousands of Alaskans, that they act now to fix this glaring oversight,” **continued Governor Dunleavy.** “All across the world, leaders and economists are looking to mimic the PFD. Yet here in Alaska, our leaders are doing the opposite. I will continue to call on the Legislature to follow the law, utilize the statutory calculation for the Permanent Fund Dividend, and get money into the hands of laid off workers throughout Alaska. Call it a PFD, call it a distribution, call it a COVID-19 emergency relief payment; it does not matter. We must act now to help our fellow Alaskans. I remain committed to working with Alaskans and the Legislature to address State spending so we can eliminate our deficit over time. It is critical that we get our fiscal house in order and provide a secure and stable future for Alaskans.”

HB 205 as passed by the Legislature, added \$314 million of new spending items to the FY 2021 operating budget, which represents an unsustainable, and in many cases, unnecessary level of spending. Through line-item vetoes to HB 205, Governor Dunleavy reduced the spend by \$210 million in unrestricted general funds (UGF). With these vetoes, the FY 2021 operating, mental health, and capital budget, including previously enacted legislation, is \$4,517.3M UGF, \$905.9M Designated General funds (DGF), \$748.4M Other State funds, and \$3,855.5M Federal funds.

Key programs and services funded in HB 205:

- \$99M to COVID-19 response and relief
- \$135.6M to Alaska State Troopers
- \$14M to Village Public Safety Officer Program
- \$5M to Disaster Relief Fund
- \$5M to Fire Risk Reduction Funding
- \$34.8M to Pioneer Homes
- \$54M to the Alaska Marine Highway System
- \$1.26B to fully fund Education Foundation Formula
- \$28.5M to Behavioral Health Programs
- \$7.2M to Homeless Assistance Program
- \$65M for Capital Federal Match Program to Highways and Aviation

Line-item vetoes in this bill include:

- The reduction of debt payments on behalf of other entities, which are not a core function of the State while facing fiscal uncertainty;
- A reduction in funding to the University of Alaska to the level agreed to in the 2019 compact between the University of Alaska Board of Regents and the Office of the Governor; and
- The elimination of one-time State general funds for programs that may qualify for funding under the Federal CARES Act.

[Click here](#) for FY 2021 budget items of interest.

[Click here](#) for additional information on the enacted House Bill 205.

(Sharing press release from the Alaska House Majority)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020



Governor's budget vetoes gamble on essential services amid an economic, public health crisis

'He is using the COVID-19 crisis as justification to veto items he never supported'

JUNEAU – Today, the governor announced significant vetoes to Alaska's operating budget and to his own supplemental budget acting under the assumption that reductions could be backfilled with federal COVID-19 relief money.

House Speaker Bryce Edgmon (I-Dillingham) released the following statement on the governor's budget decisions:

"From our initial understanding, federal funds can only be used for expenditures incurred due to COVID-19, not expenditures unrelated to the COVID-19 response. The governor's vetoes gamble with vital programs like Medicaid, community assistance, school bond debt reimbursement, K-12 education, homeless grants, the Alaska Marine Highway System, public broadcasting, the university, and more. There is no guarantee that the federal government will pick up the tab. This approach is incredibly troubling to me.

Unfortunately, not only did the governor veto his own supplemental budget requests, he is also using the COVID-19 crisis as justification to veto items he never supported.

We need to hear more from the administration on the conversations they've had with the federal government about the sideboards around the federal money Alaska is receiving. The governor needs to ensure Alaskans that these essential services will be paid for by the CARES Act."

Links to media stories regarding the budget:

[Alaska Public Media](#)

[Anchorage Daily News](#)

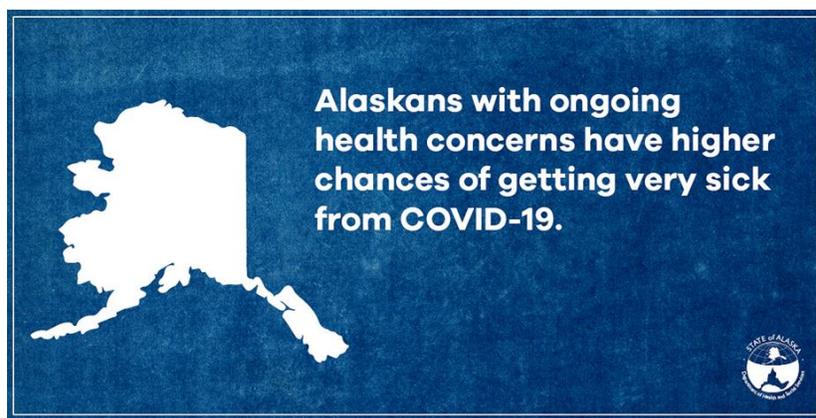
[KTUU](#)

[KTVA](#)

Alaska's Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Totals 213 Statewide

As of today (April 7, 2020) the State of Alaska reports there are a total of 213 COVID-19 cases. That includes 22 new cases, 23 hospitalizations, 29 recovered cases and 6 deaths statewide. The state's information is updated daily at noon.

Here's the link: <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>



Alaskans with ongoing health concerns have higher chances of getting very sick from COVID-19. That includes people with diabetes, heart or lung disease, cancer, and severe obesity. Take the following steps to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often and avoid touching your face
- Stay home when possible and avoid close contact with others, even grandkids
- Consider asking others to bring groceries to your house or using a delivery service.

For more information, visit [Coronavirus.alaska.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/get-ready.html) and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/get-ready.html>

COVID-19 PROTECTION TIP

The Center for Disease Control and Alaska's chief medical officer recommend wearing face coverings in public settings to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

COVER IT UP!



#STOPHESPREAD #COVERITUP

If you have news you'd like to share or if you'd like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



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