



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

April 2019 Community Council Update

Constituent Survey Results — Thank you to everyone who completed year's constituent survey. As we work toward a responsible action plan to address the state's financial challenges, feedback from our West Anchorage community remains one of our best sources of information. We have compiled the information and analyzed the results. You can see the comprehensive survey results here: <http://akhouse.org/?p=6476>. Here are some of the highlights:

- Over 68% of constituents gave the Governor's FY2020 budget proposal an F grade;
- 73% of constituents strongly oppose the Governor's proposal to reduce school district funding by 23%;
- 76% of constituents think Alaska should continue to fully support Medicaid expansion;
- In considering the state budget, the district prioritized public education, public safety, health & human services, and early education. Our district showed the lowest priority for oil and gas tax credits, paying a \$3,000 dividend, and investing in mega-projects;
- Friends and neighbors support using Permanent Fund earnings to pay the costs of state government using the Percent of Market Value ("POMV") approach established in SB 26, which passed in 2018. Support of the SB 26-POMV approach means we must determine the state's spending priorities and paying a \$3,000 dividend conflicts with other spending concerns;
- The district strongly supports public education and strongly opposes cuts to K-12 education funding and to the Base Student Allocation as proposed by the Governor; and
- Constituents strongly support continuing Medicaid expansion and maximizing federal matching funds to support health care for Alaskans.

Budget Update — On February 13, the Governor released his FY20 budget containing a \$1.7 billion reduction in overall funds. Public response to the Governor's proposed budget has been very negative. In the vast majority of emails, letters, and phone calls to my office, West Anchorage constituents are expressing concerns with the proposed cuts to education, public safety, health services, and transportation. At the series of community budget meetings the House Finance Committee held across the state, just over 1,000 people commented on the Governor's budget proposal, and of those who did, 990 voiced opposition to the Governor's drastic cuts.

In response to feedback from across the state, the House Finance Committee has decided to use last year's budget (excluding any one-time expenditures), also called the "FY20 adjusted base," as the starting place for this year's budget. This decision means the House Finance Committee's proposed budget would flat fund many essential state services.

Moving forward, the House Majority is committed to passing a responsible, balanced budget that does not draw from state savings and, in keeping with Senate Bill 26, draws from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account (ERA) at a sustainable rate to support dividends and the essential costs of state government.

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