

JANUARY 2020 ASSEMBLY REPORT

Provided by AUSTIN QUINN-DAVIDSON

We are working on two primary issues right now: (1) potential revenues sources, which would need to be placed on the April ballot by our January 28th meeting at the latest, and (2) understanding and preparing to vote on the bonds, which will take place at our January 28th meeting.

As for the **potential revenue sources, there are three that have been introduced:**

(1) Alcohol tax. Sponsored by Felix Rivera, Forrest Dunbar, and me. 5% flat tax. Would be dedicated specifically to (a) police and first responders, (b) addressing child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence, and (3) substance misuse treatment and prevention and homelessness. This year's proposal is more specific and we expect a much more robust education campaign so that the public better understands how the money would be dedicated. The tax, if passed, would raise appx \$11-15M a year and would be used for things like hiring more police officers, supporting programs that reduce child abuse, and treatment center operations. The sponsors are currently working on a resolution that we would present to the Assembly for support that would detail how we would specifically intend to spend the money in 2021, should it pass. In Anchorage we currently have taxes for marijuana and tobacco but no Municipal tax on alcohol.

(2) Alcohol tax, S version. Sponsored by John Weddleton. 2% flat tax, which could be raised by the Assembly to up to 5% depending on need. Revenue could be used for detox facilities and shelter, behavioral health programs, and homelessness prevention and response.

(3) Sales tax specifically for public safety. Sponsored by Fred Dyson. 3% flat tax, half of which would be returned to residents through property tax relief. There are many exemptions to what would be taxed (food, etc.).

You can find a copy of all tax proposals linked from our December 17th agenda (online at muni.org). We are also holding multiple town halls to discuss these possible taxes: in Anchorage, Chugiak, and Girdwood. The Anchorage town hall is January 7th from 5:30-7 in the Wilda Marston Theater (Loussac Library). There will be an opportunity to give public testimony at these town halls and of course at the Assembly meetings. Or you can direct folks to email me or Kameron.

As far as the bonds go, the biggest issue is what to do about the school bonds, mostly with respect to FEMA costs and potential reimbursements. The Assembly is having a two-hour meeting with the School Board from 1-3pm on January 8th in the Mayor's conference room (8th Flr, City Hall).