



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

September 2020 Community Council Update

Fall Newsletter — [Our Fall Newsletter](#) is hitting mailboxes this week! Topics include: Voting and Voting Deadlines, Absentee Ballots, and Passed Legislation. You can find an online version on our website by visiting: http://akhouse.org/rep_claman/.

Absentee Ballots — We encourage everyone who wants to vote by absentee ballot during the upcoming General Election to request the ballot early. The deadline to submit your absentee ballot application is October 24, 2020.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3rd, the General Election Day. You can also drop your absentee ballot in a secure drop box located at the Anchorage Division of Elections Office at 2525 Gambell Street prior to the close of polls on November 3rd.

For information on the absentee ballot, visit the Division of Elections website at: <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/votingbymail.php>.

AK CARES Expanded to Help More Small Businesses — Previously, the State restricted applicants for AK CARES Grant funding from applying if they received more than \$5,000 in other federal assistance or if the business is a source of secondary income. On August 20, the governor submitted modifications to the AK CARES Grant Program to expand the eligibility for applicants. The new changes lift the \$5,000 restriction as well as those on secondary income businesses. Other restrictions, such as requiring that businesses must be Alaska-based or that businesses cannot have more than 50 employees, remain in place, but may be amended in the future based on authority granted in the Revised Programs Legislative (RPL) Review Process. On August 27, the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee considered and approved the expanded program details. Effective on Monday, August 31, 2020, businesses that received any amount of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds will become eligible to apply for AK CARES grants, as will businesses that are secondary sources of income. These businesses can apply through the online application portal (www.akcaresonline.org) starting Monday, August 31.

Municipality's Rent and Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program — If you or someone you know has been financially affected by COVID-19 and need help paying your rent or mortgage, call 2-1-1 (dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221) to apply for the Municipality's Rent and Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program. To apply for this program, residents need to call 2-1-1 and answer a series of screening questions. Interpreters are available at 2-1-1 to provide translation services over the phone. All screened applicants will be contacted to set up an appointment. Applicants will need to bring a photo ID, a rental/lease agreement or mortgage statement, and a copy of their most recent paystub or self-employment identification. Rental or mortgage assistance will be made out directly to landlords or mortgage companies, not to renters or borrowers. The period will remain open until funds are exhausted or September 30, 2020, whichever comes first. Call 2-1-1 to apply.

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Serving the Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain Communities