



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senator Matt Claman

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*Serving West Anchorage*

## April 2023 Community Council Update

**Constituent Survey Results** — Thank you to everyone who completed this year's constituent survey. We have compiled the information and analyzed the results. You can see the comprehensive survey results here: <https://www.alaskasenate.org/matt-claman/>. Here are some of the highlights:

- 67% of West Anchorage constituents gave the Governor's FY2024 budget proposal a failing grade (D or F).
- 72% support using Permanent Fund earnings to help pay for essential services.
- 78% believe we should not pay a statutory dividend and 73.7% chose increasing the dividend payment as their last choice for using any new revenue.
- 69% of West Anchorage constituents support Alaska returning to a pension retirement program for public employees.
- 82% of West Anchorage constituents believe Alaska should continue to fully support Medicaid expansion.

**Thanks for Attending Mid-Session Constituent Meeting** — Thank you to everyone that joined us at our constituent meeting last month. We had great turnout and covered a wide variety of legislative issues. I appreciate seeing folks engaging on these important topics, and I look forward to having more conversations when I'm back in the district!

**Operating Budget** — Our focus remains on the budget. Last month, House Finance Subcommittees finished their work and forwarded their recommendations to the full House Finance Committee for further review. The House Finance Committee worked on the budget before approving a bill for consideration by the full House. The House Finance Committee considered more than 80 amendments, though several were withdrawn. After the House approves the budget, including any amendments that may be added on the floor, the bill will go to the Senate for its consideration.

**Capital Budget** — Like in recent years, the governor's FY24 capital budget again focuses on leveraging federal transportation and Village Safe Water funding. \$171.3 million (62%) of the Unrestricted General Funds (UGF) in the governor's capital budget is used to match federal funding totaling \$1.7 billion. The major federal match projects are:

- Federal-Aid Highway Match (Department of Transportation and Public Facilities) – \$91.1 million UGF to match \$777.5 million of federal funds;
- Federal-Aid Aviation State Match (Department of Transportation and Public Facilities) – \$33.3 million UGF to match \$462 million of federal funds;
- Village Safe Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects (Department of Environmental Conservation) – \$25 million in UGF, and \$0.5 million in Statutory Designated Program Receipts to match \$247.7 million of federal funds; and
- Alaska Marine Highway System – \$285 million from the Federal Transit Administration to build new ferries.