

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE FINANCE  
•  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET  
AND AUDIT  
•  
ETHICS (ALTERNATE)  
•  
FINANCE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
Courts and Department of  
Law  
Health, Family and  
Community Services  
University



CAMPBELL PARK  
•  
DIMOND BUSINESS  
DISTRICT  
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EAST SAND LAKE  
•  
MIDTOWN  
•  
TAKU-CAMPBELL

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*REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON*

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**Date:** April 11, 2024

**To:** Midtown Community Council

**From:** Representative Andy Josephson

**Re:** Budget Time

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Hello Neighbors,

The budget is now on the Floor of the House. My colleagues and I were engaged in vigorous debate on Tuesday and Wednesday as we worked our way through the budget amendments. The last two days have been marathon sessions on the floor, 10 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

During the budget process in the Finance Committee, I was successful in ushering nine amendments to passage. In all, the minority caucus had 19 successful amendments. My amendments ranged from securing more funding for youth substance programs to an inflation adjustment to autism services to additional Head Start funds. A huge win for Anchorage and the State was the \$4 million I championed for the Municipality of Anchorage shelter grant. Mayor Bronson and the Anchorage Assembly partnered to ask for this grant from the legislature. The amendment initially failed, however, I asked for the vote to be rescinded two days later. I then secured the grant by a 7-4 vote.

On the floor on Tuesday, I offered eight amendments. Most of these amendments added funding for our most vulnerable neighbors: domestic victim survivors, seniors, and low-income adults and children. The amendments all failed, which is of great concern to me, as the reduction in

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*June-December:* 1500 W Benson Blvd, Room 312, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 269-0265

Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov

services falls heaviest on those who can least bear the burden. I was also disappointed that my amendment for \$1.4 million to the Iditarod Trail Committee was voted down on the floor, 19-21, although there may be hope that it will be included in the Senate capital budget.

Yesterday, one of my amendments that was initially voted down Tuesday, was wrapped into another amendment presented by Representative Ortiz. My amendment Tuesday was \$2.5 million for Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA). Yesterday, we were able to pass \$5 million for ATIA.

We are now in third reading of the budget bill. Today we will debate and hopefully vote on the budget. Once the budget is passed it will head over to the Senate and repeat the process of introduction, amendments, debate, and a vote.

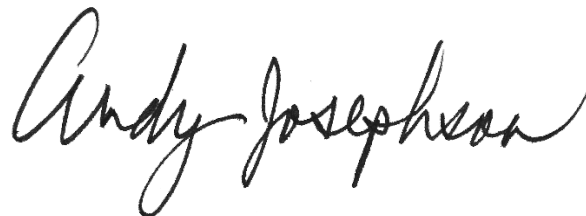
HB 238, my institutional vandalism bill, has passed from the House floor and is in Senate Judiciary. An amendment is being offered by Senator Tobin to specifically include Alaska Native organization's sacred sites.

HCR 14, a resolution that urges the University of Alaska to establish a law school, was scheduled for a hearing in the Education Committee this week. The hearing was unfortunately cancelled due to extended floor sessions, but I anticipate once we are past the budget process the committee will hear the resolution.

HB 354, my bill that restricts restaurant use of polystyrene disposable food service ware, is scheduled for a first hearing in the House Health and Social Services Committee next Thursday.

The legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 15. There are 33 days left for the legislature to pass a budget for FY 25. I will be working hard to ensure a sustainable budget will land on the Governor's desk by the end of the session.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Josephson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.