



Representative Gary Knopp District 30

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House Republicans Oppose HB 57

The House Democrats, and those aligned with them, moved forward an operating budget that ultimately hurts Alaskans by growing government, lowering value in the permanent fund and relying on an income tax that has yet to be set in place.

HB57 increases state agency operations by \$8.3-million over the Governor's amended operating budget, to a total of \$4.6 billion. House Republican members strongly oppose growing

government when budgets need to be shrinking to fit the state's decreasing revenues.

Republicans offered \$140 million worth of floor amendments, and more than \$40 million in UGF savings in the House Finance Committee but instead, the House Republicans voices were silenced. Discussion about cuts came to a halting stop when an arbitrarily limited deadline for amendments was imposed on the House floor .

This budget is not sustainable and is not in the best interest of Alaskans.

I believe that before we reach into the pocket of the Alaskan people, we better be sure we are spending the public funds wisely.

House Bill 192

The House Republicans have offered a comprehensive fiscal plan with no income tax or Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) cap, after listening to concerns from Alaskans. The House Republican's proposal strives to reach a compromise that protects the economy and preserves the PFD.

The plan calls for a spending cap, phased cuts over four years, and the use of Permanent Fund earnings within a sustainable and structured frame-

work that protects and grows the Fund. Over the next four years House Republicans propose \$600 million in cuts, a \$4.1 billion spending cap, and a 5.25% POMV draw with 50 percent of the draw going towards Alaskans' PFDs.

This year's PFD could grow to \$1,900 and in 10 years be as large as \$2,300. Modelling shows that by Fiscal Year 2026, House Bill 192 protects and grows the Permanent

Fund while providing for essential services without depleting the Constitutional Budget Reserve.

House Bill 192 differs from other plans by prioritizing the health of Alaska's economy and strengthening the private sector.

Moving the Capitol, Better Access

In an effort to provide Alaskans with greater access to state government, Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard has proposed a bill to move the legislative session to the state's largest city.

The idea of moving the legislative session to Anchorage is due to not only to costs but for getting constituents, Alaskans more involved in the legislative process. In 2016 the cost to move legislators and staff to Juneau cost the state more

than \$485,000. A cost that could save the state money during this fiscal crisis.

"I would love looking back in the galley to see my community members watching the passage of bills and budgets. Things that impact everyone in the state," said Rep. Sullivan-Leonard. "Holding legislative session in Anchorage will allow a more open, transparent and inclusive process because the majority of

our state's population live along the road system."



The Alaska State Capitol Building

April Events Calendar

- 1st:** -Coffee with the Mayor, 9am at Kenai Community Library
- 4th:** -Kenai Rotary Luncheon, 12pm at Iditarod Café, Kenai, AK
- Kenai River Rotary Meeting, 6:30pm at Nikko Gardens Restaurant, Soldotna, AK
- 5th:** -Joint Kenai/Soldotna Luncheon, 12pm at Kenai Visitor Center
- 11th:** -Kenai Rotary Luncheon, 12pm at Iditarod Café, Kenai, AK
- Kenai River Rotary Meeting, 6:30pm at Nikko Gardens Restaurant, Soldotna, AK
- 13th:** -Soldotna Lions Club Meeting, 6pm at Acapulco Mexican Restaurant, Soldotna, AK
- 16th:** -Easter Brunch Buffet, 10am at Mykel's Restaurant, Soldotna, AK
- 18th:** -Kenai Rotary Luncheon, 12pm at Iditarod Café, Kenai, AK
- Kenai River Rotary Meeting, 6:30pm at Nikko Gardens Restaurant, Soldotna, AK
- 21st:** -150 Years: Kenai Peninsula History Conference, Kenai Peninsula College Kenai River Campus, Soldotna, AK
- 22nd:** -150 Years: Kenai Peninsula History Conference, Kenai Peninsula College Kenai River Campus, Soldotna, AK
- 25th:** -Kenai Rotary Luncheon, 12pm at Iditarod Café, Kenai, AK
- Kenai River Rotary Meeting, 6:30pm at Nikko Gardens Restaurant, Soldotna, AK
- 27th:** -Soldotna Lions Club Meeting, 6pm at Acapulco Mexican Restaurant, Soldotna, AK

Legislation to Watch!

HB 79: Omnibus Workers' Compensation

HB 79 moved from the Labor and Commerce Committee, without my support. I believe the definition is too narrow for industries and municipalities that rely on independent contractors for a variety of service, temporary and otherwise.

HB 115: Your Permanent Fund Dividend, Earnings Reserve Account and Income Tax

Currently in House Finance. Please share your opinion through public testimony.

House Bill 182

I introduced my own piece of legislation, House Bill 182, An act relating to the compensation for certain public officials, officers, and employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

This bill is not a short term pay freeze but a long term fix for sustainable person-

nel services and provides for substantial savings without the loss of jobs or salary cuts.

As a result of the 2008 pay restructure, a mid-level professional employee's salary would increase approximately 47.5 % from 2005 to 2015, this figure does not include

benefit increases. This level of increase in not sustainable, particularly now with the fiscal situation facing the state. Nor does it give any incentive for upward mobility while creating inequities in manager/ subordinate pay.



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