



2018 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

#1: BALANCED BUDGET

Government leaders need to pass a responsible budget, in a timely manner, balancing state revenue against expenses. Alaskans need a comprehensive, long-term, sustainable fiscal plan promising state funds to essential programs while looking ahead to strategic investing that will promote long-term economic growth.

#2: SUPPORT STAND FOR ALASKA COALITION

Stand for Alaska will work to inform fellow Alaskans of the real dangers of the potential ballot initiative, Stand for Salmon, namely the creation of a job-killing, community damaging regulation that would hurt the state's ability to develop many of its natural resources. Alaska has a robust permitting process already in place.

2018 ADVOCACY AGENDA

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



High energy costs are a barrier to economic opportunity in Interior Alaska. Affordable energy will encourage capital and infrastructure improvements and lower costs for residents and businesses.

Responsible development and management of Alaska's natural resources is critical to supporting a growing economy and improved quality of life for Alaskans. Environmental legislation and regulations should not increase the administrative burden, resulting in unnecessary rules, regulations or project delays that become cost prohibitive to business and development.

Affordable Energy

- Promote home and business energy audits and weatherization programs.
- Support the community's efforts to get natural gas to as many Interior Alaska customers as possible, at the lowest cost possible, as soon as possible through the Interior Energy Project.
- Support reasonable and prudent efforts to meet the federally imposed PM 2.5 regulations.
- Support efficient, affordable and reliable power production for Interior Alaska.

Resource Development

- Support development of a North Slope natural gas project that will provide competitive gas for both in-state consumption and export to foreign markets.
- Support long-term and stable state and federal fiscal, regulatory and tax policies that increase investment leading to more development and production of resources.
- State and federal regulatory and permitting laws should support exploration, site development, employment, infrastructure, research and production.
- Support legislation prohibiting severance taxes on metal mines.

Sustainability

- Pursue the development and balanced management of Alaska's natural resources including minerals, energy, agriculture, forestry and wildlife, while protecting Alaska for future generations.
- Support self-sustaining recycling efforts promoting wise stewardship.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Alaska's Interior will only thrive if the business and economic climate is healthy. The local economy is heavily dependent on a few key industries: health care, government, natural resource development and tourism. Diversification is important to the long-term sustainability of the Greater Fairbanks area.

Support the University of Alaska

Urge the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor to strongly support the University of Alaska as it undergoes a comprehensive review of programs and services via the UA Strategic Pathways framework, as adopted by the Board of Regents in 2016. The Chamber supports administrative efforts to reallocate resources from programs and services that are:

- not core to the university's strengths in meeting state needs;
- challenged by low enrollment, high cost, or insufficient faculty resources; or
- redundant programs.

Business Retention and Expansion

Identify opportunities for local businesses to expand operations, create jobs and diversify.

Arctic Opportunities

Promote economic development, improve health, safety and emergency response in Alaska's Arctic.

Criminal Justice Reform

Continue to support the development and implementation of legislation that will reduce recidivism through substance abuse treatment programs, prevention and supervision programs, while continuing to enhance public safety.

Community Development and Revitalization

Support the demolition plan for the Polaris Building in downtown Fairbanks and enhance the economy through Explore Fairbanks' efforts to develop a convention/performing arts center.

Arts Engagement

Promote the efforts of the arts community that make the Greater Fairbanks Area a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

2018 ADVOCACY AGENDA

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



To advocate for a well-educated, well-trained and readily available skilled workforce in order to support the needs of Interior Alaska businesses.

Policy Review

Review policy that impacts Alaska's educational communities via high quality educational options from early childhood to postsecondary in public, private, homeschool and higher education systems.

Workforce Development

Promote workforce training options/programs such as apprenticeship, certificate/endorsement and professional development in all sectors in an effort to improve, supplement and sustain the skill set of our local workforce.

Systematic Change

Advocate for a systemic change in the timing of budgeted state support for Alaska school districts and post-secondary institutions intended to promote consistency of personnel and continuity of programs.

Retirement System

Increase awareness about the need for a healthy state retirement system through management of the state's unfunded liability from the PERS and TRS retirement system.

Business Partnerships

Educate, encourage, mentor and support member-businesses that endeavor to provide work-based opportunities and educational training to students at the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Research and Development

Support the University of Alaska Fairbanks' research and development endeavors via public-private partnership.

HEALTH CARE



The Chamber supports health care reform that expands affordable access to meaningful coverage and improves quality of health care. The Chamber is focused on promoting education and awareness

opportunities that will help businesses address health care costs as well as promoting effective private sector solutions to address these challenges. The Chamber encourages reforms to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that provide relief to employers and employees. The health care system in its current form is unsustainable, absent significant reform.

Health Care Reform

Support ongoing health care and Medicaid reform and implementation in order to lower the cost of health care and support a long-term solution to sustain small businesses and the individual marketplace in Alaska, both for the state and business owners.

Education and Awareness

Facilitate educational opportunities to assist small and medium sized businesses address health care costs and premiums.

Workers' Compensation Reform

Improve the balance between providing timely, efficient and fair compensation to injured workers at a reasonable cost to employers.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Support reforms that provide relief to employers and employees by: reducing premiums, restoring the 40-hour work week, repealing taxes that increase premiums and improve flexibility for tax-preferred accounts.

MILITARY AFFAIRS



Develop, maintain and support cooperative and beneficial partnerships between the military and Interior Alaska businesses that stimulate regional economic growth; promote the capabilities and sustainability of our Interior military installations; and support our servicemen and women, their families and their role in defending our nation's interests.

Military Development and Operations

- Support efforts to establish military facility zones as a vehicle to obtain and administer funds for business development specifically relating to military activities.
- Continue to support efforts to advance military operations on all Interior military installations.
- Support military-community compatible land use and air space proposals to assist the missions of local military installations.
- Promote Military Community Partnership programs with private businesses and the use of local contractors for federal military projects.
- Collaborate with Interior military installations and contractors to prepare the community for LRDR, F-35's and improved missile defense.

Service Members

- Assist veterans, retirees, transitioning service members and military spouses in finding employment opportunities.
- Support Interior National Guard and Reserve activities and efforts.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE



The ability to meet the current and growing demands of transportation and infrastructure needs is critical to the long-term economic development and job growth potential for Interior Alaska. Without the ability to effectively and efficiently move goods, services and people throughout the state, businesses cannot compete and succeed.

Transportation Funding

- Reinststate funding for the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System.
- Support revenue for maintenance, enhancements and efficiencies within Alaska's transportation infrastructure.
- Support the creation of an Alaska transportation infrastructure funding program .
- Encourage the U.S. Congress to secure viable, long-term solutions for the Federal Highway Trust Fund and the Federal Aviation Trust Fund.

Transportation Hub

Enhance Fairbanks as the transportation hub for Interior and Northern Alaska.

Fiscal Engagement

Monitor state and federal budgeting to ensure priority infrastructure projects receive adequate attention.



greater
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WE COMMIT TO:

ADVOCACY - To advocate for and work toward the best environment possible for businesses, big and small, to survive and thrive in the Greater Fairbanks Area.

PROMOTION - To create awareness that drives economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska.

DEVELOPMENT - To be an informational resource and a networking hub where enterprising people can use and share knowledge.

Through advocacy, we will affect policy that creates an ideal environment for businesses of all sizes to prosper in our region while promoting businesses throughout the community and fostering the development of resources that position the Chamber as a hub of information and connections. The Chamber will find success by keeping these goals in balance and our community will thrive when we capitalize on the interactions between them.

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MORE ADVOCACY MATERIALS AND
RESOURCES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.**