

*MUNICIPALITY OF
ANCHORAGE*

**2008
LEGISLATIVE
PROGRAM**

*“Building Anchorage for this and
the Next Generation of Alaskans”*



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2008 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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2008 Legislative Program

(State Fiscal Year 2009)

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Building Anchorage for this and the Next Generation of Alaskans

Executive Summary

This booklet summarizes the legislative priorities for the Municipality of Anchorage for State Fiscal Year 2009.

With nearly half the state's population, Anchorage is the business and transportation hub for Alaska. What happens in Anchorage affects much of the rest of Alaska, from expansion of the Port of Anchorage to construction of a new "Highway to Highway" transportation connection.

Anchorage recognizes its dominant role in Alaska's well being and our citizens have invested millions of dollars in our city through local taxes to improve it for all Alaskans. At the same time, we are grateful to our state legislative delegation and Alaska's congressional delegation for millions of dollars in assistance. We have leveraged these funds to match local investments in improving transportation, commerce, public buildings, roads, and parks and recreational facilities.

Still, Anchorage's infrastructure needs remain considerable, with congested roads, deteriorating public facilities and population growth requiring additional public services. Anchorage's capital budget needs have been identified through work with community councils, members of the Assembly and discussions with our state legislators.

For State Fiscal Year 2009, the Municipality of Anchorage has the following top priorities:

- *Protect the safety of Anchorage residents;*
- *Relieve congestion on Anchorage roads and improve public facilities;*
- *Improve the economy so Anchorage and other Alaska residents have job opportunities;*
- *Hold the line on tax for Anchorage taxpayers and secure long-term state funding for communities;*
- *Improve public health.*

Following the summary, this legislative priority program is divided into three sections. These include:

1. *Municipal Priority Issues for State Legislation,*
2. *Municipal Operating Requests and*
3. *Municipal Capital Funding Requests.*

For ease of use of this publication, a project index is included for the first time which lists each project by legislative district and its page number.

This is followed by copies of the legislative priorities of the Anchorage School District and University of Alaska Anchorage. Further information on this program is available from the officials listed on the inside cover.

Anchorage School District priorities

The Municipality supports the Anchorage School District's legislative request. ASD is a key partner with the Municipality and University of Alaska Anchorage is preparing young Alaskans for the challenges of an increasingly global marketplace.

University of Alaska Anchorage priorities

The Municipality supports UAA's capital project priorities as essential to advancing Anchorage's education system and economic opportunities for local residents.

UAA's Anchorage Campus Capital and Operating Priorities

The proposed FY09 operating and capital budget request provides for minimum facilities, maintenance and program support necessary to address UAA's incredible growth and Alaska's demand for highly-trained professionals in the Health and Engineering fields. A pre-requisite to growing these priority programs is funding to cover existing programs and services. Additionally, investment in university research, in student success strategies and in outreach programs supports all Alaska communities.

UAA's capital, program enhancement and growth funding requests are packages that focus on the strategic areas of Health, Engineering and Student Success.