

2026 MOA Legislative Program – DRAFT

PRIORITIES

The 2026 Legislative Program of the Municipality of Anchorage is guided by the overarching goal of ensuring that Anchorage remains **safe, secure, and affordable**. Our top priority for the 2026 Legislative Session is to obtain **capital support for the Don Young Port of Alaska Modernization Program** (PAMP).

Mayor Suzanne LaFrance and the Anchorage Assembly appreciate your support. More information on the Municipality's Legislative priorities can be found at:

Mayor Suzanne LaFrance

Christopher Constant, Chair

District 1, North Anchorage

Anna Brawley, Vice Chair

District 3, West Anchorage

Erin Baldwin Day

District 4, Midtown

Scott Myers

District 2, Eagle River, Chugiak & JBER

Jared Goecker

District 2, Eagle River, Chugiak & JBER

Kameron Perez-Verdia

District 3, West Anchorage

Zac Johnson

District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood &
Turnagain Arm

Felix Rivera

District 4, Midtown

George Martinez

District 5, East Anchorage

Yarrow Silvers

District 5, East Anchorage

Keith McCormick

District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood &
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TOP REQUEST: PORT OF ALASKA MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

The Municipality has updated its comprehensive Don Young Port of Alaska Modernization Project (PAMP) Plan of Finance and issued \$180 million in revenue bonds. These bonds require surcharges on cargo, cement, and petroleum which raise the cost of goods throughout the state. The Port serves 90% of the state population across more than 150 communities.

Our primary ask for the Port is your continued partnership in financially supporting the PAMP to reduce the negative impact of surcharges statewide as we proceed with the \$1.9 billion project to replace the two cargo terminals. In the event that the Legislature considers a general obligation bond package, we request \$200 million of state investment to ensure continued, cost-effective access to food, fuel, and freight for Alaska residents.

SAFE

The Municipality is committed to ensuring that Anchorage is a safe place to live, work, and visit by strengthening public safety services, supporting first responders, and investing in community-based approaches that prevent crime and promote wellbeing.

Budget Requests

APD Real-Time Crime Center Capital

The Real-Time Crime Center is a hub connecting up to 750 camera feeds to a centralized network. It allows for faster responses and better public safety coverage across the Municipality. A capital request of \$1.5 million would allow for the purchase of equipment to continue developing the center.

Blight Reduction Funding

The Municipality has targeted over two hundred derelict structures for remediation or demolition. These buildings, abandoned and left in a state of decay, represent a blight on our community and become hot spots for vagrancy, drug use, and other nefarious activity. They require constant attention from APD, AFD and Code Enforcement, resulting in an enormous drain of municipal resources and decreased neighborhood viability. Request: \$1 million.

Fund the Community Assistance Program

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Make a full contribution for 2026 and fully recapitalize the Community Assistance Fund. These funds will be used to support public safety via the Police and Fire Departments, which together account for nearly half of the Municipal operating budget.

Fund Unmanned Aerial Systems for Emergency Capabilities \$200,000

The Municipality is requesting a one-time \$200,000 investment to launch a proof-of-concept unmanned aircraft system (UAS) program with one to two drones for the Anchorage Fire Department. The pilot would fund aircraft, equipment, training, and other startup costs. It will enable testing of early wildfire detection while improving situational awareness and evacuation monitoring. The program will also support other emergency response efforts.

Statutory Changes

Inflation Adjust E911 Surcharge

The E911 surcharge supports emergency dispatch services for first responders. The surcharge on wired and wireless lines has not been adjusted for inflation for several years as operating costs have increased. In addition to adjusting for inflation, the Municipality requests the statute be revised to expand the allowable uses, and ensure the charge applies to voice over IP (VOIP) systems.

Restore Defined Benefit Pensions for Public Employees: HB 78/ SB 28

Public employees often leave Alaska to work in other states offering defined benefit pensions. This has been especially difficult for police officers and firefighters as the Municipality. Pass legislation restoring defined benefit pensions for public employees to improve recruitment and retention.

SECURE

Anchorage's future depends on resilience and secure infrastructure. The Municipality will continue to prioritize modernization of essential systems—such as public health, utilities, transportation, and the Port of Alaska—to withstand disruptions and support long-term community stability.

Budget Requests

Chugach State Park Access Study

A Chugach State Park Access Study will identify and guide capital improvement projects that improve access to Chugach State Park, with a focus on Chugach State Park Access Service Area (CASA). The study will consider broad stakeholder feedback across CASA, and

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recommendations may include roadway, parking lot, trailhead, and trail projects.
Estimated cost: \$250,000.

Statutory Changes

Increase Rates for General Relief for Assisted Living

Many unhoused individuals with disabilities end up in homeless shelters that are unable to provide the support they need. An increase in the rates paid by General Relief Assistance for assisted living could help them secure a more suitable arrangement.

Amend Statutes Concerning Utility Rate Setting

Allow utilities to include more kinds of infrastructure upgrades (“vertical plant,” like water treatment facilities, not just pipes and lines) in the Plant Replacement and Improvement Surcharge Mechanism (PRISM). This change would allow utilities to recoup the costs of small capital projects through rate-setting—enabling more housing development.

Administrative Actions

Prioritized Winter Road Maintenance Coordination

As Alaska’s hub and economic center this movement of people and goods not only effects the residents of Anchorage, but also the residents of all Alaska. This is exemplified by the state-owned roads leading to and from the Port of Alaska through midtown and connecting to the State Highway system and the roads leading to Anchorage International Airport. These and other key state-owned routes are among the most traveled roads in Anchorage and should be equal in priority to the Seward and Glenn Highway system for winter maintenance efforts.

Fully Staff Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Central Region

Removing the hiring freeze for positions that design and manage projects will help AKDOT&PF and MOA collectively serve Anchorage and implement projects more effectively.

AFFORDABLE

Anchorage must remain a place where residents and families can afford to live and thrive. The Municipality will pursue policies that reduce the cost of living, expand housing options, and promote economic opportunity across all neighborhoods.

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Budget Requests

Waste To Energy (Renewable Energy Fund)

The Municipality’s proposed Waste to Energy (WTE) facility would augment current electrical supply by generating 20-30 MW of stable, reliable power, while extending the life of the Anchorage Regional Landfill by up to 100 years and providing significant additional financial and non-financial benefits for Anchorage, the state of Alaska, and JBER. The Municipality is requesting \$2 million through the Renewable Energy Fund for predevelopment work that will inform technical specifications, site location, compliance standards, and stakeholder engagement.

Weatherization Funding

With Anchorage facing potential natural gas shortages and an aging housing stock, many homes require significant energy-efficiency upgrades. Supporting a residential weatherization program targeted at mobile homes—through Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) or a similar partner—would provide meaningful relief for residents.

Statutory Changes

Attainable Housing

Develop new mechanisms through Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) and AHFC to provide gap financing and patient capital for housing development. Allow the AIDEA Loan Participation Program to be used for financing multifamily housing development. Increase funding available through grant programs to fund supportive and affordable housing.

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DISTRICT PRIORITIES

In addition to the Municipality's areawide priorities, there are also local needs that the State can address to improve the quality of life at the neighborhood level. These projects are all highly prioritized by the residents in the surrounding areas.

DISTRICT 1: NORTH ANCHORAGE

DISTRICT 2: JBER, CHUGIAK AND EAGLE RIVER

DISTRICT 3: WEST ANCHORAGE

DISTRICT 4: MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 5: EAST ANCHORAGE

DISTRICT 6: SOUTH ANCHORAGE, TURNAGAIN ARM AND GIRDWOOD