

ASSEMBLY MEMBER **GEORGE MARTINEZ**

# Penny for Progress

**Strategic Investment Plan for Anchorage**



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# Anchorage at a Crossroads

We face a pivotal choice:

- . Invest in essential public systems
- . Or continue a cycle of deferred maintenance, decaying infrastructure and stagnant workforce housing.

**! We must act. No one is coming to save us. It's time for a new way to invest in ourselves.**

# Introducing Penny for Progress

A simple, transparent, and permanent 1% sales tax—anchored by the Anchorage Economic Development Framework AR 2025-159:



**Truth** – Clear, factual economic realities



**Stackable ROI** – Measurable, layered returns



**Preemptive Resiliency** – Invest now or pay more later



**Equity** – Broad contribution, broad benefit

# What Penny for Progress Does

- ✓ Flat 1% sales tax
- ✓ Permanent Voter Approved (standalone—not subject to political cycles)
- ✓ No cap per transaction
- ✓ Only state-mandated exemptions (e.g., groceries, medicine)
- ✓ 30% or more of revenue expected from visitors & non-residents

# How the Revenue Is Used



## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND

Roads, sidewalks, snow systems, utilities – Measurable ROI & public visibility



## WORKFORCE HOUSING TRUST





Infrastructure support to unlock new housing – Aligned with the 10,000 Homes in 10 Years



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STABILIZATION

Beyond crisis response, supportive facilities – Reduces long-term emergency service costs

# Built for Accountability

-  Annual Reporting to the public with 5 year program review
-  Citizen Oversight Committee
-  Public Dashboard for tracking every dollar
-  Amendment Pathway for future proposals—but only with voter approval

# Why Now? The Truth

- Federal/state support is shrinking
- Grants are competitive, unreliable
- Infrastructure liabilities are growing
- Relying only on property tax is **unsustainable**

 **We can't run a first-class city on old revenue models that didn't pay for the cost of the liabilities that we've inherited today.**

# Stackable ROI for a Stronger City



Invest a penny, gain a future



New infrastructure enables housing, business, and tourism



Each dollar works across sectors—housing, health, economy



Unlock matching dollars from grants and partners



# Preemptive Resiliency



Every snow berm, every pothole we delay costs more later



Deferred maintenance = exponential cost



The longer we wait, the more expensive it gets



Penny for Progress gets ahead of some of our current problems

# Equity & Shared Contribution



Everyone contributes—including visitors



Businesses benefit from improved infrastructure



Neighborhoods benefit from visible upgrades



No carve-outs or loopholes for special interests

# What Penny for Progress Is Not

- ✗ It's not a gimmick
- ✗ It's not temporary
- ✗ It's not just for downtown
- ✗ It's not an open-ended promise
- ✗ It is not a tax cut for the wealthy at the expense of low-income and working families
- ✓ **It is a targeted, trackable, trust-based investment strategy**
- ✓ **It anchors local jobs and keeps revenue local and working**
- ✓ **It reduces the pressure on property owners**

# Let's Build Anchorage Together

In 5 years, Anchorage can become:

- The most walkable, connected northern city
- A hub of safe, resilient infrastructure
- A place where working families thrive and can afford to live
- A community that invests in itself

 Let's fix what we have and move forward—one penny at a time.



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