

# ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Christopher Constant, Chair · Meg Zaletel, Vice Chair

Anna Brawley · Karen Bronga · Kevin Cross · Zac Johnson · George Martinez  
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# 2024 PROGRESS REPORT

## 2023 Accomplishments continued

### PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

Committees: Public Safety, Health Policy

- Secured **permanent funding for AFD Mobile Crisis Team and APD Mobile Intervention Team**
- Funded **\$1.25M increase for snow removal in 2024** and held briefings with state and municipal teams to improve snow removal
- Secured **federal grant for AFD tree removal & wildfire prevention**
- Funded **body worn cameras and successfully pushed for implementation**
- Funded **fleet upgrades for Anchorage, Chugiak and Girdwood fire departments**
- Approved **new contract for police** with increased wages, to start in 2024
- Sent to voters a significant **Park bond** and **Chugach State Park Access Service Area (CASA)** to allow future bonds for access to Chugach State Park (both approved)
- Made **Juneteenth and Indigenous Peoples' Day official MOA holidays**
- Authorized **paid parental leave program for MOA employees**
- Funded **grants for early education and child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence prevention** programs through the alcohol tax
- Furthered the process for **creating new cemeteries in Eagle River and Girdwood**
- Closed the **Sullivan Arena** as a shelter and **returned it to community use**

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Committees: CEDC, Enterprise & Utilities

- **Port Modernization** – PCT opened, approved Basis-of-Design and tariff structure, hosted visit from US DOT Secretary Buttigieg
- Made it **easier for bars and restaurants to offer outdoor seating**
- Sent Charter amendment to voters (passed) to use **marijuana tax proceeds for childcare and early education**; began implementation
- **Updated Anchorage alcohol codes** to bring into conformance with new State law
- Moved to **2-yr licensing for marijuana** retailers
- Utilized government-to-government relationship with **Native Village of Eklutna to advocate for full restoration of Eklutna River**

### QUALITY MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Committee: Budget & Finance

- Passed **Online Checkbook** to put MOA spending into **public online dashboard**
- Launched **education campaign on how alcohol tax funds are spent**
- Closely **monitored FEMA earthquake and COVID reimbursements**; ~98% secured
- Sent Charter amendment to voters (passed) and **created MOA Trust Fund Board**
- Updated process for **naming public facilities** and **created a Naming Commission**
- Updated **MOA drug testing policy**
- Cleaned up Board/Commission appointments and **verified MOA sole source contracts**

### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Committee: Housing & Homelessness

- **Simplified site access, residential design standards and process to convert hotels to housing; opened former Golden Lion** as low income housing; **introduced HOME initiative**
- Sent to voters: add powers to **Girdwood Service Area to promote local housing** (passed)
- Held **Housing Action Week** and **approved Assembly Housing Action Plan** to bring community together in the work to solve Anchorage's housing shortage crisis
- Funded pilot to turn **vacant/abandoned buildings** into **affordable housing**; launched **Housing Fund**
- **Updated Downtown Plan**, downtown code & R 4-A zone to encourage gentle density
- Sent to voters: increase **residential property tax exemption** to \$75k (passed)
- Hosted U.S. HUD Secretary Fudge visit & **secured commitment to improve MOA housing funding**
- Continued to **fulfill goals of Anchored Home through funding** navigation and outreach services, Providence Crisis Stabilization Center, shelter operations, congregate and non-congregate shelters
- Launched Clean Slate task forces **to engage community in homelessness solutions**
- Held statewide leadership summit and **created a plan for complex behavioral needs** of people experiencing homelessness
- Worked alongside Admin to **fund cold weather shelter** utilizing hotels, & **stood up the 56th Ave Shelter**

### ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Committees: Rules, Ethics & Elections

- Approved Assembly communications plan, **launched Housing newsletter** and **added 688 subscribers to newsletter**
- Onboarded 2 temporary members, 2 youth reps, 5 new members and a Municipal Clerk, increased training for Assembly Members
- Seamlessly **implemented an election under newly reapportioned districts**
- **Helped constituents & community councils** navigate drainage, permitting, traffic calming and other neighborhood issues
- Conducted **annual update to Title 28 election code and Observer Handbook**

### INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

Committees: Enterprise & Utilities, Transportation

- Updated traffic laws **to promote safety for pedestrians & bicyclists**
- Funded **Vision Zero Coordinator** for safety of vulnerable road users
- Compiled and adopted **recommendations for 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** and 2024-27 **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**
- Launched Assembly Transportation Committee
- Created the **first ever protected bike lane pilot** program with community partners
- **Funded a long-range transportation policy** and implementation has begun



# 2024 PRIORITIES

## HOUSING ACTION

communicate and take action to achieve the vision for affordable, diverse and abundant housing

## MUNICIPAL WORKFORCE

support recruitment and retention of a productive and qualified municipal workforce

## PORT OF ALASKA MODERNIZATION

support rapid timeline that launches Phase II construction by summer 2024

## PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

fund public safety & mental health services and invest in outdoor and public spaces

## QUALITY MUNICIPAL SERVICES

closely monitor service delivery to ensure high quality, accessible, and transparent municipal operations

As of 3/1/24: = Complete = In Progress

## HOUSING ACTION

[WWW.ANCHORAGEHOUSINGACTION.ORG](http://WWW.ANCHORAGEHOUSINGACTION.ORG)

- Finalize **HOME Initiative to simplify residential zoning**
- Launch a program to **track short-term rentals**
- Develop a program for **third party review for commercial development**
- Reduce hurdles for rehabbing old buildings** that have nonconforming characteristics
- Review open space requirements** for multi-family housing
- Create **catalog of pre-approved residential building plans**

- Adjust **Planning appeal fees**
- Investigate **infrastructure funding** solutions
- Review and update **Residential Design Standards**
- Continue to **utilize vacant and abandoned buildings for housing**
- Investigate and update **tax incentives for housing development** and upgrades
- Create **code "safe harbor" program to encourage development of old housing stock**
- Refine Code to **reduce building costs & processing time**

## QUALITY MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- **Wage increases for MOA employees**
- See **MOA fully staffed**
- Update **Public Records** code to bring to date **with current technologies** (video & electronic)
- Ensure **full implementation of Online Checkbook**
- **Review of code for community councils** for procedures of operation to ensure a system that adds value
- **Review and update MOA hiring practices** to ensure greater recruitment and retention

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Establish Anchorage Metropolitan Area Projects** program for sales tax (w/ AEDC)
- Continue to **improve and simplify Muni processes and regulations on business**
- Codify and **confirm appointments for new Anchorage Child Care and Early Education Fund** Accountability Board, to provide robust recommendations for marijuana tax revenue for early childhood education for FY25 budget
- **Understand and address economic disparity in Anchorage**

## HOMELESSNESS

- Create **public dashboard** on Assembly home page **of homelessness data and metrics** to drive data-based decision making
- Ensure **Emergency Cold Weather Shelter is funded through 23-24 winter**, with a smooth transition to summer operations
- Identify **sustainable policy and funding for emergency cold weather shelter**
- Prioritize housing investments & policies to **reduce number of people experiencing homelessness** and demand for shelter
- Continue to **implement the recommendations from the Complex Behavioral Health Task Force** report
- **Refine camp abatement code** and prepare for US Supreme Court ruling

## ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

- **Join people together to solve local problems** and help residents engage in local government
- Adopt **Assembly Code of Ethics & Conduct**
- Establish **equitable funding for Legislative branch**
- Build and strengthen **relationships with State & Federal counterparts**
- Continue to build systems and **strengthen branch to make it a desirable place to serve and work**
- Rollout Assembly **meeting public engagement improvements**, including production upgrades and civic engagement materials
- Secure at least 2 MOA **requests to state legislature**
- Develop **strategic plan for equitable & effective use of the alcohol tax**
- Improve CIP and CIB process to **broaden input from community on capital project priorities**

## PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

- See **APD and AFD fully staffed**
- Revise purpose & composition of Public Safety Advisory Commission** (sunsets Oct. 2024)
- Continue **wildfire mitigation and response**
- Continue to push for **AFD Mobile Crisis and APD Mobile Intervention Teams to 24/7 service**
- Continue **monitoring of Body Worn Camera** implementation for Police Department
- Determine a **path for Eklutna River Restoration** that includes full dam removal
- **Invest in housing, parks and trails** as crown jewels of a city in which we live, work and play
- Hold State of Alaska accountable to increase the Base Student Allocation** and address inequities in Anchorage funding formula

## INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

- Complete a decision on **design for both Terminals 1 and 2 in Port of Alaska Modernization** program
- **Snow Planning** - review various snow removal plan costs (84hr, 72hr, 48hr) in terms of labor, equipment, etc.
- **Assume snow plowing and funding of all state roads** except Glenn, Minnesota and New Seward
- Increase **investment in safe streets**, road maintenance, and non-motorized modes
- **Revive the Stormwater Utility plan** and identify sources for infrastructure funding
- Secure local control of **5th/6th Avenues**

## 2024 GOALS