

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2011 STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

- **REVENUE SHARING:**

We recommend the Governor include in his budget recommendation, a one-time COLA to Revenue Sharing, based on the cumulative Anchorage CPI for 2007 through 2010, with appropriation of said funds.

- **UNFUNDED MANDATES:**

We believe that any state or federal legislation, or rule, that requires an implementation or operation cost, shall be fully funded by the implementing agency. This includes "optional" exemptions handed down to local governments that will diminish the local tax base.

- **ENERGY:**

We believe the Legislature must aggressively facilitate affordable energy for all Alaskans through:

1. The support of oil and gas, as it remains the primary source of energy for most of Alaska;
2. The encouragement of connectivity between communities, as well as incentives for energy project funding;
3. An actual time certain process that selects and prioritizes projects;
4. Full funding of the PCE (Power Cost Equalization) Endowment fund through joint congressional and state appropriations;

- **PERS:**

We support a sustainable salary base to pay off the PERS unfunded obligations. AS 39.35.625, and any other similar statutes or regulations that require termination studies, should be repealed. Simply following AS 39.35.255(a)(2), amended with inflation adjustment language, will provide a more efficient, cost effective and equitable method of ensuring that the required PERS salary base is maintained.

- **TRANSPORTATION:**

We believe the Legislature should implement:

1. The dedication of funds for the Alaska Transportation Infrastructure Fund;
2. A matching grant component for acquiring federal funds and to help local governments to develop otherwise financially difficult projects;
3. A local government seat at the table during allocation considerations of the Transportation Infrastructure Fund.

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2011 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT):**
We support full funding of the PILT program, to the authorized levels of P.L. 103-379 (over 300 million nationwide).
- **SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (SRS/ TIMBER RECEIPTS):**
We support the reauthorization and enhancement of the Secure Rural Schools program (PL 110-343). Reauthorization should maintain coupling between payments to boroughs and active natural resource management; and the connection between sustainable natural resource management and the stability and well being of forest boroughs and communities.
- **CLEAN WATER ACT:**
While supporting Clean Water Act provisions that protect wetland habitats and rivers and streams of Alaska, we do not support federal efforts to change the definition of the Clean Water Act from navigable waters to “waters of the United States,” and also oppose federal efforts to further expand the authority and responsibilities of the federal agencies in regard to these waters.
- **ARCTIC ISSUES:**
We support ratification of the United Nation’s Convention on the Law of the Sea. Until that ratification takes place, the US cannot participate in deliberations which affect the national security; environmental concerns relating to the use of the seas; and to economic development for Alaska’s coastal communities.
- **LAND USE DESIGNATIONS:**
We oppose decisions on land use designations that are not completely reviewed through the proper Congressional system already in place.
- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS:**
We support full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program to state and local governments.
- **DENALI COMMISSION:**
We support reauthorization and appropriation of the Denali Commission to further construct and improve much-needed infrastructure throughout the State, especially in rural areas.