

HB 377 Backup

City of Fairbanks Legislative Priorities

Introduced by: Mayor O'Neall
Councilmember Therrien
Councilmember Ringstad
Date: November 10, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 5192, AS AMENDED

A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks appreciates any support and funding from the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the following legislative, operational, and capital priorities, and the public had an opportunity to hear about these priorities and to provide comment on the priorities at the regular City Council meeting of November 10, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL that the 2026 legislative, operational, and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are as follows:

2026 Priority Legislation

- Update AS 40.25.110 to allow for fees to be applied for any video copying and/or editing required for a public records request.
- Adjust legislation around child abandonment laws to allow for "baby boxes."

2026 Operational Priorities

- **Reduce the municipalities'** Maintain a PERS rate of 22% or less for municipalities.
- Maintain a balance of \$90 million in the Community Assistance Fund.
- Maintain SART funding for to help communities meet testing liabilities.
- Require a natural gas line spur to Fairbanks at no expense to the community.
- Allow Tier 1, 2, and 3 PERS retirees to continue to collect retirement if they return to work to fill critical shortages under Tier 4.
- Mitigate municipalities' liability regarding the PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination and fund remediation efforts for PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination.
- Prioritize the development and expansion of a crisis behavioral health system in the **Fairbanks community** State of Alaska.

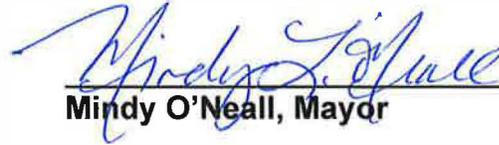
2026 Capital Priorities

- Provide \$800,000 for Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) compliant radios required by State of Alaska system upgrade.
- ~~Design and establish an Interior Alaska Regional Emergency Vehicle Operation Course track.~~
- ~~Provide \$1.5 million to refurbish the heating system in the historic City Hall.~~
- ~~Provide \$980,000 for event and emergency response barricades.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the Governor, ~~and the Interior Alaska Legislative Delegation,~~ and our representatives in Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is effective six days after adoption.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 10th day of November 2025.



Mindy O'Neall, Mayor

AYES: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: November 10, 2025

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk



for Thomas Chard, City Attorney
Kaylee Stickel, Deputy City Attorney

2026 Priority Legislation

- **Update AS 40.25.110 to allow for fees to be applied for any video copying and/or editing required for a public records request.**

One of the most frequent record requests to the City of Fairbanks is for body/vehicle/interview-room camera footage from the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). While the FPD appreciates the ability to share these videos, the department must block out any identifying information that the requestor is not authorized to have. This information can include bystander faces, license plates, identification cards, etc. The video editing required for even a simple traffic stop can be quite time-consuming and expensive. Currently AS 40.25.110 only allows for fees to be collected for personnel costs of requests that exceed five person-hours in a calendar month, and other fees cannot exceed the standard unit cost of duplication. The City of Fairbanks requests that the State amend AS 40.25.110 to allow public agencies to establish a per-hour fee for video record requests.

- **Adjust legislation around child abandonment laws to allow for “baby boxes.”**

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes Program prevents illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers-in-crisis, and offering a last-resort surrender option. The primary purpose of the program is to eliminate infant death by abandonment. The use of baby boxes in the Interior will offer a method for preventing infant death due to abandonment.

2026 Operational Priorities

- **Reduce the municipalities' PERS rate of 22%.**

The majority of the 22% municipalities are mandated to pay goes to retire the legacy debt of the original defined benefit retirement plan (PERS). From FY2008 to FY2023, all PERS employers (State and municipalities) have paid an additional \$7.7 billion toward the unfunded liability. Locally, the FNSB and two cities within have paid \$132.2 million for their share of this liability. These payments, unfortunately, will continue for years to come. This is possibly the largest financial fiasco in the State's history. The municipalities had a reasonable expectation that the State would be proper stewards of these funds and learned far too late that this was incorrect. If State leaders truly feel that the new DB program will work, then we request that all municipalities be exempt from paying off any new debt created by this new plan. This would be fair, as the City of Fairbanks has no control over the management of these funds.