

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**MARCH 18, 2026
5:15 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sara Hannan, Chair
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative DeLena Johnson
Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Calvin Schrage
Representative Louise Stutes
Senator Matt Claman
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Senator Jesse Kiehl

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Gary Stevens, Vice Chair
Representative Donna Mears (alternate)
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Löki Tobin (alternate)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
SANCTIONING OF CHARITABLE EVENTS
COMMITTEE BUSINESS
EXECUTIVE SESSION

SPEAKER REGISTER

Jessica Geary, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs
Agency (LAA)
JC Kestel, Procurement Officer, LAA

I. Call to Order

[5:17:59 PM](#)

CHAIR HANNAN called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 5:17pm on March 18, 2026, in Room 519 (House Finance) of the State Capitol.

Present at the call were Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Johnson, Kopp, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl.

Eleven members present.

II. Approval of the Agenda

[5:19:00 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed without objection.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. February 11, 2026

[5:19:19 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the minutes dated February 11, 2026, as presented.

The motion passed without objection.

IV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events

a. Sham Jam 2026 SEAGLA Fundraiser

b. Legislative Skits Big Brothers/Big Sisters/AWARE Fundraiser

[5:19:47 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council ratify the Chair's sanctioning of the following charitable events per AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B):

1. Sham Jam 2026 SEAGLA Fundraiser
2. Legislative Skits Big Brothers/Big Sisters/AWARE Fundraiser

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and stated that the 501(c)(3) nonprofit status of the organizations has been verified.

There was no further discussion, Chair Hannan removed her objection, and the sanctioning of the two charitable events was ratified.

V. Committee Business

a. Fairbanks LIO Lease Extension

[5:20:47 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved that Legislative Council approve the lease extension with Global Federal Credit Union for Fairbanks office space in the amount of \$242,151.24.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Procurement Officer JC Kestel to come forward and provide information on the lease extension.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA), stated that the current lease with Global Federal Credit Union and the Legislative Affairs Agency, for the Interior delegation office in Fairbanks, is set to expire on July 31, 2026, with no remaining renewal options. He explained that under AS 36.30.083, a lease may be extended up to ten years if a market value report establishes that the negotiated rate is at least 10% below market value.

He reported that a market value analysis of the Fairbanks office space, conducted by Black-Smith, Bethard, and Carlson, LLC, determined a rental rate of \$2.55 per square foot for the property. He stated that the Agency negotiated with the lessor a rate 12.5% below market value for the full-service lease, which includes utilities and janitorial services, and is requesting approval to extend the lease.

CHAIR HANNAN noted that the lease extension is for five years with five additional one-year renewal options, allowing for a potential total of ten years.

SENATOR CLAMAN asked whether the lease extension proposal had been discussed with Global Federal Credit Union.

MR. KESTEL responded that the Agency negotiated the rate of \$2.23 per square foot with Global Federal Credit Union and that the lessor is aware that Legislative Council approval is required before proceeding.

SENATOR CLAMAN followed up to confirm that, while the Agency is authorized to offer that amount, the lease would not be finalized until Legislative Council approval is granted.

MR. KESTEL confirmed that yes, the Agency works with the Chair on the proposal and, if approved by the committee, would then proceed to finalize the lease.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK thanked Mr. Kestel for his work on the lease, noting that finding comparable space in Fairbanks is difficult. She stated that the Fairbanks LIO is heavily used during the interim, with multiple offices staffed and in regular use, and expressed appreciation for efforts to identify options and negotiate a favorable rate with the current lessor.

CHAIR HANNAN noted that the Fairbanks LIO does have the most non-district staff assignments, with staff from multiple regions based there. She stated that while space has been limited, requiring conversion of storage and conference rooms to accommodate staff, the location is in high demand with folks who make their homebase in Fairbanks during the interim.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Hannan removed her objection, and a roll call vote was taken.

[5:26:38 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Johnson, Kopp, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl

NAYS: none

The motion passed 11-0.

VI. Executive Session

a. ITB 686—Capitol Carpet Removal and Installation

CHAIR HANNAN stated that Council would now go into Executive Session to discuss Invitation to Bid (ITB) 686 for Capitol Carpet Removal and Installation.

[5:27:41 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved that Legislative Council go into Executive Session under Uniform Rule 22(B)(1), discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit and 22(B)(3), discussion of a matter that may, by law, be required to be confidential. The following people may remain in the room or on-line for the executive session: Jessica Geary, Santé Lesh, Sabrina Javier, JC Kestel, Tim Powers, Serge Lesh, Emily Nauman, Helen Phillips, Tallulah Lastufka, and any legislators not on Legislative Council, and any staff of Legislative Council members.

[5:28:28 PM](#)

Council went into Executive Session.

[5:37:34 PM](#)

Council came out of Executive Session.

[5:37:41 PM](#)

Roll was taken to establish a quorum. Present at the call were Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Johnson, Kopp, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl.

Eleven members present.

a. ITB 686—Capitol Carpet Removal and Installation

[5:38:29 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved that Legislative Council authorize the award of ITB 686 to Rainbow Builders, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$77,350.00.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Procurement Officer JC Kestel to provide information on the ITB.

[5:38:53 PM](#)

MR. KESTEL stated that ITB 686 was issued to solicit bids for carpet replacement in the House Finance Committee room, Senate Finance Committee room, second floor hallway, Senate chambers, and House chambers. He reported that the ITB closed on March 11, 2026, and one responsive bid was received from Rainbow Builders Inc. He stated that the bid met the minimum requirements and that the Agency is requesting approval to award the contract to Rainbow Builders Inc.

Seeing no questions, Chair Hannan removed her objection, and a roll call vote was taken.

[5:39:57 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Johnson, Kopp, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl

NAYS: none

The motion passed 11-0.

VII. Adjourn

CHAIR HANNAN took a moment to note before adjourning this meeting that Ms. Santé Lesh will conclude her employment with the Agency this week. She stated that Ms. Lesh extended her service beyond her planned departure to support continued operations during Ms. Geary's absence, including assisting through significant snowfall, preparing the Assembly Building for occupancy, and onboarding new staff. Chair Hannan expressed appreciation for her service, professionalism, and problem solving, and noted that she will be missed.

There being no further comments or business before the committee, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm.

[5:42:32 PM](#)