

REPRESENTATIVE JUBILEE UNDERWOOD

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - HOUSE DISTRICT 27

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Joint Resolution 23

34-LS0747\N

“Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska requiring the governor to submit a balanced budget to the legislature”

House Joint Resolution No. 23 is a prudent proposal to amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska, specifically by enhancing Article IX, Section 12, with a new subsection that instills vital fiscal discipline in our state’s executive branch. Through this resolution, I propose that the governor be required to submit to the legislature a budget for the upcoming fiscal year that ensures proposed expenditures do not surpass the anticipated revenues. For clarity, anticipated revenues include the income from all state departments, offices, and agencies, as well as the income of the Alaska Permanent Fund available for appropriation as authorized by law, while explicitly excluding funds held in the budget reserve fund established under Section 17 of Article IX.

If the people of the State of Alaska adopt this constitutional amendment, it will serve as a cornerstone for fostering a smooth, honest, and deliberate budget process. By mandating that the legislature receive a budget proposal that reflects a true and transparent picture of Alaska’s fiscal condition prior to our legislative deliberations, HJR 23 will promote an environment of openness and accountability. This clear fiscal presentation will empower the legislature to engage in informed, meaningful, and constructive discussions, unburdened by the threat of unforeseen deficits or fiscal ambiguity. Such a process will not only strengthen the integrity of our state’s budgetary framework but also deepen the trust that Alaskans place in our stewardship of their public resources.

This fiscally conservative measure will help safeguard our state’s economic stability, promote enduring financial sustainability, and ensure that the budgetary decisions we make in Juneau reflect the best interests of all Alaskans, from Ketchikan to Utqiagvik. If approved by the voters at the next general election, this amendment will stand as a testament to our shared commitment to prudent fiscal management and transparent governance.

I urge your support for HJR 23, a measure that I believe will fortify the fiscal foundation of our great state and uphold the values of responsibility, clarity, and foresight that we, as Alaskans, hold dear.