

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**AUGUST 27, 2025
1:00PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sara Hannan, Chair
Senator Gary Stevens, Vice Chair
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Calvin Schrage
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Donna Mears (alternate)
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Löki Tobin (alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Senator Matt Claman
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Bert Stedman

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

None

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMITTEE BUSINESS
EXECUTIVE SESSION

SPEAKER REGISTER

Jessica Geary, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs
Agency (LAA)
JC Kestel, Procurement Officer, LAA
Tim Powers, Chief Technology and Outreach Officer, LAA

I. CALL TO ORDER

1:03:40 PM

CHAIR HANNAN called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 1:03pm on August 27, 2025, in the Denali Room of the Anchorage Legislative Office Building.

Present at the call were Representatives Carrick, Kopp, Schrage, Stutes, Mears, Hannan; Senators Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Tobin, Stevens.

Representative Prax joined the meeting at 1:32pm. Senator Giessel joined the meeting at 2:21pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1:05:16 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed without objection.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. June 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

1:05:41 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the minutes dated June 25, 2025, as presented.

The minutes were approved without objection.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Anchorage Legislative Office Building (ALOB) Janitorial Contract Renewal No. 4

1:06:16 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve Renewal No. 4 of the contract for janitorial services with Q-1 Services LLC in an amount not to exceed \$56,000.00.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Procurement Officer JC Kestel to speak to this item.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA), said that the Agency is requesting approval to renew the janitorial services contract for the Anchorage Legislative Office Building. This is the fourth renewal option being

exercised, the Agency has been happy with the services provided, and the operations manager feels the contractor has been a great partner to work with.

There was no discussion, and a roll call vote was taken.

[1:07:43 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Kopp, Schrage, Stutes, Mears, Hannan; Senators Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Tobin, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 10-0.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. RFP 689—Audio/Video Installation for the ALOB**
- b. ALOB Denali Room Committee Dais Replacement**
- c. Security Briefing—Dept. of Homeland Security Consultant**
- d. Mailroom Relocation Funding and Equipment Purchase**

CHAIR HANNAN stated that Legislative Council would go into Executive Session for consideration of an RFP for the Anchorage Legislative Office Building audio/visual system installation, the Denali Room dais replacement, a Department of Homeland Security consultant's briefing, and the Capitol mailroom relocation.

[1:09:27 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS 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 online for the Executive Session: Jessica Geary, Santé Lesh, Tim Powers, JC Kestel, Michael Mills, Dana Nicholas, Brian Heimbigner, Megan Wallace, Emily Nauman, Tom Koloski, Micaela Bradner, Matt Simpson, any legislators not on Legislative Council, and any staff of Legislative Council members.

[1:10:03 PM](#)

Council went into Executive Session.

[3:22:18 PM](#)

Council came out of Executive Session.

Roll was taken to establish a quorum. Present at the call were: Representatives Carrick, Kopp, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Mears, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Tobin, Stevens.

Twelve members present.

a. RFP 689—Audio/Video Installation for the ALOB

3:24:46 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve award of RFP 689 to Sound Decisions LLC with a not-to-exceed contract value of \$257,000.00.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Tim Powers, Chief Technology and Outreach Officer, to speak to this item and JC Kestel, Procurement Officer, to be available for questions.

TIM POWERS, Legislative Affairs Agency Chief Technology and Outreach Officer, stated that before members is a request for approval of the replacement and modernization of the audio-video system for the Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO) meeting spaces in the Anchorage Legislative Office Building. He explained that the need for this update mirrors the challenges successfully addressed in the Capitol last year. The existing system in the LIO, originally designed for a different facility and reprogrammed upon relocation, lacks sufficient capacity, has reached end of life, and is increasingly unreliable. Current issues include static on video/audio streams and phone lines, microphones that are difficult to hear remotely, and limited support for hybrid meetings. He noted that the Anchorage LIO has not had a professional Teams integration, and the system does not meet the demands of modern hybrid testimony.

Mr. Powers further emphasized that this upgrade would standardize technology between Juneau and Anchorage, improve accessibility for legislators, staff, and the public, and eliminate the need for a temporary "Teams cart". He reported that an RFP was issued earlier this summer, generating five interested parties with one competitive bid received in the amount of \$244,532.71; a five percent contingency of \$12,467.29 brings the total funding request to \$257,000. He added that this project is a complex undertaking, with separate program and furniture components that do not require Council action at this time. He concluded that the project is a critical investment in the efficiency of and accessibility to the legislative process.

CHAIR HANNAN, noting no further discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[3:27:56 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Kopp, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Mears, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Tobin, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 12-0.

b. ALOB Denali Room Committee Dais Replacement

CHAIR HANNAN stated that Mr. Powers mentioned that beside the audio/visual equipment, there will be equipment programming, and the dais will be replaced as part of the project scope. It is not a part of the RFP just adopted but in the scope of the project, and no motion or action would be needed on this item.

c. Security Briefing – Dept. of Homeland Security Consultant

Due to the confidential nature of this security item, Legislative Council did not discuss on the record.

d. Mailroom Relocation Funding and Equipment Purchase

[3:29:37 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS after a request to restate the motion and a brief at-ease, moved that Legislative Council approve the transfer of funds as follows:

From Legislative Budget and Audit Committee allocation: \$200,000
From Legislative Council allocation: \$40,000
From Legislative Operating-Senate allocation: \$40,000
From Legislative Operating-House allocation: \$44,100

...for \$292,000 to be transferred to Administrative Services and \$32,100 to be transferred to Facilities Rent for a total of \$324,100 to support relocating the Capitol Mailroom to an offsite package and mail screening center as recommended by the 2022 CISA security assessment.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Executive Director Jessica Geary and Procurement Officer JC Kestel to speak to this item.

JESSICA GEARY, Executive Director, LAA, explained that in December 2024, the Legislative Council for the Thirty-Third Legislature approved relocating the mail screening function from the Capitol to an off-site location. She said that while work on this project began, funding for the move was not approved

during the most recent budget process. She noted that this transfer of funds will allow the Agency to continue the work of moving mail and package screening off-site in advance of the 2026 session, and that the Agency will reconcile these budget transactions in the fiscal year 2027 budget request.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no further questions, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[3:33:50 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Kopp, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Mears, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Tobin, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 12-0.

[3:34:53 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve the purchase of mailroom screening equipment from Pacific MicroRem Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$136,750.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked JC Kestel to speak to this item.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, LAA, stated that the Agency conducted extensive research to determine the equipment needed for the mailroom relocation and to ensure proper screening of incoming packages and mail. Without disclosing specific details about the equipment, he noted that certain pieces are only serviced and warrantied through a particular vendor in Alaska. He said the Agency is requesting approval to proceed with the purchase of this equipment for the new facility.

[3:36:11 PM](#)

Council took a brief at-ease.

[3:37:00 PM](#)

Council returned from brief at-ease.

CHAIR HANNAN, noting no further discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[3:37:15 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Kopp, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Mears, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Tobin, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 12-0.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON thanked Mr. Powers and Mr. Kestel for their efforts to enhance the audio and video systems in the Anchorage LIO committee room, noting the improvements will benefit the legislature, staff, and the public. She further expressed appreciation to Chief Mills, Mr. Kestel, and others involved in efforts to strengthen Capitol security, and thanked the Committee for supporting these improvement initiatives.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.

[3:38:53 PM](#)