

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON

- Chair: Labor and Commerce
- Vice Chair: Rules, Administrative Regulation Review  
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- Member: Energy, Legislative Budget & Audit

Session: January – April  
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Official Business

Interim: May – December  
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### House Bill 347 Sponsor Statement

“An Act prohibiting the use of municipal funds to support or oppose an initiative proposal to circulate a petition for a ballot initiative, or to influence the outcome of an election concerning a ballot initiative, without approval by municipal voters at an election.”

Currently municipalities can spend thousands of dollars on consultants and paid signature collectors to influence the outcome of a ballot initiative. Requiring voters to approve the use of funds for special interests keeps the agenda of the municipality aligned with its voters, and prohibits municipalities from spending copious amounts of money to advance their own agendas.

This legislation empowers all citizens of a municipality by giving them the chance to weigh in on important issues. Giving citizens the opportunity to approve or disapprove of spending for a ballot initiative makes them acutely aware of exactly how municipal funds are being spent.

The intent of HB 347 is to keep the ballot initiative process fair, and to ensure that the priorities of the municipality are the same as the priorities of its citizens.