

**SENATE JOURNAL
SUPPLEMENT**

February 8, 2013

Friday

No. 1

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Commemorative Profiles

of

Senate Districts A and B

In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary

of the

**First Convening of the Legislative Branch of
Government in Alaska**

Twenty-Eighth Alaska State Legislature

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February 8, 2013

Juneau, Alaska

The following Senate District Profiles were submitted for publication by the Senate Rules Committee:

Senate District A

Presented by Senator John Coghill on February 8:

Senate District A, located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, has a population of 36,763 people and contains the following towns and neighborhoods: Farmers Loop, Steele Creek, Fox, Two Rivers, Pleasant Valley, North Pole, Moose Creek, Salcha, and Eielson AFB – home of the 18th F-16 Aggressor Squadron. District A is geographically diverse, with sweeping valleys along the Chena River and hills and ridges along the Steese Highway, in close proximity to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. District A contains a combination of urban, suburban, and rural areas, with temperatures ranging from -60° F in the winter and 90° F in the summer.

One hundred years ago, on the 4th of July, 1913, the first airplane flight in Alaska took place in Fairbanks. Also in 1913, the first legislator from Fairbanks, E.B. Collins, served as Alaska's first Speaker of the House and successfully ushered HB 2 through the First Territorial Legislature, extending the right to vote to women in the Territory of Alaska.

District A has a diverse economy, with a strong presence in tourism, fuel production, retail, government, and agriculture. Local industry includes the Flint Hills and Petro Star refineries and the Fort Knox Gold Mine. Eleven fire stations provide rescue, fire, and emergency medical services to the district – ten of which are staffed largely by volunteers.

The eastern portion of District A contains a thriving agricultural community, with small farms producing a variety of products for the local market. Approximately 325,000 visitors travel to Fairbanks each summer, feeding the district's robust tourism industry – attributable in part to Santa Claus House, Chena Hot Springs Resort, Chena River

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State Recreation Area, and Silver Gulch Brewing & Bottling Company – America's northernmost brewery. University research occurs in the northern portion of the district at the Poker Flat Research Range - the largest land-based rocket research range in the world, contributing to Alaska's burgeoning Unmanned Aerial Vehicle industry.

District A is notable for the quality of its residents and remains a great place to live, play, and raise a family.

Senate District B

Presented by Senator Pete Kelly on February 8:

Senate District B, located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, has a population of 36,753. It contains the following towns and neighborhoods: City of Fairbanks, Downtown Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright – Home of the Arctic Warriors, Aurora Subdivision, Island Homes, Badger Road, Shannon Park, and Minnie St. Subdivision. District B includes the heart of Fairbanks with shopping, social services, hospitals, a strong art community, entertainment, recreation, University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College, and much more. District B is an urban and suburban area with vast temperature extremes from -60° F in the winter to 90° F in the summer.

One hundred years ago, the Fairbanks area was in transition from the declining gold rush to the resurgence that came a decade later with the completion of the railroad. Fairbanks remained very remote with residents unsure of what to make of the Legislature, although Fairbanks residents engaged in the legislative process by supporting efforts to secure woman's suffrage.

Known as the Golden Heart City, Fairbanks and District B remain a great place to work and play. The district offers great boat access to the Chena River where passersby can often see groups of people

floating down the river in summer. The Chena River downtown crossing is part of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog race, hosting the starting location on even years and the finish line on odd years. Favorite summer activities include the Midnight Sun Festival - the largest single day event in Alaska. The Midnight Sun Baseball game - played without stadium lights - offers a unique experience with the first pitch thrown at 10:00 p.m. each year. There are also summer youth soccer leagues, fishing and hiking trips, and visits to Pioneer Park - with a chance to see Engine #1, the oldest operating steam locomotive in Alaska and the Yukon Territory. During the winter Fairbanks is a popular destination for visitors who want to view the Aurora Borealis dancing across the sky. Winter is also the time to snow machine, cross-country ski, dog mush, and cheer on hockey teams including the Fairbanks Ice Dogs and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Nanooks.

District B remains proud of its Gold Heart City moniker where family members, friends, and neighbors still come together to support each other to survive and thrive in the Last Frontier.

Please report corrections to the Senate Secretary's office.