

**SENATE JOURNAL
SUPPLEMENT**

March 1, 2013

Friday

No. 4

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**Commemorative Profiles
of
Senate Districts J, K, and L**

**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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March 1, 2013

Juneau, Alaska

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

Senate District J

Presented by Senator Hollis French on February 25:

Senate District J, located in the Municipality of Anchorage, encompasses West Anchorage and has a population of 35,397. The major neighborhoods are Turnagain and Sand Lake. Within these neighborhoods are Earthquake Park, Jewel Lake, Kincaid Park, Lake Hood, and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Fire Island, a 5.5 mile long island in Cook Inlet, is also in District J.

Lake Hood is the world's busiest seaplane base, handling an average of 190 flights per day. To the south, Kincaid Park is situated among 1,400 acres of rolling, forested hills with views of Mt. Susitna across Cook Inlet, Fire Island to the southwest, and Mt. Denali and Mt. Foraker to the north. The oldest trees in Anchorage are said to grow in Kincaid Park.

One hundred years ago, in 1913, West Anchorage was unspoiled wilderness. Native Alaskans, principally Dena'ina, undoubtedly hunted and fished there. Indeed, there are Dena'ina place names for many of West Anchorage's notable landmarks. Point Woronzof was known as Nuch'ishtunt (place protected from the wind) and Point Campbell, located in Kincaid Park, was called Ulchena Bada Huch'iylut (where we pulled up the Alutiiqs' boat). Point Campbell was the location of the last battle between the Dena'ina and the Alutiiqs from Prince William Sound.

The largest local communities at that time were Knik and Tyonek. In 1913, the creation of a tent city on the banks of Ship Creek was still awaiting the passage of the Alaska Railroad Act of 1914, and even more critically important, the selection of the western route for that railroad by President Woodrow Wilson on April 10, 1915. Within a few weeks of that selection, a stampede of some 2,000 souls were creating the place we know as Anchorage.

Senate District K

Presented by Senator Lesil McGuire on February 27:



With a population of 35,511, Senate District K stretches from the southern edge of Midtown Anchorage to the northern shore of Turnagain Arm. The thriving economic hub of Seward Highway, Dimond Boulevard, and Old Seward Highway is located within District K with such notable commercial landmarks as the Dimond Center and The Dome. The cozy residential neighborhoods of Bayshore/Klatt, Old Seward/Oceanview, East Spenard, and Taku Campbell make up the rest of Senate District K.

Senate District K is home to seven different elementary schools, the Mears Middle School Panthers, and SAVE Alternative High School as well as Anchorage Fire Department Stations 9, 12, and 15.

Campbell Creek bisects the district, providing miles of scenic trailway for walking and bicycling in the summer and Nordic skiing in the winter. The creek provides habitat to all five species of Pacific Salmon as well as Dolly Varden, providing ample sport fishing. During the summer young Anchorage-ites can be found rafting, tubing, and wading in the creek which is also used for kayaking and canoeing. While Campbell Creek and its associated parks are the largest green spaces in Senate District K, it is only one of the many parks and lake areas in the district. At the terminus of the creek is Campbell Lake, one of the state's few man-made lakes, which was created in 1959 by

two homesteaders, David Alm and George McCullough, by damming Campbell Creek. Today Campbell Lake contains more than 150 float planes.

As part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, the extensive tidal flats along the southern edge of Senate District K support some of the greatest numbers and diversity of birds in the Anchorage area. From mid-April to early May this area is a critical resting and feeding place for snow geese and is also a great place to see sandhill cranes.

For a thousand years these creeks, lakes, and marshlands were used as seasonal Dena'ina hunting and gathering grounds. Although the city of Anchorage began along Ship Creek in 1914, this area remained largely undeveloped until the 1960s. When Spenard Builders Supply was built in 1952 at the corner of Minnesota Drive and Tudor Road, those two modern-day thoroughfares were barely more than bumpy unpaved dirt trails. Lester and Dora Klatt drove to Alaska in 1947 on the newly constructed Alcan and became some of the first homesteaders in this area. They began building their first cabin that year with no other neighbors in the area. It wasn't until the Seward Highway was completed in 1950, and paved in 1952, that this area began to see development. The Seward Highway became the backbone of South Anchorage and as the residential areas grew, commercial opportunities sprang up.

Larry Carr and Barney Gottstein of Carrs Grocery were some of the first developers to recognize the commercial potential in the areas that now make up Senate District K. Their store on the corner of Dimond and Old Seward initiated the commercial hub that would eventually become the Dimond Center. Carrs Grocery, which became known around the state as Carrs-Gottstein, opened locations in the Fairbanks area and Southeast Alaska. Carrs was the first grocery store in Alaska to fly in fresh produce and part of their success can be attributed to other such entrepreneurial innovations, for instance they were the first grocery store to print coupons in the newspaper.

Today the neighborhoods and shopping areas that make up Senate District K compose a vital and lively region of Anchorage. The combination of tight-knit residential neighborhoods, green space, and diverse commercial opportunity found in Senate District K makes this region of Anchorage a great place to both work and raise a family.

Senate District L

Presented by Senator Kevin Meyer on February 27:



Senate District L is located in South Anchorage. It is bordered to the north by East Dowling and Tudor and extends south to Huffman. To the west is New Seward Highway and to the east is Hillside Drive and Campbell Airstrip Road.

There are approximately 35,617 people who live in Senate District L. While the population is fairly evenly divided between men and women, there are slightly more women than men and the median age in Senate District L is 33 years old.

There are 16 schools in Senate District L. This includes several elementary schools, and some alternative schools and private schools. Robert Service High School, which opened in 1971, is the main high school in District L. Service High is named after 'the Bard of the Yukon,' famed poet and writer Robert William Service. The Service football team was second in the state last year and first the year before that. The Service High Cougars have played in the State Football Championship game seven times and have won five. Senator Anna Fairclough is just one of the many notable alumni of Service High.

If you are looking to enjoy the outdoors in South Anchorage, there are great trails behind Service High School and in Bicentennial Park for running, biking, hiking, skiing, and horseback riding. In addition to great schools there are several great parks in Senate District L such as Abbott Loop Community, Ruth Arcand, and Meadow Park to name a few. The Alaska Zoo, the William Clark Chamberlin Equestrian Center, Abbott-O-Rabbit Field, Anchorage Golf Course, H2Oasis, Hilltop Ski Area, Alaska Botanical Garden, Campbell Creek Science Center and American Legion Post 28 are all located within District L.

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Senate District L is also a good place to do business. Fred Meyer, Kaladi Brothers Coffee, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, and Little Italy Restaurante are all great places to shop and eat.

One hundred years ago there were a lot of bears and moose in Senate District L; there are still many there to this day.

Senate District L – a great place to learn, live, and play.

Please report corrections to the Senate Secretary's office.