

**SENATE JOURNAL  
SUPPLEMENT**

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**March 15, 2013**

**Friday**

**No. 6**

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**Commemorative Profiles  
of  
Senate Districts M, N and O**

**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 15, 2013**

**Juneau, Alaska**



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

**Senate District M**

*Presented by Senator Anna Fairclough on March 11:*



Senate District M, located in the Municipality of Anchorage, has a population of 35,750 people and is comprised of two distinct communities: Eagle River and East Anchorage. The district is home to the following towns and neighborhoods: Eagle River, Eagle River Valley, Hiland Road, South Fork Valley, Eaglewood, Eagle Pointe, Muldoon, Chester Valley, Baxter Bog, Scenic Foothills, Scenic Park, and Stuckagain Heights. District M is geographically diverse, with sweeping valleys along the Eagle River and mountain backdrops along the Glenn Highway, and is in close proximity to Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson and Chugach State Park. District M contains a combination of urban, suburban, and rural areas, all populated by hard-working Alaskans.

One hundred years ago, the area now known as the Municipality of Anchorage was occupied by the Dena'ina people. The Dena'ina are the indigenous population of the Knik Arm area and Southcentral Alaska. In 1915, the federal government started to build a railroad that ran north through the Dena'ina's land into the Interior of Alaska, with Anchorage selected as the headquarters. Eklutna, Inc. is one of the village corporations formed in 1972 under the passage of the Alaska

Native Claims Settlement Act and its shareholders are the descendants of the Dena'ina people. It has played a vital role in the economic landscape of the Anchorage area. Eklutna, Inc. is the largest private land owner in the Municipality of Anchorage with 90,000 acres. Significant portions of Anchorage, including the military bases, schools, medical facilities, parks and other public areas, are on land given, transferred or shared under generous long-term agreements with Eklutna.



District M houses the area known as the Nike Site Summit located on the eastern edge of Fort Richardson adjacent to Chugach State Park and the Arctic Valley Ski Area. Commissioned in 1959, it is one of three Nike Missile sites that protected Anchorage, Elmendorf Air Force Base, and Fort Richardson during the Cold War. The Nike Hercules missile was the U.S. military's first nuclear capable anti-aircraft missile. In 2009, the U.S. Army, National Park Service, State of Alaska and local preservation groups reached an agreement that preserves most of the Nike Site Summit and allows for scheduled public tours.

District M is notable for its surrounding beauty and the abundance of recreational opportunities. It is home to the Eagle River Nature Center, South Fork Valley Trail, Far North Bicentennial Park, and the Alaska Botanical Gardens. It truly is a great place to live, work, play and raise a family.



**Senate District N**

*Presented by Senator Cathy Giessel on March 11:*



Senate District N is composed of many diverse communities spread across a vast area in Southcentral Alaska—Anchorage Hillside, Indian, Bird, Girdwood, Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Bear Creek, and Seward—with a population of 35,959. Each community has a unique story, but all embrace the common spirit of Alaskan adventure and ingenuity.

To the north, the district is partially surrounded by Chugach State Park and bordered by Turnagain Arm. Chugach State Park is the third largest state park in America, with nearly 500,000 acres accessible for recreational use. Mt. Alyeska, a main attraction, stands proudly at an elevation of 3,939 feet over the community of Girdwood. As the district moves south, onto the Kenai Peninsula, the Chugach National Forest and Kenai Lake offer dozens more recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, Nordic skiing, horseback riding, and fishing. Further south, Seward is situated at the head of Resurrection Bay, a gorgeous fjord and gateway to the Kenai Fjords National Park. The west end of the district stretches to Nikiski, with a shoreline along the Cook Inlet. The district is connected by two main roadways: the Seward Highway, which extends 125 miles from Seward to

Anchorage, and the Sterling Highway. Both highways have been recognized as Alaska Scenic Byways, with the Seward Highway being named an All-American Road and a USDA Forest Service Scenic Byway.

District N communities have rich pasts and promising futures. The landscapes of Girdwood, Moose Pass, Hope, and Cooper Landing were all born in the wake of gold discoveries and mining operations which moved into the area. It was the construction of the Alaska Railroad in Girdwood in 1915 that continued to fuel Girdwood's growth following the gold rush. In Hope, during the 1880s a group of prospectors got together and decided to name the town after the next person to step off the boat. Percy Hope was the next brave soul to arrive and, as one might say, the rest is history. The Historic Iditarod Trail, originally used to transport supplies and gold, was blazed in 1890-91 through Girdwood, Moose Pass, and down to Seward. Seward was incorporated in 1912 and named in honor of William H. Seward, President Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State who was responsible for negotiating the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. It was in 1920-21 that the first bridge over the Kenai River in the Cooper Landing area was built. Sterling was named after Hawley Sterling, a pioneer and Chief Engineer of the Alaska Road Commission. The discovery of oil in the 1950s spurred a rush of companies to pursue production and exploration of oil and natural gas from on-shore and off-shore facilities in Nikiski.

The attractions in District N offer many tourism opportunities that contribute to the local economies. Commercial fishing and sport fishing draw anglers from all over the world. The sightseeing opportunities in the Kenai Fjords National Park provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Whether it is the Tesoro Refinery in Nikiski or the social hall built over 100 years ago in Hope, District N represents the optimism of our past and the dreams of our future. One pioneer, Wesley "Mike" Michael used to look up on the hillside from the Seward Highway and could name the owners where the occasional yard light could be seen shining. His father told him "Someday, that whole area will be covered in lights..." While the landscape of District N has been transformed greatly over the last 100 years, it remains a great place to live and continues to remind us of the legacy forged by those early Alaskans.

**Senate District O**

*Presented by Senator Peter Micciche on March 15:*

Senate District O is located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, with a population of just over 36,000 Alaskans. The district includes the communities of Anchor Point, Clam Gulch, Cohoe, Halibut Cove, Happy Valley, Homer, Kachemak City, Kasilof, Kenai, Ninilchik, Seldovia and Soldotna. Also in the district are the Old Believer communities of Nikolaevsk, Kachemak Selo and Voznesenka. District O is geographically diverse and is home to the Kenai Mountain Range and Harding Icefield, which borders Kachemak Bay with numerous glaciers, coastline, deep canyons, and sweeping valleys, rolling hills, flatlands and meadows.



Archaeological evidence suggests that the area was first occupied by the Kachemak people from 1000 B.C., until they were displaced by the Dena'ina Athabaskan people around 1000 A.D.

When Russian fur traders first arrived in 1741, about 1,000 Dena'ina lived in the area. The traders called the people "Kenaitze," which is a Russian term for "people of the flats." This name was later adopted when they were incorporated as the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in the early 1970s.

Things have changed a lot in the last 100 years. In 1913 there was no road access and the primary industries were fishing in the Seldovia and Kenai/Kasilof areas, while coal mining was an economic driver for Homer until World War II. Corporate fish traps operated by large Seattle-based companies were banned by Governor Egan in 1959, which made way for constitutional changes and regulations geared to support local fishing families similar to those that operate today.

Homesteading, designed primarily for soldiers returning from victory in World War II, brought many people to the area in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The gravel road to Soldotna and on down to Homer opened in 1951 and the development of the district increased dramatically. Hydrocarbon discoveries in the area in the late 1950s made Soldotna the first community in the state with natural gas service. The industry employs many District O residents to this day.

District O has a diverse economy which is comprised of commercial and sport fishing, a robust tourism industry, oil and gas support, health care, government, two university campuses, retail, agriculture and a strong creative influence of local artisans and crafts persons.

For a quick road trip in District O, let's begin on the northern end in the City of Kenai. District O includes the mouth of the great Kenai River where many Alaskans converge each summer to harvest their sockeye for the winter in the dipnet fishery. It is an active, beautiful city of 7,000 residents rich with Dena'ina and Russian history. The mouth of the river transforms from being quiet and frozen in the winter to a bustling area in the summer as commercial and personal use fisheries create almost a festival-like setting of constant activity.



Just down the road is the sister city of Soldotna. Also on the Kenai River, one of the greatest sport fishing rivers in the world, is the place where Les Anderson landed his 97 pound, 4 ounce king salmon in 1985. The city of nearly 5,000 provides year-round activities from fishing in the summer to cross-country skiing on the world class Tsalteshi ski trails. The city serves as the economic and transportation heart of the Kenai and includes the borough seat, the Central Peninsula Hospital, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and Kenai Peninsula College; the fastest growing campus of the University of Alaska system.

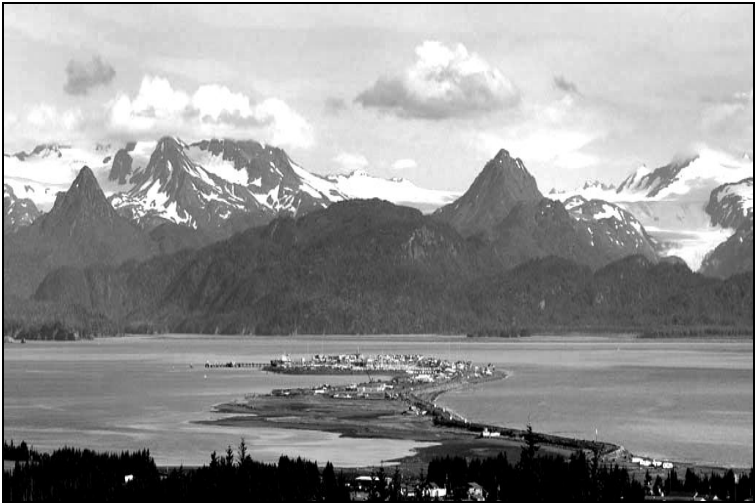


Driving south down the Sterling Highway we pass the communities of Kasilof, where fishermen who aren't dipnetting on the Kenai choose to land their personal-use sockeye. The Kasilof area is the home of the great Tustemena Lake and the Tustemena 200 sled dog race for the past 30 years, one of the few qualifying races for the Iditarod.

Further south are Coho, Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, and Anchor Point. The communities provide many summer activities, including productive razor clam digging and offshore sport king salmon and halibut fisheries that operate side by side with commercial fisheries. The towns are also the take-off point for the Caribou Hills hunting and snowmachining areas.

As one continues driving south and breaks over the hill into Homer they are rewarded with one of the most breathtaking views in Alaska. Homer is named after Homer Pennock, a miner that arrived in 1896.

The city of 5,000 is coined "Alaska's Halibut Capital of the World" and home of the Homer Spit. Homer includes the Kachemak Bay campus of the University of Alaska and the Pratt Museum. It is a beautiful and interesting town of extremely diverse interests and colorful locals.



One would then park the car and board a boat for Halibut Cove, home of Clem Tillion, or for the historic town of Seldovia. The name Seldovia is a translation from a Russian word meaning "Herring Bay" after the once significant herring runs in the area. Once a primary bustling Cook Inlet community of 2,000, Seldovia is now the home of halibut charter boats, incredible lodges and 300 residents.

District O is wealthy in the year-round quality of life that residents enjoy in a wonderful area to live, work, play and raise a family. The economy is diverse and a place where sport and commercial fishermen have been known to duke it out on allocation issues, yet serve together on the PTA and pray together on Sunday morning. It is a district of small towns where independent folks will always come together to help a family in need.

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The district boasts breathtaking coastline views of mountains, volcanoes, glaciers and ocean waters; outstanding salmon and halibut fishing; abundant recreational opportunities; and the small town feel of friendliness and close community.

**Please report corrections to the Senate Secretary's office.**