

**SENATE JOURNAL  
SUPPLEMENT**

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**March 21, 2013**

**Thursday**

**No. 7**

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**Commemorative Profiles  
of  
Senate Districts P, Q and R**

**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 21, 2013**

**Juneau, Alaska**



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

**Senate District P**

*Presented by Senator Dennis Egan on March 18:*

Senate District P covers most of northern Southeast Alaska, including unorganized communities like Excursion Inlet and Hobart Bay as well as the cities of Gustavus, Kupreanof, and Tenakee Springs. The district also includes three boroughs: the Petersburg Borough (Alaska's newest); the Skagway Borough; and Alaska's capital city, the City and Borough of Juneau. From Hobart Bay's sole resident to Juneau's 32,000, Senate District P is comprised of communities with great diversity.

The history of Senate District P begins with the Tlingit and Haida people who trace their lineage and presence in this land to before recorded time. Russian explorers and fur traders were among the first non-Native settlers, followed quickly by fishermen, loggers, and gold miners.

Each Southeast community has added to the rich and colorful history of this region. Skagway was the gateway to the Klondike Gold Rush at the end of the nineteenth century, hosting regular steamship service carrying miners and materials from Seattle.

Petersburg was home to commercial fishermen well before the city incorporated in 1910. The Tongass National Forest was established around the community – and around the entire district – in 1907. Petersburg continues to grow: last year they expanded and became Alaska's newest borough, including the city of Petersburg and the little town of Kupreanof next door.

Gustavus began as a homestead called Strawberry Point in 1917. The Postal Service renamed it Point Gustavus eight years later, although the local residents continued to use their original name for quite a while.

Juneau became Alaska's capital city in 1906, six years before Alaska gained territory status and the first territorial legislature was convened.

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The early twentieth century saw Juneau develop from a burgeoning city fueled by gold mines to the central hub of government and commerce for all Alaska.

The Capitol Building is one of Senate District P's most beloved landmarks. Construction began in 1929 and was completed in 1931. Another beloved landmark is the Governor's Mansion, built in 1912. It serves as the home to Alaska's governor and the governor's family. It is also the site of many state functions, including an annual open house over the holidays.

Southeast Alaska has a strong and dynamic economy. The fishing and mining industries remain major contributors to local employment. The region's natural beauty has attracted travelers for over a century. Tourism now delivers nearly one million visitors every summer. Favorite destinations include Glacier Bay National Park, the Mendenhall Glacier, the Little Norway Festival in Petersburg, and the Chilkoot Trail outside of Skagway.

From the mountains to the sea, the communities and landscape that make up Senate District P can only be described as God's country.

**Senate District Q**

*Presented by Senator Bert Stedman on March 18:*



**Chief Shakes House, 1940 Potlatch – Wrangell**

With 34,213 residents, Senate District Q includes Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell, Haines, Metlakatla, Craig, Klawock, Hoonah, Kake, Thorne Bay, Angoon, Saxman, Hydaburg, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Hollis, Klukwan, Hyder, Pelican, Kasaan, Port Alexander, Port Protection, Edna Bay, Whale Pass, Elfin Cove, Point Baker, Meyers Chuck, and blonde headed stepchild, Petersburg.

**Highlights –**

- 10,000 years of fishing, hunting and trading by land and sea;
- Russian Fur Trade and Russian capital of Norfolk Sound, New Archangel, or Sitka;
- Spanish, British, American explorers;
- Sitka Battle of homeland defense in 1804 with no surrender to date;
- American immigration from the western territories;
- Norwegian Commercial Fishing;
- Gold Rush;
- Industrial Logging;
- Rebuilding Japan with General MacArthur Plan.

100th Year Anniversary - In 1912 the Alaska Native Brotherhood was founded in Sitka, Alaska. The Alaska Native Brotherhood was the first Native organization representing more than one tribe. They represented several tribes across Alaska, but especially across Southeast including the Tlingit, the Haida, the Tsimshian. Over the years they have been the principal advocate for Native peoples in Alaska, long before there was much action on claims of settlement of traditional uses of the land. They also were the initial advocate for civil rights and human rights.



**Yates Building – Ketchikan**

Along with the largest collection of totem poles in the world, Ketchikan's historic Yates Building has been a recognized landmark within Senate District Q since 1905. The Yates Building served as the Clergy House for the Episcopal Church and Native school; as the hospital during our town's period of most rapid development; as the home of the famous Alaska Sportsman magazine; and later as the home of the Chamber of Commerce.

This region of Alaska has long held a significant place in the state's history and continues to do so to this day.

**Senate District R**

*Presented by Senator Gary Stevens on March 21:*

Home to some 34,000 residents, Senate District R stretches from Yakutat in the east to the Bering Sea in the west. The district encompasses a geographically large section of Alaska's coastline and takes in communities in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, the Yukon-Koyukuk region, the Lower Kuskokwim River area and the Lower Yukon River area. The district is home to five boroughs and 14 school districts, as well as numerous Alaska Native organizations. Many residents live in the communities of Kodiak, Cordova and Dillingham, while many others reside in smaller towns and villages throughout the district.

Senate District R is rich in culture and history, with many significant events occurring within its borders over the ages. In 1792, Kodiak became the first capitol of Russian Alaska. Though well known for its commercial fishing and giant brown bears today, Kodiak has taken a leap into space, and the future, with the establishment of the Kodiak Launch Complex in the 1990s, a facility that has launched 14 rockets.

Elsewhere, a 1918-1919 influenza epidemic left its mark on the Dillingham area when no more than 500 people survived. Following the epidemic, a hospital and orphanage were established in the Kanakanak part of the community, which has the distinction of being spelled the same way backward as forward. Today, Dillingham remains the hub of the world renowned salmon fisheries of Bristol Bay.

In the Prince William Sound area, the \$20 million Copper River and Northwestern Railroad brought copper ore from the Kennicott Mine to Cordova from 1911 through 1938. Cordova, known as the Razor Clam Capital of the World between 1916 and the late 1950s, had an interesting historical note 100 years ago on September 15th when forward-thinking local residents formed the Alaska Good Roads Club with the goal of promoting a road from Fairbanks to Chitna.

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District R is known for its abundance of scenic beauty, its critical role in Alaska's lucrative fishing industry and the strength of its people and communities. District R residents are hardy, industrious people who represent some of the best of what makes our state a unique and special place to live.

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