

**SENATE JOURNAL
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**Commemorative Profiles
of
Senate Districts S and T**

**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 27, 2013

Juneau, Alaska

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

Senate District S

Presented by Senator Lyman Hoffman on March 27:



District S encompasses an area of around 110,000 square miles – about the size of Nevada. It starts from the eastern end of Old Murphy Dome Road and goes to Attu Island, the most western end of the Aleutian Islands – that's about 2,012 miles (about the same distance as Seattle to Cleveland, Ohio).

If you calculate the ocean shoreline on islands and bays, it adds up to about 10,600 miles of coastline (more than the state of Florida). From the Old Murphy Dome Road as you go south, Senate District S includes Goldstream, Ester, Nenana, Anderson, Healy, Cantwell and McKinley Park. From the Upper Yukon you have Minto, Manley Hot Springs, Tanana and Ruby. The Middle Yukon includes Grayling, and the Lower Yukon includes Marshall, Pilot Station, Mountain Village and St. Mary's. The Yukon Coast communities include Kotlik, Emmonak, Alakanuk, Nunam Iqua, Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay and Chevak. Then there's Bethel on the Lower Kuskokwim and Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island, and St. Paul and St. George on the Pribilof Islands.

Going down the coast, there's Eek, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay, Platinum, Twin Hills, Togiak and Clark's Point. As you proceed to the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain, you go from Egegik, Pilot Point, Port Heiden, the Chigniks (Lake and Lagoon), Ivanof Bay, Nelson Lagoon, King Cove, Cold Bay, False Pass, Unalaska, Nikolski, Atka, Akutan, Adak and Attu. In all, Senate District S includes 62 communities. There are 16 School Districts in the district; four boroughs: Aleutians East, Denali, Lake and Peninsula, Fairbanks North Star; and four ANCSA regional corporations: Calista, Doyon, Aleut and Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

The district includes the highest mountain, and the most popular National Park – Mount McKinley/Denali and the delta of Alaska's longest river – the Yukon River. Three-fourths of active volcanoes in Alaska lie within the district's boundaries as well as six National Wildlife Refuges: Yukon Delta – Togiak, Alaska Peninsula, Innoko, Izembek, Nowitna, and Alaska Maritime.

Senate District S has a long and varied history; here's a small sampling of events, going from west to east:

Attu

- The first Russian contact was in 1742, where they found 175 Aleuts living there.
- On June 7, 1942 Japanese soldiers landed and occupied the island. Forty-two residents (40 Aleuts; 2 non-Natives) were taken prisoner and transported to Otaru, Hokaido; 16 prisoners died.
- In May 1943, an operation to recapture Attu made it the site of the only land battle fought on an incorporated territory of the United States. When finished, 2,351 Japanese were killed.

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska

- The first Russian contact was in 1759. Unalaska and Amaknak Island (Dutch Harbor) contained 24 Aleut settlements with over 1,000 people.
- In 1788, the Spanish made claim to Unalaska for Spain calling it "Puerto de Dona Marie Luisa Teresa."
- In 1940 the U.S. started fortifying the port with the construction of the Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears. It came under attack on June 3, 1942. After the Japanese attack and their occupation on Attu Island, all of the Native residents of Unalaska were arrested.
- For the past 15 years, Unalaska has held the title of the largest fisheries port in the U.S. by volume. In 2011, that came to 706 million pounds. And for the past 20 years, Unalaska has been either first or second on the list of most valuable U.S. ports – 207 million dollars in 2011.
- Unalaska is closer to Tokyo, Japan than it is to Washington, D.C.

Chignik

- Benny Benson was born in Chignik, Alaska on October 12, 1913 to a Swedish father and an Aleut-Russian mother. His mother died when he was three years old and his father had to send him and his brother to the Jesse Lee Orphanage Home in Unalaska. Benny's design for the Alaskan Flag was chosen over 700 other submissions. Choosing the familiar constellation he looked for every night before going to sleep at the orphanage, he submitted this description with the design:
 - The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower.
 - The North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly in the Union.
 - The Dipper is for the Great Bear – symbolizing strength.

Saint Paul Island

- The island was settled in 1786 by Russian fur traders. The Russians enslaved and relocated Aleuts from the islands of Atka and Unalaska to hunt fur seals. No known Natives permanently occupied the island prior to that time.
- In 1942, the Aleuts were evacuated to relocation camps in Southeast Alaska. Some men were brought back in 1943 to harvest fur seal for the government in order to use seal oil in the war effort.

Mekoryuk

- Is located on Nunivak Island and has been occupied by the Cup'iq for over 2,000 years.
- 1821 was the first recorded contact with Europeans.
- In 1880, the U.S. Census recorded a population of 702 Yup'ik in nine villages.
- The epidemic of 1900 left only four surviving families.
- The latest census in 2010 counted a population of 191.

Nenana

- Is in Athabaskan Indian Territory. It was first known as Tortella – an English version of Toghoththele (Tog-uh-tee-lee).
- 1875 was the first recorded contact with Europeans.
- The Nenana Ice Classic started in 1917. It's a lottery in which contestants guess when the ice will break up on the river.
- In 1925, it was the original starting point for the serum run to Nome, known then as the "Great Race of Mercy."

Bethel

- The original name "Mamterilleq" means Smokehouse People.
- In 1880, 41 people lived there. The latest census in 2010 counted 6,080 residents.
- The first Moravian Church was built in 1884.
- The Bethel Post Office was built in 1905.
- It's home to the "Kusko 300" dog-sled race, and also to the annual "Camai" festival.
- Like most of the communities in District S, Bethel is accessible only by air or water.
- In 2012, a hoax called "Taco Bell Gate" gave rise to the rumor that they were going to open there. In response, Taco Bell airlifted a truck to serve the community for one day.
- Bethel serves as the transportation hub for the Y-K delta; for the 56 villages that encompass an area the size of the State of Washington, and like almost every other community in District S, it is only accessible by air and water.



Senate District T

Presented by Senator Donny Olson on March 25:

Senate District T is the largest state legislative district (by area) in the nation. In fact, it is larger than Texas. There are 90 communities in Senate District T ranging from Nabesna with a population of five to Barrow with a population of 4,380 – that's 90 mayors, 90 councils/assemblies, and 90 administrators.

There are ten school districts and five of the twelve ANSCA regional corporations have member communities in the district. The entirety of the nation's Arctic lies within Senate District T. The district shares a

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647-mile international border with Canada and you can indeed see Russia from Senate District T (Diomedes). The district has the westernmost mainland community in the nation in Wales and the northernmost community in Barrow.

There are 70 public airports in the district. The district contains vastly different geographies of Alaska: from the coastal regions of the Bering Strait and North Slope to the interior rivers to the Copper River region. Other major rivers in the district include the Yukon, the Tanana, the Kobuk, the Koyukuk, the Porcupine, the Collville, and the Noatak.

The Iditarod Trail runs through several of these communities and ends in the district under the Burred Arch at Nome. The Iditarod, the Last Great Race, is held in honor of the 1925 Serum Run.

The City of Nome, the first incorporated city in Alaska, was established in 1901 during the Alaska Gold Rush. A lot of mining has occurred and still occurs in the district; from the Nome Gold Rush (1899-1909) to the Kennecott Copper mines financed by J.P. Morgan and the Guggenheim family to the modern day gold miners which can be seen on contemporary reality TV shows. The Red Dog Mine, the world's largest zinc mine, is currently under operation in the district and there is increased activity in the Ambler mining district.

There are two boroughs in the district – the Northwest Arctic Borough and the North Slope Borough. Eighty-three percent of state revenues come from resources within the borders of these boroughs which include the Red Dog Mine and the North Slope Oil fields. The entirety of the Dalton Highway and nearly half the total length of the Pipeline lie within the district. The federal government owns 55% of the land in Senate District T with the three largest areas being: NPR-A, ANWR and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Subsistence is a way of life for many of the residents of Senate District T, who routinely harvest and stock their food stores from the ocean, the rivers, and the land.

Please report corrections to the Senate Secretary's office.