

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

January 20, 2026

First Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 1:03 p.m.

The roll showed twenty members present.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Gordon Blue, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

For Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

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Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. *Amen.*

Colors

The following members of the Girl Scouts of Alaska, led by troop coordinator Tayma McClain, presented the colors:

Elizabeth DeBartolo
Freja Dukes
Teagan Heumann-Wythe
Eleanor Hoku Winn
Brandi Howard

The Girl Scouts of Alaska led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journal for the first through thirtieth legislative days of the first special session, the Final Supplement of the First Session and First Special Session, Senate Journal Supplement No. 6 and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 10 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

Letter dated May 20, 2025 was read stating in accordance with Article III, Section 25 of the Alaska Constitution and Alaska Statute 39.05.080, I submit the following department head for confirmation:

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Randy Bates – Juneau

Appointed: 5/19/2025

The appointment was referred to the Resources Committee.

A resume for the appointment has been submitted to the Office of the Senate Secretary.

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated October 9, 2025, accompanying letter dated October 16, and an amended declaration dated October 23, regarding the 2025 West Coast Storm Disaster, were received. Further letters dated October 28, November 8, November 14, December 8, 2025, and January 7, 2026, were received requesting legislative concurrence (as required by AS 26.23.020). The declaration, amended declaration, letters, and updated finance plan had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency and accompanying letter dated November 3, 2025 regarding the disruption of the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, were received pursuant to AS 26.23.025. The declaration and letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

A revised Declaration of Disaster Emergency and Supplemental General Fund Authorization Request dated October 28, 2025 authorizing funds for fire suppression costs, with accompanying letter was received pursuant to AS 26.23.020. The request and letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated December 9, 2025 regarding a damaging windstorm in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and accompanying letter were received pursuant to AS 26.23.020 and AS 26.23.025. The declaration and letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

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A Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated December 30, 2025 regarding the Napaskiak Winter Storm, was received with an accompanying letter pursuant to AS 26.23.020 and AS 26.23.025. The declaration and letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated January 6 regarding the Southeast Alaska Winter Storms, was received with an accompanying letter pursuant to AS 26.23.020 and AS 26.23.025. The declaration and letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

Messages from the House

Message dated January 15 was read stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Thirty-Fourth Alaska Legislature at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22 for the purpose of hearing the Governor's State of the State address in the House Chamber.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate accept the House invitation to meet in Joint Session. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Message dated January 20 was read stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Thirty-Fourth Alaska Legislature at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22 in the House Chamber for the purpose of voting to override the Governor's veto of Senate Bill 113 (APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS).

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate accept the House invitation to meet in Joint Session. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Communications**Appointment Confirmation**

The following message dated October 29, 2025 was read:

Senate President Stevens,

In accordance with AS 24.05.085, I am required to inform you that I am writing this letter to officially tender the resignation of my elected position as the state senator for District O, effective at the close of business, Monday, 3 November 2025.

Just as it was an honor to serve our nation in uniform for over two decades, it has been an honor to serve the people of our district, and the great state of Alaska, since 2018.

I still feel the pull of public service, and I intend to continue to do so. However, not in the legislature.

As you may be aware, this resignation is due to my announcement of running for Lieutenant Governor in next year's election cycle. I believe it is in the best interest of the people to appoint a replacement quickly so there will be no interruption with an empty seat at the beginning of the session in January. It is also not appropriate, in my opinion, to attempt to work in the legislature while also being part of a gubernatorial campaign.

Respectfully,

/s/

Mike Shower
State Senate District O

Letter dated November 26, 2025 was read stating pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution, Governor Mike Dunleavy appointed George Rauscher to fill the vacancy in the Alaska State Senate, District O.

Letter dated November 29, 2025 to Governor Mike Dunleavy was read:

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The nine Senate Republicans have met, interviewed and discussed your nomination of Representative George Rauscher to fill the vacant seat in Senate District O. We are pleased to inform you that Representative Rauscher has received majority support to be confirmed to this seat.

Signing the letter: Senators Gary Stevens, Jesse Bjorkman, Mike Cronk, Cathy Giessel, James Kaufman, Kelly Merrick, Robert Myers, Bert Stedman, Robert Yundt.

Senator Rauscher took the oath of office on November 29, 2025.

The following message dated November 14, 2025 was read:

Dear Senate President Gary Stevens,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I hereby resign my office as Alaska State Senator effective tomorrow, Friday, November 14 at 5 p.m.

Following careful reflection, I have concluded my decision to run for governor of the great state of Alaska requires my full attention, and that it would be a disservice to my constituents for me to juggle the roles of both gubernatorial candidate and senator. It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the people of Senate District M; they deserve continued, focused representation moving forward.

If there is anything I can do to assist with the transition of the incoming senator for District M, please let me know.

In closing, I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to tackle issues impacting Alaskans statewide and to work alongside colleagues in the House and the Senate. In addition, I am grateful for the knowledge and experience gained within the walls of the Capitol. Finally, I will always have deep respect for the institution of the lawmaking branch of government as part of our constitutional republic, its vital function, and the work conducted there on behalf of Alaskans.

Respectfully,

/s/

Shelley Hughes

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Letter dated November 26, 2025, was read stating pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution, Governor Mike Dunleavy appointed Cathy Tilton to fill the vacancy in the Alaska State Senate, District M.

Letter dated November 29, 2025, to Governor Mike Dunleavy was read:

The nine Senate Republicans have met, interviewed and discussed your nomination of Representative Cathy Tilton to fill the vacant seat in Senate District M. We are pleased to inform you that Representative Tilton has received majority support to be confirmed to this seat.

Signing the letter: Senators Gary Stevens, Jesse Bjorkman, Mike Cronk, Cathy Giessel, James Kaufman, Kelly Merrick, Robert Myers, Bert Stedman, Robert Yundt.

Senator Tilton took the oath of office on November 29, 2025.

The following letter was received from Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom and is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Letter dated January 2 certifying the proper filing of an initiative entitled: "An Act to repeal a nonpartisan and open top four primary election system and ranked-choice general election system; and to reestablish a partisan political primary and change necessary and related appointment procedures; reestablish special runoff elections; and repeal and amend independent expenditure group requirements."

The following reports are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Notice of Availability:

Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB)

Quarterly Update of Investment Performance Reports

June 18, 2025 and September 17, 2025

in accordance with AS 37.10.220

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Alaska Judicial Council
Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission
2025 Annual Report to the Legislature and the Governor
in accordance with AS 44.19.647

Department of Public Safety
2025 Report on Untested Sexual Assault Examination Kits
in accordance with AS 44.41.070

Division of Victim Assistance and Forensic Science
Violent Crimes Compensation Board Annual Report
in accordance with AS 18.67.170

HB 53
Intent Language Report
in accordance with Chapter 10, SLA 25

Department of Family and Community Services
Office of Children's Services
2025 Annual Report to the Legislature on Caseloads, Staffing,
Recruitment, Retention, and the Impacts on Child Welfare Outcomes
in accordance with AS 47.14.112

Department of Health
Annual Medicaid Reform Report FY 2025
in accordance with AS 47.05.270

Department of Health and Department of Law
Joint Legislative Fraud, Waste, Abuse Report
in accordance with AS 47.07.076

Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation
2025 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 37.13.170

Legislative Affairs Agency
Division of Legal and Research Services
Report to the Thirty-Fourth Legislature Listing Alaska Statutes with
Delayed Repeals or Delayed Amendments and Examining Court
Decisions and Opinions of the Attorney General Construing Alaska
Statutes
in accordance with AS 24.20.065

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Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
Annual Report 2025
in accordance with AS 44.88.210

2025 Annual Report on the Nature and Extent of Tax
Exemption of Property, Assets, Income, Receipts, Project,
Development Project, and Leasehold Interests Devoted to
Essential Public and Governmental Function and Purpose
in accordance with AS 44.88.140

Certification of Capital Reserve Fund Requirement
in accordance with AS 44.88.105

Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information
Year ended June 30, 2025
in accordance with AS 31.25.270

2025 Alaska Taxable Report
in accordance with AS 14.17.510

Office of the Governor
Office of Management & Budget
Executive Branch Lease Purchase Agreements Report
Fiscal Year 2025
in accordance with AS 37.07.040

Department of Education and Early Development
Reported Incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Resulting
in Suspension or Expulsion 2007-2025
in accordance with AS 14.33.210

A communication dated December 16, 2025, was read/received stating
that the Senate Republican Caucus selected Senator Cronk to serve as
Minority Leader for the second session of the Thirty-fourth
Legislature.

In accordance with Uniform Rule 1(e) President Stevens made the
following change to the Committee on Committees:

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Committee on Committees

Senator Cronk replaces Senator Shower

President Stevens appointed Senator Stedman and Senator Rauscher to inform the Governor the Senate was ready to do business.

President Stevens appointed Senator Claman and Senator Tilton to inform the House the Senate was ready to do business.

Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess for the purpose of a Committee on Committees meeting. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 1:30 p.m.

After Recess

The Senate reconvened at 1:43 p.m.

Special Committee Reports

Committee on Committees Report

Report dated January 20 was read stating:

Mister President:

The Committee on Committees has met and submits to the Senate for its consideration the following changes to the Committee on Committees report adopted January 21, 2025:

Education Committee

Senator Yundt replaces Senator Cronk

Health and Social Services

Senator Myers replaces Senator Hughes

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Judiciary Committee

Senator Tilton replaces Senator Myers

Resources Committee

Senator Rauscher replaces Senator Hughes

Rules Committee

Senator Cronk replaces Senator Shower

State Affairs Committee

Senator Tilton replaces Senator Yundt

Transportation Committee

Senator Rauscher replaces Senator Shower

Signing the report: Senator Stevens, Chair; Senators Giessel, Hoffman, Wielechowski, Cronk.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to adopt the Committee on Committees report. Without objection, it was so ordered.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the introduction and reference of senate resolutions be held one legislative day. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the introduction and reference of senate bills be held one legislative day. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Unfinished Business

SR 2

President Stevens made the following appointment:

Senate Special Committee on World Trade

Senator Tilton

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., January 21, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

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Announcements

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

STANDING COMMITTEES

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Jan 20	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled			

EDUCATION

Jan 21	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled			

Jan 23	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled			

FINANCE

Jan 20	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
No Meeting Scheduled			

Jan 21	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
No Meeting Scheduled			

Jan 22	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
Production Forecast			
Department of Natural Resources			
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			

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FINANCE (continued)

Jan 23	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Revenue Forecast		
	Department of Revenue		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Jan 20	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 22	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

JUDICIARY

Jan 21	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 23	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 136	FIREARM FINANCIAL PRIVACY		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Jan 21	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 23	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ HB 78	RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

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RESOURCES

Jan 21	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 23	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Pegasus: Review of 2019 Memo to the State of Alaska Jeremy Clark, Pegasus Global Holdings Inc. Joe Miller, Pegasus Global Holdings Inc. Presentation: GaffneyCline: Key Issues and Recommendations Nicholas Fulford, Senior Director, Liquid Natural Gas and Energy Transition, GaffneyCline Energy Advisory **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

STATE AFFAIRS

Jan 20	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	SJR 2	CONST. AM: VOTES NEEDED FOR VETO OVERRIDE -- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+=	SJR 13	APPOINTMENT OF STATE JUDGES -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv** Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
Jan 22	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

TRANSPORTATION

Jan 22	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: 2026 - 2029 STIP Update, FY26 Match Funds and Impact of Vetoes on Projects, HSIP Amendments Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner Katherine Keith, PMP, PMI-ACP, Deputy Commissioner **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Jan 22 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

Jan 20 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 10:00 AM
I. Call to Order
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Consideration of Contract Award for
Pegasus-Global Holdings, Inc.
IV. Adjourn

TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FUNDING

Jan 23 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Michael Hanley, Superintendent, Aleutian Region
School District
Presentation: Chronic Absenteeism by
Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance
Works
Presentation: Open Enrollment by
Jude Schwalback, Senior Policy Analyst, Reason
Foundation
Presentation: Homeless Students by
Barbara Duffield, Executive Director,
SchoolHouse Connection
Kelly King, Coordinator, MVP Program, Kenai
Peninsula Borough School District
David Mayo-Kiely, Coordinator, Child in
Transition Program, Anchorage School District
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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OTHER MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Jan 20	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	Committee Membership		

JOINT SESSION

Jan 22	Thursday	House Chamber	9:00 AM
+	Consideration of the Governor's Veto of SB 113		
	SB 113 APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS		

Jan 22	Thursday	House Chamber	7:00 PM
+	State of the State Address by Governor Mike		
	Dunleavy		