Newly Elected Officials

Reviewing the Fundamentals of Elected Office:

Lobbying Effectively



Alaska Municipal League

December 2023

Heather Brakes

AML Lobbyist

Lobbying Effectively: LOBBYING

- Definition: "Influencing legislative or administrative action" means to communicate directly for the purpose of introducing, promoting, advocating, supporting, modifying, opposing or delaying any legislative or administrative action.
- Definition: "Communicating directly" means to speak with a legislator, legislative employee, or public official.
- Lobbying is part of your job
- You are allowed to lobby





Lobbying Effectively: LOBBYING

- Local
 Government
 Legislative
 Priorities /
 Resolutions
- AML can help

Sec. 24.45.161. Exemptions.

- (a) This chapter does not apply to
 - (1) an individual
- (A) who lobbies without payment of compensation or other consideration and makes no disbursement or expenditure for or on behalf of a public official to influence legislative or administrative action other than to pay the individual's reasonable personal travel and living expenses; and
- (B) who limits lobbying activities to appearances before public sessions of the legislature, or its committees or subcommittees, or to public hearings or other public proceedings of state agencies;
- (2) an elected or appointed state or municipal public officer or an employee of the state or a municipality acting in an official capacity or within the scope of employment;





Lobbying Effectively: LOBBYING

- Lobbyists are regulated by Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC)
- Questions:
 - Call Juneau Office 907-465-4864
 - https://doa.alaska.gov/apoc/

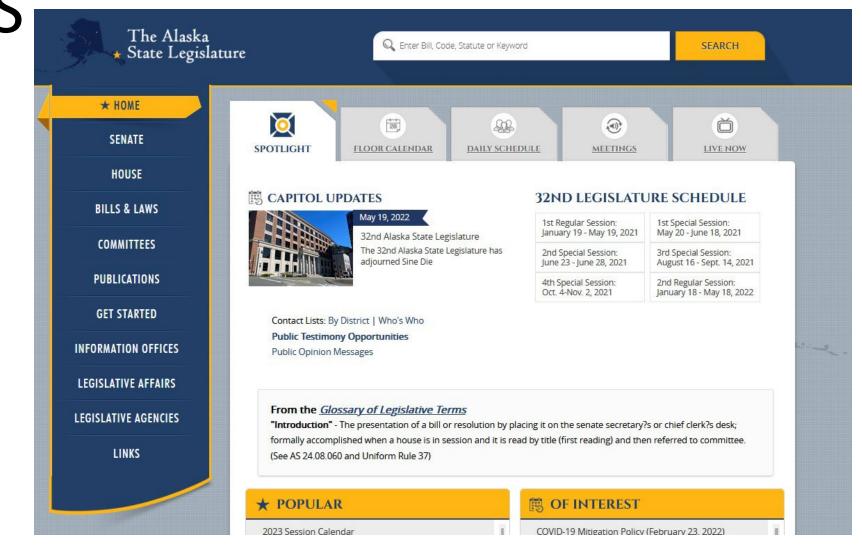




- AML: legislative tracker, weekly calendar, website
- The Alaska State Legislative Website: BASIS
 (Bill Action and Status Information System) www.akleg.gov
- Office of Management & Budget
- Legislative Finance Division
- Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA)
- Publications:
 - Alaska Legislative Directory
 - Directory of State Officials
 - A Layman's Guide to the Budget Process
 - The Legislative Process in Alaska
 - Steps in Passage of a Bill



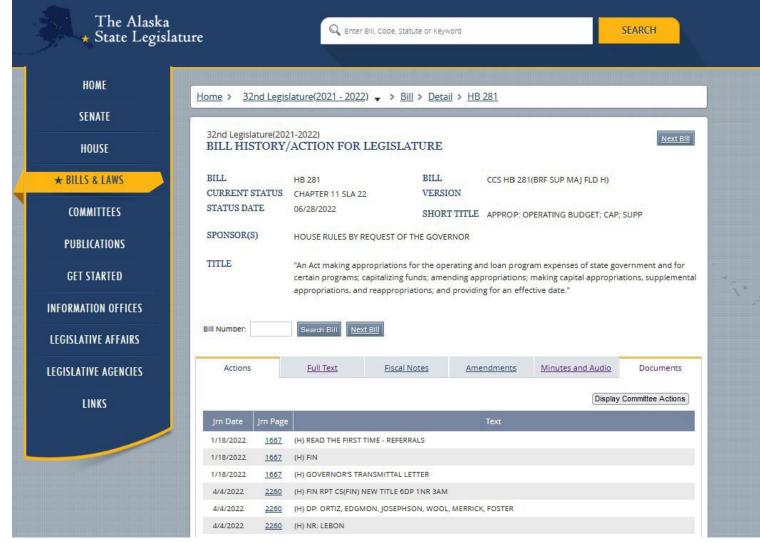


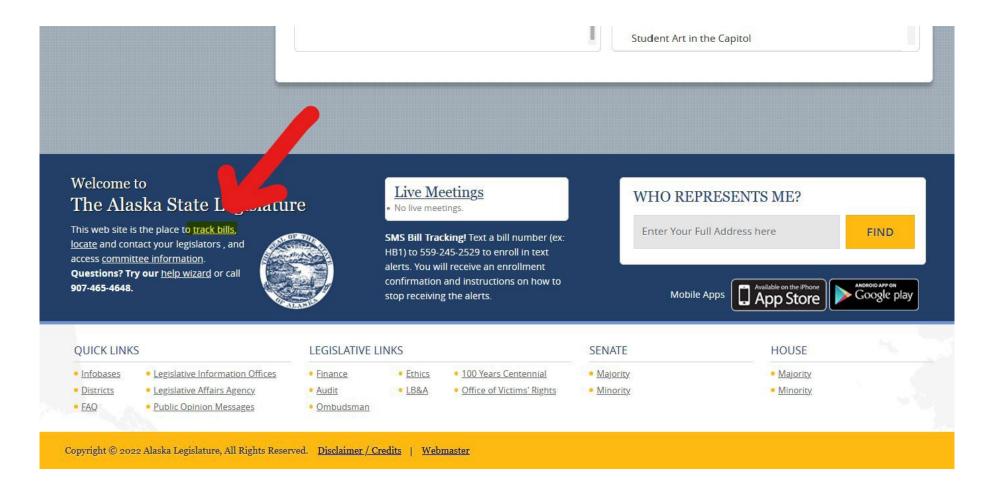


Lobbying Effectively: RESOURCES The Alaska



Lobbying Effectively: RESOURCES The Alaska







Lobbying Effectively:

RESOURCES





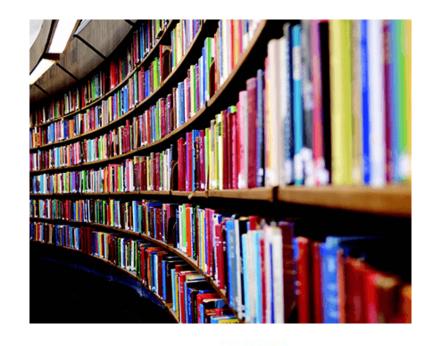
Governor's Proposed Operating Budget

This Budget Book reflects the Governor's Proposed Budget. When available, the Components on the right are subdivisions of the Results Delivery Unit on the left.

(Full Budget Book)

RESULTS DELIVERY UNIT	COMPONENT	STAFFING
Executive Administration and Development	Commissioner's Office	Chart
	Administrative Services	Chart
Banking and Securities	Banking and Securities	Chart
Community and Regional Affairs	Community and Regional Affairs	Chart
	Serve Alaska	Chart
Revenue Sharing	Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	
	National Forest Receipts	
	Fisheries Taxes	
Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing	Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing	Chart
Economic Development	Economic Development	

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Lobbying Effectively: PEOPLE

- People: Legislators and staff
- Do you know your legislator?
 - The importance of local government officials
 - Meet with them before January session
- Get to know staff
- Executive Branch
 - Need support of Governor and agencies
 - Aim to get into the Governor's Budget
 - Separate budget process in Summer and Fall





- Each House organized by Majority and Minority
 - Senate 2023 (20 Members: 17 Majority, 3 Minority)
 - House 2023 (40 Members: 22 Republican, 13 Democratic, 5 Independent)... evenly split ideologically
- Majority Organization Holds Power:
 - Leadership & Committee Chairs
 - Set Agenda
 - Size of budget
 - Which bills pass
 - Governor
 - Bills sponsored by Majority members move





SENATE Majority Caucus

8 Republicans

- Bert Stedman Co.Ch. Fin.
- Gary Stevens Sen. Pres.
- Jesse Bjorkman
- Cathy Giessel Maj. Leader
- James Kaufman
- Kelly Merrick
- David Wilson
- Click Bishop Maj. Whip

9 Democratics

Jesse Kiehl

- Elvi Gray-Jackson
- Matt Claman
- Löki Tobin
- Forrest Dunbar
- Bill Wielechowski
- Scott Kawasaki
- Lyman Hoffman Co.Ch. Fin.
- Donny Olson Co.Ch. Fin.

Minority (3 Republicans)

- Shelley Hughes
- Robb Myers
- Mike Shower





HOUSE ORGANIZATION MAJORITY -- 23

- Jamie Allard
- Tom Baker
- Ben Carpenter
- Julie Coulombe
- Mike Cronk
- Bryce Edgmon (I)
- Neal Foster (D)
- Craig Johnson
- DeLena Johnson
- Kevin McCabe
- CJ McCormick (D)
- Tom McKay
- Mike Prax
- George Rauscher

- Justin Ruffridge
- Dan Saddler
- Laddie Shaw
- Will Stapp
- Jesse Sumner
- Cathy Tilton
- Sarah Vance
- Stanley Wright
- Frank Tomaszewski

MINORITY -- 16

- Jennie Armstrong
- Ashley Carrick
- Maxine Dibert
- Zack Fields

- Andrew Gray
- Cliff Groh
- Sara Hannan
- Andy Josephson
- Donna Mears
- Genevieve Mina
- Andi Story
- Louise Stutes (R)
- Alyse Galvin (I)
- Rebecca Himschoot (I)
- Dan Ortiz (I)
- Calvin Schrage (I)

MINORITY OF 1

David Eastman (R)







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Lobbying Effectively: PROCESS: COMMITTEES

- Committees are an essential part of the legislative process:
 - Oversight, gather testimony, consider appointees, amend/advance/hold bills
- Committee hearings include introduction and sponsor statement, and invited and public testimony.
- Bills can be amended in committee and on the Floor.
- Standing Committees:
 FIN, EDU, HSS, JUD, L&C, CRA, RES, STA, etc.



Lobbying Effectively: PROCESS: BUDGET



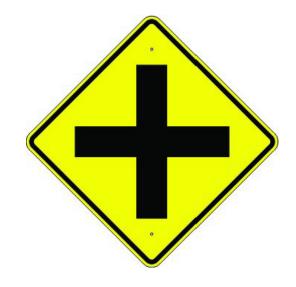
Photo: Senate Finance Committee Room

(AP: Becky Bohrer)



Lobbying Effectively: LOCAL / STATE INTERSECTIONS

- Education: Construction & Major
 Maintenance; Base Student Allocation (BSA)
- School Bond Debt Reimbursement
- Community Assistance
- Power Cost Equalization (PCE)
- Public Safety: Troopers, VPSOs, Community Jails
- Infrastructure: Roads, Ports, Harbors, Energy





Lobbying Effectively: ADVOCACY DO's DON'TS TIPS

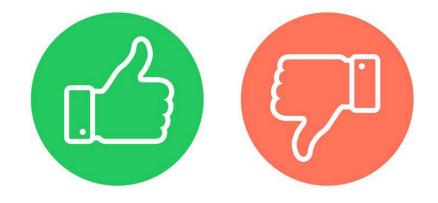
- Call ahead for appointments
- Consistent messaging
- Prepare 5-minute explanation of request
- Local process and support
- Agency support helpful
- Leave written backup at office
- Work with and know importance of staff
- Know who you are talking to (leadership, party, committee membership)





Lobbying Effectively: ADVOCACY DON'TS

- Don't: Blow past staff
- Don't: Send conflicting messages
- Don't: Roll your eyes in committee
- Don't: "Educate"
- Don't: Ambush
- ...other Don't's from the audience?





Lobbying Effectively: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

- AML is here to help
- Legislative Committee get involved
- Your visits to Juneau
- Statewide Issues
- Share the more we know...

the better

