Monday, December 7

8am to 4:30pm **– Newly Elected Officials Training** *Tikahtnu A*

8am to 4:30pm **– Elected Officials Training** *Tikahtnu B*

8am to 4:30pm **- Affiliate Meetings** *(separate registration)*

- Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association (AMAA) *Tikahtnu C&F*
- Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) *Tikahtnu D&E*
- Association of Alaska Assessing Officers (AAAO) *Kahtnu 1*
- Alaska Municipal Management Association (AMMA) *Kahtnu 2*
- American Planning Association – Alaska Chapter (APA AK) *Tubughnenq 3*

3:30pm to 4:30pm – AAMC Region IX Meeting *Tubughnenq 4*

4:30 to 5:30pm **Mayors' Arctic Defense Forum** *Tubughnenq 5*

- Closed-door discussion among defense mayors, military leadership, emergency management officials, tribal partners, infrastructure providers, and mental health leaders. This session would allow participants to have candid operational conversations about:
  - Energy resilience
  - Housing and workforce pressures
  - Mental health and family support systems
  - Emergency response capacity
  - Transportation and supply chain vulnerabilities
  - Communications infrastructure
  - The role of municipalities during military expansion or crisis response

5:30 to 7:30 PM **ACoM President's Reception** *Tikahtnu A*

Elected officials registered for Elected Officials Training and/or ACoM should attend this networking event that connects municipal leaders with one another.

Tuesday, December 8

8am to 4:30pm **Elected Officials Training/Alaska Conference of Mayors (ACoM)** *Tikahtnu B*

- ACoM Business Meeting

Affiliate Meetings *(separate registration)*

- Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association (AMAA) *Tikahtnu C&F*
- Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) *Tikahtnu D&E*
- Association of Alaska Assessing Officers (AAAO) *Kahtnu 1*
- Alaska Municipal Management Association (AMMA) *Kahtnu 2*
- American Planning Association – Alaska Chapter (APA AK) *Tubughnenq 3*
- Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) *Tubughnenq 4*

8am to 4:00pm **Project Cohorts** *(by invitation)* *Tubughnenq 5*

1. 8am to 9:45am: **Boardroads,** Moderated by **Irene Gallion**
2. 10am to 10:45am: **Wintertrails**, Moderated by **Tess Frenchik**
3. 11am to 11:45am: **Coastal Resilience**, Moderated by **Danielle Meeker**
4. 12pm to 12:45pm: **AK Public Pathways,** Moderated by **Melody Nibeck**
5. 1pm to 1:45pm: **Energyshed**, Moderated by **Justin Schuster**

6. 2pm to 2:45pm: Housing Development w/ AHFC and/or TAG, Moderated by **Ren Scott**
7. 3pm to 3:45pm: TAT – USDA and/or ACMS, **Melody Nibeck**

8am to 4:00pm **Shared Services Strategy Sessions (***open to all members)* *K'enakatnu*

1. 9am to 9:45am: **Cybersecurity Services**, Moderated by **Raina Collins and Alicia Hughes-Skandijs**
2. 10am to 10:45am: **GIS Services**, Moderated by **Liz Moore** and **Erin Reinders**
3. 11am to 11:45am: **Utility Support Services**, Moderated by **Justin Schuster** and **Maggie Lenhart**
4. 1pm to 1:45pm: **SIMPLE Planning Services**, Moderated by **Irene Gallion and Britta Hamre**
5. 2pm to 2:45pm: **Workforce Development Services with STEAMe**, Moderated by **Erin Reinders and Trisha Sims**

3pm to 5pm **AML Early Registration** *2nd Floor Foyer*

4:30 PM **Alaska Municipal Health Trust Annual Meeting** *K'enakatnu*

7:00 PM **Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks – Annual Banquet** *Tikahtnu A*

<u>Wednesday, December 9</u>

7:30-5:00 AGFOA *Tikahtnu B*

8am Breakfast *Ballroom*

8:30am **Opening Ceremony** *Ballroom*

Chaired by **Glenda Ledford**, outgoing AML Board President and Mayor, City of Wasilla

- Presentation of Colors
- Pledge of Allegiance
- National Anthem
- Alaska Flag Song

9:00am **AML – Works for You**

A clear look at how AML works for members through advocacy, training, shared services, practical support, and partnerships. Meet the staff behind the work and learn how to connect with AML's tools, expertise, and opportunities throughout the year.

- **Nils Andreassen**, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
- **Erin Reinders**, Deputy Director, Alaska Municipal League

10:00am Break

10:30am <u>Concurrent Sessions – Thought Leadership</u>

- **Economic Development by Design: Local Government Roles** *Kahtnu 1*
  - Economic development is more than attracting businesses. Panelists will explore how tourism, small businesses, incentives, and investments in schools, childcare, public safety, and transportation can create lasting opportunities.
  - Moderated by **Trisha Sims**, Alaska Municipal League
    - **Alexandra Pierce**, City and Borough of Juneau; Port Communities of Alaska
    - **Crystal Nygard**, City of Wasilla
    - **Jon Bittner**, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
    - **Chuck Greene**, Northwest Arctic Borough
- **Initiating Big Projects: Turning Ideas into Results** *Kahtnu 2*

- Moving a project from a good idea to construction can be difficult, especially with limited staff. Local leaders will share how partnerships, funding, procurement, and project management helped them get the work done.
- Moderated by **Justin Schuster**, Alaska Municipal League
  - **Mark Spafford**, Deputy Municipal Manager, Municipality of Anchorage
  - **Mason Villarma**, Borough Manager, City and Borough of Wrangell
  - **Bri Gabel**, Sustainability Coordinator, City and Borough of Sitka
  - **Andrea Meeks**, Principal, CRW Engineering Group

- **Built to Fit: Making Development Work for Alaska Communities** *Tubughnenq 3*
  - Housing and development move more smoothly when plans, zoning, infrastructure, permitting, and public input work together. Learn how communities can make development clearer and more predictable while protecting local priorities.
  - Moderated by **Erin Reinders,** Deputy Director, AML
    - **Pat Cotter**, Program Manager, RESPEC
    - **Vanessa Raymond**, Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives, ACEP
- **Arctic Readiness: Local Strength and National Significance** *Tubughnenq 4*
  - Building on the Mayors' Arctic Defense Forum, this session will explore how housing, utilities, transportation, workforce, communications, health care, and emergency response strengthen communities and support national security infrastructure.
  - Moderated by **Mindy O'Neall**, Mayor, City of Fairbanks
    - **Brittany Smart**, Alaska Defense Communities
    - **Jocelyn Fenton**, Denali Commission
    - **Jared Griffin**, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough
    - Lieutenant Colonel **Nick Thomas**, Alaska Command
- **What's Changing? Trends Local Leaders Should Watch** *Tubughnenq 5*
  - Political, economic, demographic, and technology shifts are changing the choices facing Alaska communities. Panelists will explain important trends, what they could mean locally, and what leaders should be thinking about now.
  - Moderated by **Melody Nibeck,** Senior Community Resilience Manager, AML
    - **Eric Utraq Billingsley**, United Way of Anchorage
    - **Tim Putney**, City of Kodiak
    - **Dan Robinson**, DOL&WD

11:45am Break and Lunch

12:00pm **Lunch Plenary Session**

Framing Leadership and Policy Advancement - **Nils Andreassen**, Executive Director

Address by Governor Elect

Congressional Update
- Senator **Lisa Murkowski**, by video address
- Senator-elect
- Representative-elect

Incoming Legislature
- **James Brooks**, Alaska Beacon

1pm Break

1:15pm Concurrent Sessions – Policy Advancement

- **From Statute to City Hall: Putting New State Laws into Practice** *Kahtnu 1*
  - New state laws can require changes at city hall. Learn what the key changes mean and what communities may need to update their codes, procedures, elections, budgets, and services.
  - Moderated by **Kaitlyn Conway**, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, AML
    - **Sonya Pevan,** Division of Community and Regional Affairs
    - **Karl Kaufman**, Partner, Landye Bennett Blumstein LLC
    - **Rep. Andrew Gray**
    - **Lisa Parady**, Alaska Council of School Administrators
    - **Patricia Sullivan**, Division of Community and Regional Affairs
- **Local Priorities, State Decision: Shaping Transportation Investment** *Kahtnu 2*
  - State transportation decisions have lasting local impacts. Learn how RPOs, MPOs, and partnerships can bring community priorities into planning earlier and connect projects with federal programs and funding.
  - Moderated by **Britta Hamre**, Senior Transportation and Land Use Manager, AML
- **ROADs to Housing: What Federal Change Mean for Alaska** *Tubughnenq 3*
  - Federal decisions and agency implementation can directly affect housing, land use, and development in Alaska. Learn what is changing, what it could mean for communities, and what local leaders should watch next.
  - Moderated by **Ren Scott**, Program Coordinator, AML
    - **Claire Lubke**, AKPIRG
    - **Owen Brooks**, Coalition of Housing and Homelessness
    - **Michael Wallace**, National League of Cities
    - **TBD**, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- **Disaster Recovery and Resilience: Preparing for Changing Responsibilities** *Tubughnenq 4*
  - Explore what local governments should prepare for in the midst of FEMA transformation and related emergency and disaster recovery needs, hazard mitigation planning, insurance, and other state and federal tools.
  - Moderated by **Danielle Meeker**, Alaska Municipal League
    - **Tiffany Peltier**, DHS&EM
    - **Jeff Ennenga** and **Lisa Amaniq Shield**, Alaska Venture Fund
    - **Clark Cripps**, HUB International
    - **Nik Simonson,** Disaster Recovery Services
    - **Ed Plumb**, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Preparedness
- **Before Decisions Are Made: Giving Local Government an Early Voice** *Tubughnenq 5*
  - Local input is most useful before a policy is final. Learn how local leaders can recognize emerging issues, build shared positions, provide useful information, and engage state and federal decision-makers early.
  - Moderated by **Alicia Hughes-Skandijs**
    - **Jordan Marshall**, Government Affairs Consultant

2:30pm Break

APRA Annual Business Meeting *Tikahtnu A*

3:15pm Concurrent Sessions – Good Governance

- **Trust in Action: Engaging the Public in Local Decisions** *Kahtnu 1*

- Public trust grows when local governments involve residents early, explain decisions clearly, listen, and show how public input made a difference. Local leaders will share practical ways to make engagement more meaningful and transparent.
- Moderated by **Hannah Atkinson** and **Maggie Lenhart**
  - **Clare Ross**, Municipality of Anchorage
  - **Amanda Coward,** City of Cordova
  - **Aimee Williams,** Kodiak Island Borough
  - **Nelson Walker**, City of Kiana

- **From Priorities to Progress: Setting Goals & Showing Results**
  - How does a community turn many needs into clear priorities? Learn how elected officials, staff, and residents can set goals, measure progress, and clearly report results.
  - Moderated by **Britta Hamre**
- **Strong Leadership: Building Elected & Administration Partnership** *Tubughnenq 3*
  - Elected officials and administrators have different but closely connected roles. Panelists will share how they communicate, set expectations, support good decisions, and maintain appropriate boundaries. Learn how orientation, shared expectations, meeting practices, and governing policies can help the full body work effectively through leadership changes, with management, and as priority change.
  - Moderated by **Erin Reinders** and **Alicia Hughes-Skandijs**
    - **Mindy O'Neall**, Mayor, City of Fairbanks
    - **Melissa Jacobsen**, City Manager, Homer
- **Shared Community, Shared Future: Municipal-Tribal Collaboration** *Tubughnenq 4*
  - Municipalities, Tribes, and Alaska Native corporations often share community priorities. Panelists will discuss how they clarify roles, formalize commitments, align resources, advance shared priories, and build partnerships that last.
  - Moderated by **Irene Gallion** and **Grace Fluharty**, Transportation Planner, AML
    - **Matt Mead**, Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP
    - **Tina Ryman,** City and Borough of Yakutat
- **Revenue Decisions: Resident Expectations vs What We Can Afford** *Tubughnenq 5*
  - Help elected officials and administrators connect community priorities, service levels, and revenue requirements—and make those tradeoffs explicit before deciding whether to raise taxes, adjust fees, reduce services, or defer investments. How a governing body decides what government should provide, what it costs, who pays, and how to maintain public legitimacy around that decision.
  - Moderated by **Melody Nibeck,** Senior Community Resilience Manager, AML
    - **Emily Brock**, GFOA

4:30pm **Break – Networking and Vendor Presentations**

10-minute presentations by sponsors or vendors about products and services being held in Kahtnu 1&2, and Tubughneng 3&4. Refreshments provided and door prizes available throughout the presentations.

4:30pm **Committee Meetings** *(by invite only)* *K'enakahtnu*

4:30pm **ARSSTC Annual Membership Meeting** *Tubughneng 5*

5:30pm **Community Showcase and Silent Auction** *Tikahtnu A*

Join us for our Annual Silent Auction and Community Showcase. This year's Community Showcase will feature all Community Award Nominations on display. Come bid on local Alaska treasures, network with fellow attendees, learn about exemplary projects from around the state, and enjoy delicious food and drinks.

Thursday, December 10th

7:30-5:00 **AGFOA** *Tikahtnu B*

8am **Breakfast and Business** *Ballroom*

- Business Meeting Announcements
  - **Resolution Committee** – update to members for 2027 submitted resolutions
  - **Nominating Committee** - update to members on the slate of AML Board candidates
  - **Board Candidates** – candidate one-minute intros

9:15am Break

9:30am Concurrent Sessions – Effective Operations

- **Ready Workforce: Attracting and Keeping Good Staff** *Kahtnu 1*
  - Local governments across Alaska are competing for a limited workforce. Panelists will share practical ways to recruit, onboard, develop, and retain employees - including military spouses and reservists - and fill gaps through cross-training and partnerships.
  - Moderated by **Erin Reinders,** Deputy Director, AML
    - **Nicole Thibodeau**, Administrator, Alaska Labor Relations Agency
    - **Cara Sandlass**, STEAMe
- **Know What You Own: Proactive Infrastructure Management** *Kahtnu 2*
  - Good planning starts with knowing what your community owns. Learn how to inventory and map assets, assess their condition and cost, set priorities, and plan for maintenance and replacement.
  - Moderated by **Maggie Lenhart**, Alaska Municipal League
    - **Jennifer Gross**, Michael Baker International
    - **Zach Gianotti**, DEC Solid Waste Program
    - **Lachlan Maclean,** IC Infrastructure
    - **Katie Griebe**, Mayor, City of Anderson
- **Practical AI: Work Smarter and Manage Risk** *Tubughnenq 3*
  - AI can help local governments draft documents, summarize meetings, research issues, analyze data, and answer routine questions. See practical examples and learn how to manage privacy, accuracy, cybersecurity, public records, and accountability.
  - Moderated by **Rachel Morse**, Senior Director of Operations, AML
    - **Raina Collins**, Cybersecurity staff, AML
    - **Carlos Machuca**, AI Resource Program Director, UAA
- **Stronger Together: Sharing Services and Specialized Capacity** *Tubughnenq 4*
  - Local governments do not need to maintain every specialized service on their own. Explore how shared technology, staffing support, expertise, and partnerships can expand capacity, lower costs, and improve local services.
  - Moderated by **Alicia Hughes-Skandijs**, Director of Programs, AML

        - **Layton Lockett,** Alaska Municipal Financial Solutions Manager, AML
        - **Clinton Singletary,** Statewide Municipal Sales Tax Program Director, AML
        - **Britta Hamre,** Senior Transportation and Land Use Manager, AML
        - **Irene Gallion,** Transportation Planner, AML
        - **Mary Hoffman,** Grants Program Manager, AML
    - **Continuity Under Pressure: Keeping Essential Services Running** *Tubughnenq 5*
        - Emergencies and system failures can quickly disrupt essential services. Learn how utilities, public safety, behavioral health partners, IT, finance, and administrators can prepare together and keep serving the community.
        - Moderated by **Danielle Meeker**, Resilience Planning Manager, AML
            - **Nakita Mongar** and **Robert Bartnett**, DOL&WD Rapid Response Team
            - **Greg Stocker,** Executive Director, Alaska Police Standards Council
            - **Alison Biastock**, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

11:15am Break

11:45am **Awards Luncheon**

1:15pm Break

1:30pm <u>Concurrent Sessions – Financial Health</u>

- **Property Taxes: Who Pays, What's Fair, and What Are We Funding?** *Kahtnu 1*
    - Property taxes support essential local services, but questions about fairness, exemptions, and local authority are growing. Compare approaches from Alaska and other states and explore what potential changes could mean for communities.
    - Moderated by **Anna Brawley**, Assembly Chair, Municipality of Anchorage
        - **Rita Jefferson**, Analyst, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy
        - **Kevin Berry**, Economist, University of Alaska Anchorage
        - **Robert Barr**, Deputy City Manager, City and Borough of Juneau
- **Beyond the Grant: Can We Afford to Own It?** *Kahtnu 2*
    - A grant may build a project, but the community must operate it for years. Learn how to consider staffing, energy, maintenance, insurance, replacement, and other long-term costs before deciding to move forward.
    - Moderated by **Erin Reinders,** Deputy Director, AML
        - **Lachlan Maclean,** icInfrastructure
- **Borrowing with Confidence: When Bonds & Loans Make Sense** Tubughnenq 3
    - Borrowing can move an important project forward, but it must fit the community's finances. Learn how that can work for municipalities, how to judge affordability and risk, and when another funding approach may make more sense.
    - Moderated by **Melody Nibeck**, Senior Community Resilience Manager, AML
        - **Jordan Nelson**, Finance Director, City of Valdez
        - **Young Ha**, State Revolving Fund, DEC
        - **Chris Noel**, Mayor, Denali Borough
        - **Marc Greenough,** Bond Counsel, Foster Gravey
        - **Fadil Limani**, Director of Finance, North Slope Borough
- **Investing in Your Workforce: Pay, PERS, and Long-Term Costs** *Tubughnenq 4*
    - Good employees are essential to strong local services, and communities need compensation they can sustain. Learn how wages, benefits, PERS, COLAs, vacancies,

and union proposals affect employees and municipal budgets - and how good information supports fair, collaborative decisions.
    - Moderated by **Mila Cosgrove**, Facilitator, AML HR Directors Working Group
- **Protecting Public Dollars: Preventing and Responding to Fraud** *Tubughnenq 5*
    - Public funds are increasingly targeted through payment fraud, fake vendors, impersonation, and procurement scams. Learn how to recognize warning signs, prevent losses, respond quickly, and work with banks, cybersecurity professionals, and law enforcement when fraud occurs.
    - Moderated by **Raina Collins**, Cybersecurity Program Manager, AML
        - **Rena Dalman**, AVP, Treasury Management Relationship Manager, Northrim Bank
        - **Scott Rowley**, Senior VP, Lead Payments Advisor, KeyBank

2:45pm Break – Exhibitor Recognition and Raffle

3:15pm Plenary Session – **Laughter is Key**

- **Danny Adams**
  This interactive presentation blends comedy, real-life insight, and playful games to remind us that joy isn't just an emotion—it's a strategy. Through laughter, we explore how humor fuels workplace productivity and connection. Attendees leave uplifted, energized, and equipped with simple ways to bring more positivity and play into their daily work—and yes, their overall health too. Because when we laugh together, we don't just feel better—we grow better.

4:30pm **Break – NLC Meet & Greet**

Join National League of Cities representatives for a casual meet and greet to learn more about what the organization does for city governments. Drink Tickets and snacks provided.

5:30pm **AML Game Night** *Tikahtnu A*

Join the Alaska Municipal League staff and fellow conference attendees for a fun night of games, food, drinks and more! Also, enjoy some laughs as you and your peers try their skills on the bucking salmon.

Friday, December 11th

8am-12pm AGFOA *Kahtnu 1-2*

8:00am Breakfast

8:30am **AMLIP Annual Meeting** *Tubughnenq 3-5*

- Safeguarding Investments
- Managing Return
- Increasing Capacity

9:30am **AML Annual Business Meeting** *Tubughnenq 3-5*

- President's Report
- Director's Report
- Resolutions Committee
- Legislative Committee

- Nominating Committee - Elections

Noon **Adjourn**