

Survey Results Prove Divisive Issues are Exactly That

Representative High Fate's summer and fall survey on some of the toughest decisions facing the Legislature this year ended with two of the four questions a dead or near tie.

On the question of voting on an amendment to place the Permanent Fund into the Alaska's Constitution those taking the survey the percentage was split 50/50. Similar results were recorded on the issue of new revenue for the state. According to the survey, 49 percent would prefer taxes while 51 percent would prefer losing their Permanent Fund Dividend.

That is where the neck and neck ends. If additional state revenue in the form of taxes is needed, the survey clearly shows a preference for an income tax. By a two to one margin participants at the Community Meetings and on-line at Representative Fate's webpage said they would prefer an income tax to a sales tax.

The survey also revisited an issue presented several years ago by then Senator Jerry Mackie. The question was based on the one time distribution of a large PFD check, which would end the program. Seventy-one percent said no with 29% saying yes.

Representative Fate would like to pass along to everyone who participated in the survey a sincere thank you.

SURVEY For Rep. Hugh "Bud" Fate

1. The value of your dividend is never a sure thing. It increases or decreases depending on stock prices, income from oil to the state, expenses incurred by the state, and legislation. Given these variables would you still vote to place the dividend in the Constitution even if it meant curtailing important public services just to meet the dividend demand?

50% YES

50% NO

2. Based on some assumptions, increased industry and pipeline construction in the state will mean the possible doubling of our population and a large increase in costs to state and local services. Which would you prefer? Taxes or losing the annual Permanent Fund Dividend Check.

49% Taxes

51% Losing PFD Check

3. If taxes become necessary, which form of taxation would you prefer?

33% Sales

66% Income

4. During the 21st Alaska Legislature, then Senator Jerry Mackie introduced a resolution (SJR 33) that would pay a Permanent Fund lump sum to all eligible Alaskans. The estimated amount was \$25,000. That would be the final Permanent Fund Check, **EVER**. If that plan was reintroduced, would you be in favor of it?

21% Yes 79% No

Please provide your name and e-mail address. We will send you a copy of the survey results when it is completed. (please print)

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Do you have any other thoughts you would like to add. Please feel free to use the space below.