



2006 LEGISLATURE FIRES UP

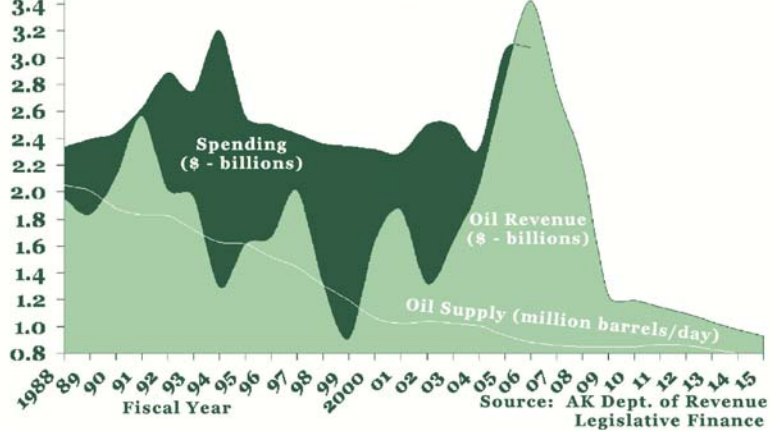
It's session time again in Juneau and we've hit the ground running. There are a number of critical issues that we continue to face in the state capitol and I encourage your involvement in addressing them.

I would like to offer my current position on some of the issues being discussed in the Legislature, and in turn I'm seeking your opinion and advice. Please take the time to read and respond to this survey and return it to me by **February 28, 2006**. Thank you for participating. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



ALASKA'S STATE BUDGET SPENDING: First I would like to comment on the matter of state spending. I have been striving to reduce state spending and to curb excesses in the growth of state government. As you know, our state budget is primarily driven by the production level and price per barrel of oil. Due in large part to record high oil prices, the current fiscal year is expected to see a revenue surplus. Under such uncommon circumstances there is a tendency to spend the surplus and expand government. However, I believe we should embrace a more cautious spending policy. As oil production steadily declines, coupled with a leveling of oil prices, we may eventually be faced with wide-scale spending cuts, program reductions, and/or finding alternative long-term revenue sources such as taxation or renewable resource development. I'm of the opinion that we should take a large portion of the estimated surplus and save it for what is sure to be leaner times in the future. **I ask you: Which, if any, of these surplus options do you agree with most?** (please circle one)

GENERAL FUND OIL REVENUE, SPENDING, & OIL SUPPLY



- A. Spend the entire surplus on new and existing state government programs.
- B. Spend % of the surplus and deposit the balance into the Permanent Fund.
- C. Spend none of the surplus. Deposit it all into the Permanent Fund.
- D. Use the surplus to:



EDUCATION: STUDENT-TEACHER RATIOS

In the wake of the "No Child Left Behind" Act, many school districts and educators are struggling to provide children with the enhanced and individualized attention they need to succeed at learning in the classroom. This is thought to be the case in the "primary" grades of Kindergarten through 3rd grade. As one component to improving our children's education at these levels, I have introduced legislation that would establish a maximum classroom student-teacher ratio of 20 to 1. I believe this will help both students and teachers to succeed. Some critics contend that this will be too costly, requiring the construction of new classroom facilities and hiring many more teachers. **I ask you: Which, if any, of these policy statements do you agree with most?** (Please circle one):

- A. We should mandate reduced classroom student-teacher ratios for grades K-3 and force school districts and local governments to comply using their existing budget levels and facilities.
- B. We should mandate reduced classroom student-teacher ratios for grades K-3 and provide school districts and local governments with new state funds sufficient to hire more teachers and build more facilities as needed.
- C. There isn't a problem with the existing classroom sizes or ratios. We should leave local school districts alone to manage schools on their own.
- D. The best way to improve today's classroom experience is not by reducing student-teacher ratios, but instead to:



MAY I E-MAIL YOU? I'd like to begin using e-mail to share events and legislative information with you. If you're interested in hearing from me electronically, please provide your e-mail address below. I will use it only for official legislative business and not share this information. *E-Mail Address:*

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Regardless of a revenue surplus in the state, please list (and/or attach a letter regarding) the state-funded program(s) or issue(s) **most** important to you:

By contrast, please list the state-funded program(s) or issue(s) **least** important to you:

90-DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Another issue that keeps resurfacing in Juneau is that the Legislative branch of government should be able to make policy and budget decisions for the state within a 90-day period, instead of the current 120 days. Supporters of this idea contend that the state would see a cost savings of about \$700,000; and would encourage more "citizen legislators" to run for office and return home to work in the private sector, instead of making politics a year-round profession. Opponents feel that it would hinder the debate process and the legislature's ability to make sound decisions; that it hands over more power to the governor and the executive branch in influencing these decisions. **I ask you: Which, if any, of these policy statements do you agree with most?** (Please circle one)

- A. The current 120-day session is reasonable. The system isn't broken, so don't try to fix it.
- B. We should limit the Legislative session to 90 days. It's fiscally prudent and encourages "citizen legislators."
- C. The Legislative session is already too short. If anything we should lengthen it to days.
- D. Other:



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PUBLIC SAFETY: SEAT BELTS The legislature recently passed a law that will make it a primary offense by failing to buckle your seatbelt when driving on a highway. That means you can be pulled over for not buckling up. I voted against this legislation on principle, as I see it as an invasion of personal rights and liberties. Of course, I endorse a personal policy of responsible safety practices, like buckling one's seatbelt, but I disagree that the government should mandate it as a legal requirement for driving a vehicle, and for giving law enforcement the explicit right to pull drivers over for failing to do so. Supporters of this new law insist that it saves lives, prevents injuries, saves the state millions of dollars, and is a revenue generator. **I ask you: Which, if any, of these policy statements do you agree with most?** (Please circle one):

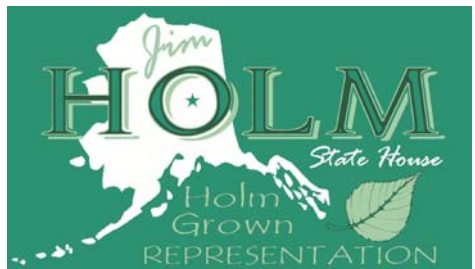
- A. Taking responsibility for one's own safety by buckling up is a personal choice and should be neither mandated nor enforced by government.
- B. Seatbelt laws should be maintained as a secondary offense, but not be a justification for getting pulled over and cited.
- C. The new seatbelt law is right and will ensure public safety; and law enforcement should have the right to pull drivers over for failing to buckle up.
- D. Other:

WHAT ELSE IS ON YOUR MIND? I recognize this paper only touches a small few of the issues. Please use this space, and/or attach a letter, to share with me your thoughts or concerns:

I invite you to join me in person for an informal discussion of what's happening in Juneau, to share with me your ideas and concerns about our great state, about Fairbanks; and so I can get to know you, my neighbors, better. Below is a list of upcoming "Holm-Town" Meetings I've scheduled. I hope to see you there!

H O L M - T O W N	★ Saturday, February 11, 2006 at the Noel Wien Library 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	M E E T I N G S	★
	★ Saturday, March 25, 2006 at Anne Wien Elementary 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.		★
	★ Saturday, April 15, 2006 at Hunter Elementary 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.		★

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