

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE VIC KOHRING DISTRICT 14

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Kohring Wants to Put Tax Question on Ballot **A Constitutional Amendment Would Let Voters Decide**

(JUNEAU)—Rep. Kohring (R-Wasilla/Mat-Su) introduced legislation on Wednesday to amend the state's Constitution to allow voters to decide on a statewide sales tax or a personal income tax.

"I feel the people of Alaska should have the first say in what, if any, taxes should be levied against them," Kohring said. "There are a number of bills floating around the Capitol that deal with taxes and I don't think they should be jammed down our throats without first getting feedback and letting the people decide."

In order to be adopted, [House Joint Resolution 21](#) requires two-thirds majority approval in each house of the Legislature. If HJR 21 passes, an initiative would be placed on the ballot in the next general election in November of 2004.

"I think we should trim and consolidate government, before we start taxing our citizens," Kohring said. "Many areas in the state are already burdened with taxes. To add to those demands before we make further cuts in government spending doesn't make sense to me."

Kohring added that, although he has never liked the idea of taxes, he is willing to put the question before the voting public so that they have a choice in how to bridge the fiscal gap. HJR 21 is in the House Ways and Means Committee and also has a referral to the House Judiciary and Finance Committees.

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