

## SESSION SURVEY 2000

Please circle the letters of your choices for the following questions:

- 1) Please rank the priority of issues that you think the Legislature should be working on this session (7 - highest priority, 1 - lowest priority.)  

	<u>Rank:</u>
a) Budget cuts	_____
b) Finding new revenue for state government	_____
c) Education (improving K-university education)	_____
d) Crime and public safety	_____
e) Public facility maintenance (schools, university, roads, harbors, airports, etc.)	_____
f) Environmental protection	_____
g) Other _____	_____
- 2) Do you support further, targeted cuts of \$30 million to the state budget?
  - a) Yes, there is still room for cuts in addition to the \$270 million already cut.
  - b) No, there have been enough cuts.
- 3) Even with the current high oil prices, the state's Constitutional Budget Reserve will be exhausted in three to five years. When that happens, which of the following options do you prefer to help balance the state budget?
  - a) Much deeper cuts that will likely impact core services and programs like road maintenance, Troopers, and education.
  - b) New state taxes combined with more limited cuts to the budget.
  - c) Pay dividends and then use some of the Earnings Reserve Account for core services, combined with more limited cuts to the budget.
- 4) Which of the following possible sources of state revenue, if any, would you support:
  - a) A flat income tax of 5% based on the adjusted gross income of your federal tax return that is projected to raise \$585 million.
  - b) A state sales tax of 5% (exempting food and prescription drugs), added to any sales tax levied by a local government, that is projected to raise \$350 million.
  - c) A nine-cent per gallon Motor Fuel Tax that is projected to raise \$26 million for fiscal year 2001 and \$29 million for each year thereafter.
- 5) The Senior Citizens'/Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption provides that seniors and disabled veterans who have a 50% or greater rated disability, do not pay property taxes on the first \$150,000 of their home's assessed value. This is a state law, but the state has not fully reimbursed municipalities for that lost tax revenue for several years. Mayor Mystrom would like the Legislature to abolish this rebate. Do you feel that:
  - a) Seniors and disabled veterans deserve this property tax exemption for the contributions they have made, and the state should fund it at a cost of \$17 million per year.
  - b) Only seniors and disabled veterans with income under a certain amount should be eligible for this exemption ("means test" the program).
  - c) This exemption should become a local option.
- 6) State employee contracts are currently in negotiation. The Legislature has said that the state cannot afford any net increase in the contracts, either for pay or for health benefits. Do you feel that:
  - a) State employees are, for the most part, fairly compensated and the Legislature's position is correct while Alaska is operating at a deficit,
  - b) State employees have not had recent pay increases and should be given a fair raise,
  - c) There should be no pay raises, but the state should absorb any increases in healthcare benefits.
- 7) Last session, the Legislature cut municipal revenue sharing to Alaska towns and cities by 33%. Despite past cuts and knowledge about future cuts, Anchorage has increased the municipality's budget (and property taxes) each year. Do you feel that:
  - d) The Legislature should not make any further cuts to municipal revenue sharing despite the state budget shortfall,
  - e) The Anchorage Mayor and Assembly should also be cutting the municipal budget,
  - f) The Anchorage Mayor and Assembly should be considering ways to increase revenue, such as a municipal sales tax,
- 8) The Governor has proposed that the state should initiate a government to government relationship with federally-recognized tribes in Alaska. Do you:
  - a) Support this effort, or
  - b) Oppose this effort.

If you would like to discuss these or any other issues, please check the first line and print your name, telephone number, and/or e-mail address below, and I will get back in touch with you. If you would like to be added to our Legislative Update e-mail address list, please print your name and e-mail address, and check the second box. Thank you!

Please contact me. I would like to discuss legislative business with you.

Please add me to the Legislative Update e-mail list. I would like to receive updates on what is happening in the Legislature. I understand that my name and other private information will be kept private.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you once again for giving me the information I need to represent you effectively.

(Please fold on the dotted line with my return address displayed, tape shut, attach a 33 cent stamp, and mail to my office.)

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stamp here.

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