

Senator Tom Wagoner wants your opinion.



I head for Juneau in January and want to get your opinion on the issues that may come up during the session. I know it will take some time, but I would appreciate your filling this out and getting it back to me as soon as possible.

Thanks for helping out!

BUDGET: This is again a critical issue and our choices are basic; cut the budget more, look for new revenues, or some mix of both. Please let me know what you think.

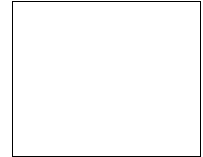
- Last year, Governor Frank Murkowski cut almost \$200 million dollars from the state budget. The budget cuts resulted in over 150 jobs being lost and many state programs ending, including the Longevity Bonus Program. Do you support or oppose the budget cuts made by Governor Murkowski in order to balance the budget?
48.45% **support** 34.78% **oppose** 16.77% **not sure**
- Governor Murkowski has said that he intends to make another cut of around \$250 million dollars from the state budget next year. If this happens, more state jobs and programs will be terminated. Do you support or oppose the Governor's proposal to possibly cut another \$250 million dollars from the state budget?
40.99% **support** 40.37% **oppose** 18.63% **not sure**
- If you oppose additional cuts, which of the following measures is the least objectionable to you in order to raise revenues to balance the budget gap?
33.54% **income tax** 13.04% **sales tax** 18.63% **seasonal sales tax** 14.29% **some use of the permanent fund**
20.5% **don't know**

EDUCATION: Last year, the Legislature increased the per student funding to \$4,169, an increase of \$159 per student, which was a \$32.1 million budget increase. In the same bill (SB 202), we established a new program for pupil transportation to control costs (costs have increased 77 percent in past 7 years; \$32.8 million in FY97 to \$58.1 million in FY04). But our district is required to pay a local share and competes with certain other districts (Regional Education Attendance Areas) that receive all their funding from the state because they don't have a local government. Of course, that results in less funding available for the districts that pay a local share - like the Kenai Peninsula.

Do you support increases in the current funding level of \$4,169 per student?

- 48.44% **yes** 34.78% **no** 16.77% **not sure**
- Do you think that other areas of the state should be required to pay a local share?
68.94% **yes** 8.7% **no** 22.36% **not sure**
 - Vocational training is an issue that many people believe is imperative for our residents. The question is whether it should be conducted at a high school or community college level. Which entity do you think should provide this training ?
51.55% **High School level** 27.33% **Community College level** 21.12% **not sure**
 - Do you support increasing the University budget?
28.57% **yes** 47.21% **no** 24.22% **not sure**

During the session please visit my website— www.akrepublicans.org— Go to “Legislators” and click Wagoner, Thomas



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LOBBYISTS: Last session a bill passed that lengthened the time in which someone can attempt to influence state government before they register as a lobbyist. The new law requires registration as a lobbyist if you lobby for more than forty hours during a 30 day period. (According to testimony, the Alaska Public Officials commission considered 16 hours/month to be reasonable.)

The old law requires someone who lobbies for more than four hours during a 30-day period to register as a lobbyist (established in 1976). Persons who are representative lobbyists (other elected officials) or volunteer lobbyists (unpaid) are not required to register.

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce supported the changes and argued that the old rule restricted the rights of business owners who interact with lawmakers. Opponents argued it was an effort to allow people to lobby without being restricted from giving campaign donations to lawmakers outside their district.

Which do you support?

24.84% **current 40 hours/month** 34.16% **old 4 hours/month** 6.83% **20 hours/month** 26.71% **16 hours/month**
7.45% **other**

There have been suggestions that resource extraction businesses have increases in their current taxes to provide more tax revenue. Others argue that tax incentives are better because that spurs new development which then means new taxes.

Which do you support?

19.88% **increased resource extraction taxes** 39.75% **provide resource extraction tax incentives** 40.37% **not sure**

Lottery—Electronic Gaming:

Do you favor or oppose a statewide lottery similar to that conducted in other states?

44.18% **favor** 45.96% **oppose** 9.94% **not sure**

Do you favor or oppose electron video gaming, such as video poker?

22.98% **favor** 60.87% **oppose** 16.15% **not sure**



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