

Presented by: The Mayor and
Deputy Mayor
Introduced: 03/04/2019
Drafted by: The Manager

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2850(am)

A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Pass a Balanced, Sustainable, and Predictable State Budget to Help Ensure Long Term Fiscal and Economic Stability for the Citizens of the State of Alaska.

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget would have significant adverse impacts to local residents, municipalities, Alaskan businesses, and the local and statewide economy, and will require local municipalities, including the City and Borough of Juneau, to abruptly adjust their budgets to support core services, like education and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, negative impacts to the economy directly reduce existing local revenues, like sales and property taxes, that fund 90 percent of the City and Borough of Juneau's general government services and would drain diligently saved cash reserves; and

WHEREAS, Juneau could lose hundreds of public sector and private sector jobs and residents because the Governor's budget prioritizes significantly increased individual dividends over basic state services such as transportation and education; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the School Construction Debt Reimbursement is an indication that future governors and legislators will not follow through on financial commitments that incentivize investment in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipalities and economy need budget certainty from the Administration and the Legislature to allow for budget planning and the development of sustainable local budgets that provide predictable public services; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau believes that coordination between state and local government results in effective outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's reliance on oil revenues to fund state programs and services has been significantly compromised due to lower oil prices and reduced production; and

WHEREAS, there have been significant reductions to state services and restructuring of reserves over the last four legislative sessions; and

WHEREAS, the State has wisely saved and invested oil revenues and placed them into the Permanent Fund which is currently valued at greater than \$60 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the continued fiscal reality requires the Legislature to demonstrate strong leadership and bold action to pass a budget that creates a vibrant and thriving future for all Alaskans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau calls upon the Alaska State Legislature to take affirmative and immediate action to adopt a budget that will provide for a sustainable and predictable balanced state budget for the foreseeable future and the Assembly further calls upon the Governor to partner with the Legislature and support its budget.

Section 2. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau requests a budget that does not shift the funding burden for core services, such as education and healthcare, from the State to local municipalities. The Governor's budget would force municipalities to raise taxes. The Assembly is adamantly opposed to the State seizing local sources of revenue from municipalities; if the State determines it needs new revenue sources, it should not use the taxation measures that have been given to municipalities.

Section 3. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau requests that if significant reductions are proposed, then a transition plan be presented for consideration and that any transition plan show a proposed implementation over several years to minimize the shock to the economy and the citizens of Alaska.

Section 4. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau calls upon its citizens to respectfully voice their opinions regarding the budget to the Governor and Legislators throughout the State.

Section 5. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau urges that the Alaska State Legislature engage in meaningful discussion of all fiscal options (including broad based state taxes and substantial use of permanent fund earnings as originally intended by the voters in 1976) with the goal of providing a strong future to Alaska citizens and to take an assertive role to implement its duty of appropriation.

//


//

//

//

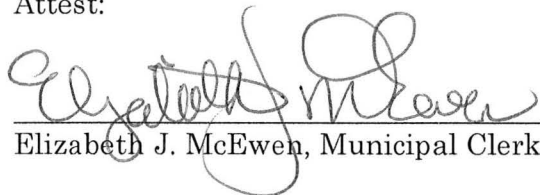
Section 6. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2019.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk