



Cathy Muñoz

Representative for District 4



End of Session Wrap-up May 2010



Rep. Muñoz & Joe Parrish of SAGA discuss issues on capitol steps

Upcoming Events

May 1-31: Spring King Salmon Derby (463-7133)

May 7 & 8: Boating without the Boys (747-3287)

May 21 & 22: Philippine Consul General visit

May 21-30: Juneau Jazz & Classics (463-3378)

May 31: TMHS, JDHS & Yaakoosge Graduation

June 3-5: Celebration Native Cultural Conference

June 26 & 27: Gold Rush Days (523-3615)

August 13-15: 64th Golden North Salmon Derby (321-8000)

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Representing Juneau during the 26th Alaska Legislature has been an honor.

Our victories came in numerous packages. Nearly \$70 million in direct capital appropriations, no hearings on capital move legislation, a new Alaska Class ferry, passage of legislation that will end federal litigation with the cruise industry and direct \$5 per passenger in state fees to Juneau, resolution of correctional officer contracts, and passage of numerous legislative priorities.

Landmark Energy Legislation includes funding for emerging technologies and development of alternative energy infrastructure, a Southeast energy fund, statewide energy policy and \$250 million in AHFC bonding for energy efficiency upgrades to public buildings.

Although we had broad support in the House, the Mental Health Trust building failed to clear Senate Finance. We did, however, secure \$5 million for planning and design of a new Juneau State Office Building.

Successful sponsored and co-sponsored legislation: tax credits for postsecondary educational infrastructure investments, expansion of Medicaid nursing home and in-care services for low income senior citizens, gun rights legislation, establishment of the Southeast State Forest, postsecondary scholarship, strengthening of the Initiative Process with better financial disclosure, funding for Alaska Youth Courts, and establishment of the Arctic Policy Task Force.

On May 21, I look forward to welcoming Philippine Consul General Marciano Paynor. He will assist constituents with legal documentation, passports, registration of births/marriages, dual citizenship and visas. I encourage interested residents to contact my office at 465-3744 for more details.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely,

No Capital Move Talk

Perhaps the biggest challenge a Juneau legislator faces is the threat of capital move legislation. As a member of the House majority, and as Co-Chair of Community & Regional Affairs Committee, I worked closely with Rep. Bob Herron of Bethel to ensure that there was no movement on capital move issues.

On the fall ballot, SJR21 proposes an amendment to the Constitution to increase the number of legislators by 4 in the House and 2 in the Senate.

A five member redistricting board will soon be appointed to analyze census data and recommend new legislative district boundaries.



Community & Regional Affairs Co-Chairs Rep. Muñoz and Rep. Herron

Juneau Projects

Pending approval of the Governor, good news for Juneau in this year's Capital Budget - \$10 million for road projects that can begin this spring, dock improvement funds, and \$60 million for a new Alaska Class Ferry. Many local non-profits and the CBJ will also receive direct grants.

Library, Archives & Museum (GO Bond/GF)	\$20 million	Catholic Community Services	\$125,000
Johnson Youth Center Renovation	\$10 million	United Human Services Non-profit Center	\$120,000
Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Fund	\$10 million	DNR Accessible Eagle Beach Cabins	\$100,000
Cruise Ship Dock Improvements	\$9 million	KTOO Gavel to Gavel Video Technology	\$97,000
New State Office Building Plan & Design	\$5 million	Glory Hole Roof Repair	\$65,000
Sealaska Heritage Institute Cultural Center	\$4 million	SERRC Adult Ed Tech Upgrades	\$63,600
Juneau Sewage System Expansion	\$3 million	Territorial Sportsmen Public Use Cabins	\$60,000
Lemon Creek Correctional Work Program	\$1.7 million	Southeast AK Guidance Association	\$57,000
Alaska Aviation Safety Training Program	\$1.75 million	Filipino Community Building Repairs	\$50,000
Centennial Hall Emergency Center	\$1.2 million	Juneau Arts Culture Center Electric Repair	\$50,000
Governor's Mansion	\$1 million	Juneau Housing Trust, 20th Century Project	\$50,000
AWARE Extended Stay Shelter	\$1 million	Perseverance Theater Electric Upgrade	\$45,000
DIPAC Facility Upgrades	\$500,000	Gastineau Human Services Safety	\$39,500
Mining Voc-Ed Simulator	\$400,000	REACH Building Repairs	\$25,500
House of Wickersham	\$250,000	Capital Park Playground Equipment	\$25,000
Tlingit & Haida Youth Suicide Prevention	\$150,000	Melvin Park Playground Equipment	\$25,000
Juneau School District Safety, Technology	\$136,000	SAIL Lift Equipped Taxi	\$9,700

Strength of the Public Sector

Returning to a defined benefit retirement plan continues to be a top priority of many Alaskans. In April, I worked with representatives of the NEA to organize a statewide hearing to learn first-hand of personal experiences with the new defined contribution system. Legislative Council has initiated a cost comparison analysis of the new plan to the PERS/TRS tiers that were replaced.

The 2011 budget funds employee health & pay increases, plus 6 new permanent and 19 non-permanent jobs in Juneau. In addition, \$10.5 million funds the Correctional Officers Association contract arbitration award.

A recent McDowell study puts Juneau at 11% for area differential costs. To avoid pay disparities by region, the legislature will need to address the updated figures from the recent study to fairly compensate employees who live in more expensive regions of the state.



Community Service Officers Alisha Sell & Rebecca Notmeyer visiting district 4 office



Meeting with owners of Alaskan Tourism Businesses

Tourism Good for the State

This session I worked closely with community leaders and small business owners on passage of SB312. Reversing the decline in visitors coming to Alaska and finding a resolution to the federal litigation were the goals of this legislation.

SB312 correctly directs a \$5 per passenger fee to the communities with the largest impacts and will help diffuse the politics of how the collected tax is distributed annually each year by the legislature. In addition, the capital and operating budgets include a total of \$16 million for tourism marketing.

Legacy Projects

A general obligation bond package will ask voters to approve bonding for a UAF Life Sciences Building, Library & Archives Building, several rural school projects, Kenai Campus student housing, and improvements to the Prince William Sound Campus.

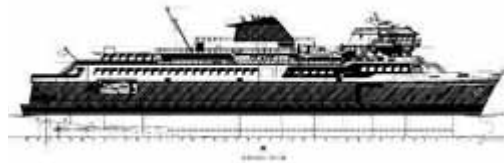
The capital budget includes more than \$440 million in statewide road projects and \$285 million for airports, \$75.5 million for the State Crime Lab, \$95 million for AMHS, \$57 million for Port Mackenzie rail extension, and \$40 million for Tanana River bridge.

The 3-mile road extension to Cascade Point is scheduled to begin in late summer or fall. The State is currently awaiting a decision on the date and location for oral arguments on the Lynn Canal Highway appeal.



Cathy & DOT Commissioner Leo von Scheben discussing Glacier Hwy 3 mile road extension

Alaska Class Ferry



The state has appropriated \$60 million to the Alaska Class Ferry from the AMHS vessel replacement fund. The Federal Highway Administration will match the amount for construction of the first of three new ferries.

The new Alaska Class Ferry design represents the next generation of ferries that will service our region.

I had the pleasure to participate in an event sponsored by the community of Tenakee Springs honoring the hard working employees of AMHS.

Local DOT Projects:

- Resurfacing and pedestrian upgrades on Glacier Hwy from Fritz Cove Rd to Auke Bay
- Repaving from Auke Bay to Back Loop Rd to Gladstone
- Repair on Jordan Creek Bridge and the Basin Road trestle
- Repaving on Egan Dr from Main St. to 10th, and all of Thane Road
- Other repaving projects include Twin Lakes Dr, Lemon Rd near WalMart, & N. Douglas Highway



AMHS Appreciation Day honoring the LeConte crew



Northern Waters Task Force

HCR 22—The Northern Waters Task Force will assess the creation of a joint state and federal entity to advocate for Alaska interests in navigation, fishing rights, resource development, military activity and commerce in the Arctic. The Task Force will deliver findings to the Legislature in January 2012.



Bush Caucus

Education Update



Alaska Close-up Students with Rep. Munoz
Sarah Edwards, Nathaniel Habeger & Hannah Bibb

Postsecondary scholarship, improvement of graduation rates and vocational education were the focus of the House Education Committee. K-12 education was also forward funded in the 2011 budget.

An omnibus education package combined guidelines for merit based scholarships, a task force on higher education and career readiness, and increased funding for the AlaskAdvantage needs based scholarship program.

In response to the Kasayulie lawsuit a funding stream was established for rural school construction. In addition, school construction debt reimbursement for municipalities was included in SB237. Under the program the state reimburses municipalities for up to 70% of their payments made during a fiscal year for the cost of new school facilities and major renovation of existing facilities. Included are 6 debt reimbursement projects for Juneau.

Mining Works for Alaska

Mining has been a part of Alaska’s history for over 125 years. Today, mining directly or indirectly employs thousands of Alaskans, and two of Alaska’s five mines are located in district 4.

Alaska has one of the most rigorous permitting environments in the world. Several bills that would have legislated changes in the permitting process raised considerable concern, but fortunately did not pass.

We were successful with passage of an education tax credit bill which incentivizes donations to vocational education facilities and programs through a 50% tax credit on donations of up to \$5 million.

In addition, a state-of-the-art mining machinery simulator for UAS has been added to this year’s capital budget.



Top: Rep. Munoz & Sen. Egan at Kensington Mine

Bottom: Kyle Spickler & Kendra Kloster at Greens Creek

Left: Kensington Rally on Capitol steps

Alaska Sustainable Energy Act

The Alaska Legislature unanimously passed the Alaska Sustainable Energy Act. SB220 includes a broad range of policy tools designed to attract investment in Alaska's energy sector and stimulate the economy. A few of the important aspects of this legislation include:

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund: provides access to low-interest loans to local and state governments and University of Alaska for energy upgrades. SB 220 authorizes AHFC to issue \$250 million in bonds to capitalize the fund, using the energy savings to re-pay the loans.

Southeast Energy Fund: expands the purpose of the fund and provides grants for hydroelectric projects and electrical transmission lines serving Southeast.

Statewide Fuel Cooperative: The Alaska Energy Authority is directed to work with interested communities to establish a fuel coop that will facilitate bulk purchases, lowering costs to small communities.

Energy Policy for Alaska: SB 220 adopts an energy policy—the goal to increase energy efficiency by 15% and generate 50% of the state's electricity using renewable energy sources by 2020.

Loans to Businesses for Energy Conservation Improvements: businesses will have access to loans up to \$50,000 to enable investments in energy efficiency.

Emerging Technology Fund: provides grants for testing energy technologies in Alaska.



Juneau Delegation visits Lake Dorothy Hydro



Lake Dorothy

Legislative Successes

HB162 Southeast State Forest allows the Division of Forestry to manage for long-term use lands located around Wrangell and Prince of Wales Island, and maintain a timber sale program for local wood processors.

SB217 AHFC Veteran Bonds places a question on the ballot for the general election asking voters to approve an additional \$600 million in state guaranteed bonds to be issued by AHFC for the purchase of mortgage loans to qualifying veterans.

SB238/HB270 Medicaid for Medical & Intermediate Care changes the income eligibility for in-home and community based services from a fixed dollar amount to 300% of the supplemental security income. Sen. Davis and I worked with the Alaska Commission on Aging and Alaska Legal Services to pass this important bill.

SB222 & SB110 strengthens Alaska's laws concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, child pornography and evidence retention.

HB36 Initiatives Contributions and Procedures strengthens disclosure requirements for voter initiatives, similar to the requirements placed on individual candidates. The Lt. Governor's office will hold two public hearings in each of the four judicial districts, with an opportunity for pro and con viewpoints.

HB319 Firearms makes changes to Alaska Concealed Handgun Permits and ensures that NFA firearms transfers are not inappropriately obstructed.

HB369 In-State Pipeline/Coordinator Team will centralize state agency work and deliver a development plan to the Legislature for design, permitting, and financing to present to prospective builders.

SB13 Medical Assistance Eligibility increases qualifying income eligibility standard for Denali KidCare Program to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and makes health insurance accessible to an estimated 1277 uninsured children & 225 pregnant women.

SB236/HB367 Education Tax Credits expands the available tax credits for contributions to postsecondary education and enables donations to facilities. SB236 provides an opportunity for the business community to invest in Alaska's education system.

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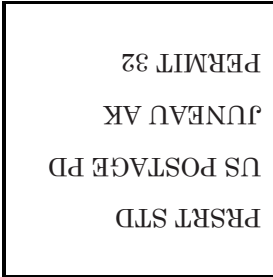
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Your Input Makes the Difference

Thanks so much for the phone calls, emails, letters, public opinion messages, and personal visits. Please keep it up! I depend on you to tell me how you feel about current issues that are vital to our community. Regardless of the subject matter or topic I am interested in your opinion. The common thread we all share is our care and concern for this special place we call home. My commitment to you is simple: I will listen to your ideas and opinions and do my very best to represent District 4 with integrity and common sense. My office is always open, call or come by anytime.

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Governor Parnell and Rep. Munoz