

**From:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2015 3:12 PM  
**To:** Gilman, Blaine; Bagley, Dale; Haggerty, Mako; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; McClure, Sue; Ogle, Wayne; Welles, Stan; Wolf, Kelly  
**Cc:** Havrilla, Brion  
**Subject:** FW: Can you do this???

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**From:** joalaska [<mailto:joalaska@ptialaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2015 2:26 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Can you do this???

I am unable to attend the Assembly meeting tonight but would like to get this message to ALL the Assembly members -if that is possible.

Thank you

Joann Odd  
P.O. Box 62  
Clam Gulch, AK 99568

Dear Assembly member,

We, the voters, have spoken multiple times to say that we do NOT want our groceries taxed. We have voted against this matter a number of times. I am asking that you respect our votes and the will of the people. **Please vote NO on Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute.**

This action is more than irritation. We are angry and distrustful. Please listen to us!!

Let me say it YET AGAIN : **NO To ANY Grocery Tax Increase!**

Assemblyman Dale Bagley's Proposed Ordinance 2015-03 Substitute would reduce our current Winter Grocery Tax Exemption from 9 months to 6 months. Are you willing and prepared to further alienate the voters over **THREE MONTHS OF TAXES????**

Currently, there is NO winter grocery tax, and we, the voters, want to keep it that way. The voters have spoken in their 2008 and 2011 votes. They have said **NO more grocery taxation**. Bagley's ordinance would blatantly **DISENFRANCHISE the voters**. **Bagley's ordinance substitute SHOULD NOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED.**

If this ordinance passes with a vote of just 5 Borough Assembly members, then thousands of signatures by local citizens and thousands of votes in support of the Grocery Tax Exemption (2008 ballot initiative and 2011 ballot proposition) will be nullified. This ordinance would seriously **DISENFRANCHISE the voters and the DISREGARD the will of the people:**

In 2011, the Borough Assembly asked voters to repeal their voter approved 2008 citizens' initiative! The **voters** **said NO** with an overwhelming 69%+ Vote.

**Now**, on the heels of Assemblyman Blaine Gilman's proposed Grocery Tax Ordinance that was recently voted down, Assemblyman Dale Bagley has introduced an ordinance to **ONCE AGAIN** try to repeal our voter approved 2008 Grocery Tax Exemption. He wants to **REDUCE** our 9 month grocery tax exemption to 6 months, **thereby increasing our taxes by 3 MONTHS!**

WHY is the borough assembly **NOT LISTENING TO THE VOTERS?**

Sincerely,  
Joann Odd  
P.O. Box 62  
Clam Gulch, ak 99568

April 7, 2015

Memo TO: All KPB Assembly Members  
From: Ruby Denison  
RE: Ordinance 2015—03 Testimony

I appreciate your service. The matter of taxing groceries (non-prepared food) should be a settled matter. The voters have spoken many times. And, you serve at the pleasure of the voters.

About funding to the schools. KPB funded to the cap for many years. However, the School District has been abusing our generosity as you will see below. These numbers are retrieved from the KPBSD FY2013 Cafr. While the numbers do not tell the whole story they are very important. It is always a good practice to FOLLOW THE MONEY!!

For instance.

Property tax revenue has increased more than \$4-million in the last 3 years. Sales tax revenue has increased almost \$2-million during that time. This trend is likely to continue thru increased prices of consumer goods and property tax assessments.

Borough spending on Education has increased \$3-million even though KPB did not fund to the cap. The only discernable reduction in spending was for Roads and Trails of almost \$3-million. **We have plenty of money** and now we have plenty of debt also which is up over \$15-million. Granted we voted for the bonds, but government growth from debt is a disaster. Now the State of Alaska is likely to reduce their participation in our debt.

As our elected money managers you must be better stewards of our finances. I suggest you further reduce the Education contribution by another \$3.5-million until they demonstrate their ability to control their budget. Giving them more money at this time will only continue their bad budgetary behavior.

Your leadership must actually result in economic growth for the citizens of the KPB. You must say no to increases in spending and/or debt.

Therefore I suggest **do not reduce** the number of months where tax on food is levied. I strongly suggest you make the **tax exemption year 'round** and leave more money for the citizens.

Think about the chart below. Use common sense.



Here are the numbers (rounded):

	2003	2013	Comments
Total expenditures (pg 170)	\$88-million	\$164-million	UP \$76-million or 86%
KPB Cash Contribution (pg169)	\$31.6-million	\$43-million	UP \$11.4-million
# Students (pg 178)	9,467	9,065	DOWN 402
# Staff including teachers (pg 181)	940	1,109	UP 169 fte
#Instructors (pg 181)	622	760	UP 138 (really?? <b>With 402 fewer students)</b>
Spending on Instructors (pg 170)	\$49-million	\$94-million	UP \$45-million or 92% <b>(are they really underpaid?)</b>

AND

**National test results are mostly flat.**

*From: Ruby Denison  
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Ninilchik, Alaska 99639  
907-567-4388 and 907-598-1191 ©*