

2024 Legislative Update

Sen. Jesse Bjorkman



FY 25 Operating Budget

Governor savings target \$2.5B to CBR. Legislature Passed \$2.9B To CBR

Fiscal Stability: No Broad-based Tax, No Increased Tax on Industry, \$1,655 dividend incl. \$295 energy relief, \$89M Surplus

Public Safety: \$3.7M for grants to programs that shelter and provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

Schools: \$175M One time Money, \$5.5M to backfill KPBSD underfunding **

Roads: \$1.3 million for snow removal and maintenance in Southcentral, including the Kenai Peninsula **

Seniors and Disabled Alaskans: \$3M for senior services including Meals on Wheels **, \$10M to increase reimbursement for in-home care

FY 25 Capital Budget

\$98.2M for the Kenai Peninsula, including funds for:

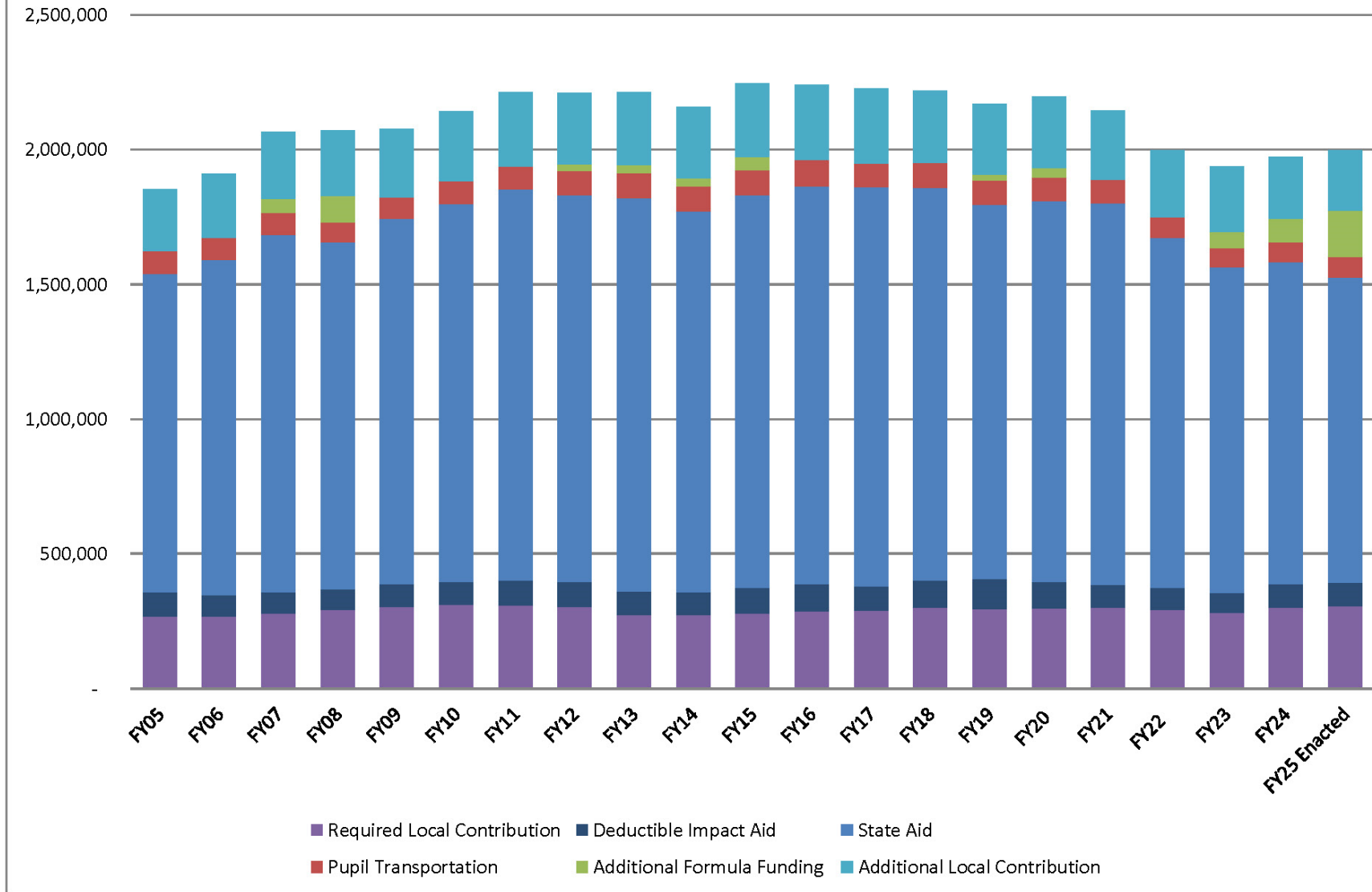
Public Safety: \$846K for improvements to emergency shelter and response in Cooper Landing, Funny River, Bear Creek and Moose Pass

Roads: \$2.7M for K-Beach Road drainage improvements, \$88.6M for road improvements across the Borough ** (reduced by \$1.1M)

Seniors: \$245K for improvements to senior centers in Kenai, Nikiski, and Sterling ** (all vetoed)

Energy: \$1.4M for Dixon Diversion at Bradley Lake to increase output and provide the least expensive power on the Railbelt

State and Local Education Funding, FY99-FY25 Projected (FY24 Dollars)



2023 Legislative Accomplishments

- Passed SB 87 - Local Lumber Grading
- Passed SB 126 - Architects and Engineer Registration



2024 Legislative Accomplishments

- Passed SB 179 – Property Transfer Tax
- Included provisions from SB 161 – Tax Exemption for Farm Use Land



2024 Legislative Accomplishments

- Passed legislation to help injured workers and get them back to work, including improvements to eligibility eval timing and creating voluntary SAW/RTW programs
- Included provisions from SB 183 to better ensure Workers Comp Benefits Guaranty Fund can make timely payment to injured workers
- Passed SB 196 – Employer Drug and Alcohol Testing



2024 Legislative Accomplishments

- Passed legislation including salary bonuses for teachers who achieve National Board Certification
- Inserted an amendment to allow home school allotments to continue through the next school year in related legislation
- Passed legislation rebuilding the Education Tax Credits program



2024 Legislative Accomplishments

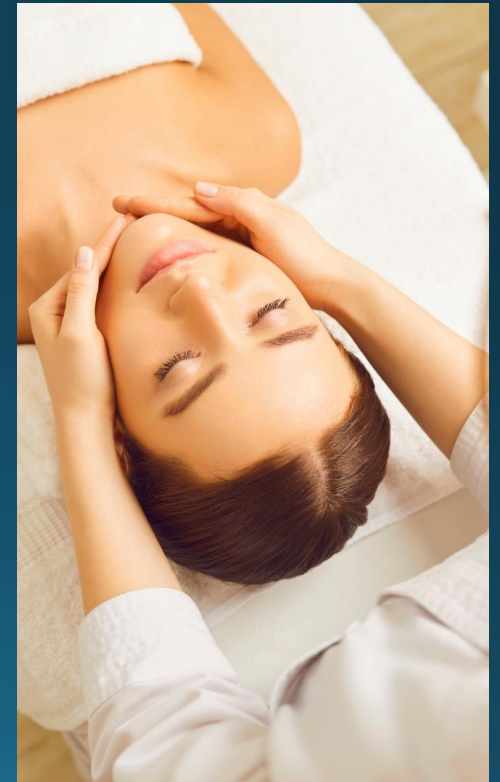
- Passed SB 93 – Fishermen’s Fund: Vessel Owner Claims
- Passed SB 174 – Honor and Remember/Honor and Sacrifice Flags



2024 Legislative Accomplishments

Passed legislation extending the:

- Big Game Commercial Services Board
- Board of Massage Therapists
- Marijuana Control Board



Labor and Commerce

33rd Legislature -
by the numbers:

- 107 Bills Referred to Committee
- 81 Hearings
- 63 Bills moved from committee.



Labor and Commerce continued

- Focus on Legislation
 - Insurance Coverage
 - Prescription Costs
 - Healthcare
 - Protecting Utility Customers
 - Making Good Bills Better
 - Stopped Bad Bills



The Roads Ahead in 2025-26



- Working closely with DOT to improve road safety and increase lanes
- Continue K-Beach Flood Mitigation
- Pursuing elimination of road brine
- Peninsula projects completed
- Timely snow removal

Goals for 2025 Session

Fiscal Stability – Downward pressure on the budget

- Oppose new taxes
- Secure reliable & affordable natural gas

Public Safety – Support reductions in response times by Troopers and other first responders

Schools – Dependable funding that encourages wise spending on all education options

Roads – Increase safety by prioritizing maintenance and project completion

How can I help?

- Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist you!

Contact Me:



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