

# ALASKA ★ MUNICIPAL ★ LEAGUE

Annual Local Government Conference

November 12-16, 2018 | Anchorage

## Monday, November 12

Concurrent meetings

- Alaska Municipal League Newly Elected Officials Training
- Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association
- Alaska Association of Assessing Officers
- Alaska Government Finance Officers Association
- Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks
- Alaska Municipal Management Association

## Tuesday, November 13

Concurrent meetings

- Alaska Municipal League Newly Elected Officials Training
- Alaska Conference of Mayors
- Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association
- Alaska Association of Assessing Officers
- Alaska Government Finance Officers Association
- Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks
- Alaska Municipal Management Association

5:00 pm **Mayors' Reception**

## Wednesday, November 14

7:30 am Registration opens (early registration Tuesday afternoon)

7:30 am **Breakfast – Sponsored by AMLIP**

- **AMLIP Business Meeting** – *all AMLIP members invited*

**Discovery  
Quarterdeck**

9:00 am **Opening Session**

- Welcome – **Pat Branson**, President, Alaska Municipal League
- Welcome – **Ethan Berkowitz**, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
- Announcements – **Nils Andreassen**, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
- **Affiliate reports**
  - Mayor **Jan Hill**, President, Alaska Conference of Mayors
  - **Peggy MacDonald**, Chair, Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool
  - **Jim Williams**, Immediate Past President, Alaska Municipal Management Association
  - **Shellie Saner**, Immediate Past President, Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks
  - **Ryan Williams**, Immediate Past President, Alaska Government Finance Officers Association
  - **Paul Ewers**, President, Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association

**Discovery**



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- 9:40 am      **Maximizing Local Self-Government**      **Discovery**
- Lieutenant Governor **Byron Mallott**, State of Alaska
- 10:10 am      **State of the State**      **Discovery**
- Civic leaders will speak to the economic, social and overall health of Alaska.*
- **Curtis Thayer**, President and CEO, Alaska Chamber of Commerce
  - **Dr. Karen Gaborik**, Superintendent of the Year; Superintendent, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
  - **Julie Kitka**, President, Alaska Federation of Natives
  - **Ray Gillespie**, Principal, Gillespie & Associates
- 11:45 am      **Lunch and Panel Discussion**      **Discovery**
- Introduction by **Pat Branson**, President, Alaska Municipal League
- Commissioner **Mike Navarre**, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
  - Commissioner **Sheldon Fischer**, Department of Revenue
  - Commissioner **Leslie Ridle**, Department of Administration
  - Commissioner **Marc Luiken**, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
  - **Janet Reiser**, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority
- 1:15 pm      Concurrent Sessions
- **Cybersecurity Risk and Protection**      **Discovery**
- The threat of hacking, a virus or malware has never been more visceral than now. With attacks and disruptions in Mat-Su and Valdez, as well as during elections, this session will explore potential impacts and how to keep local governments safe.*
- Moderated by **Kevin Smith**, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League/Joint Insurance Association
- **Cesar Rodgers**, Partner, Deep Tree Consulting
  - **Elke Doom**, City Manager, City of Valdez
  - **John Moosey**, Borough Manager, Mat-Su Borough
  - **Tom Wilder**, Protective Security Advisor, Department of Homeland Security
- **Revenue Options for the State of Alaska**      **Quarterdeck**
- While the past four years have focused on budget cuts to State agencies, including negative impacts to municipalities, 2019 must be the year to focus on increasing State revenue. This session will explore revenue options and preferences, as well as potential pathways.*
- **Ken Alper**, Tax Division Director, Department of Revenue
  - **Pat Pitney**, Director, Office of Management and Budget
  - **Larry Persily**, Advisor

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- **Best Practices for Contracting Professional Services** **Endeavor**  
*Panelists will discuss project development and how to develop a clear scope of work, put together an effective Request for Proposals, develop relevant scoring criteria, review proposals for professional services, make use of term contracts, and decide which type of contract payment method makes the most sense for your project.*

Moderated by:

- **Andrea Story**, CPSM, Vice President, R&M
- **Chris Miller**, PE, President, Design Alaska

- **Improving Outcomes of Strategic Energy Management Programs** **Adventure**  
*AHFC will deliver presentations related to benchmarking, energy audits, building monitoring, and technical assistance. Outcomes from the session should be ways to save money, build capacity and strengthen energy efficiency in your community.*

- **Laura Tellez**, Energy Specialist, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- **Michael Spencer**, Energy Specialist, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- **Tyler Boyes**, Energy Specialist, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

2:30 pm Networking Break in Exhibit Hall

3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

- **A Responsible Municipal Fiscal Policy** **Quarterdeck**  
*Municipalities are faced with tough financial decisions each year, which require them to balance short term needs with long term sustainability. Panelists will identify keys to success and ways in which municipalities can work to meet that balance.*

- **Jay Sweeney**, Finance Director, City and Borough of Sitka
- **Max Mertz**, Principal, Mertz CPA & Advisor
- **Deven Mitchell**, Director, Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority
- **Troy Tankersley**, Finance Director, City of Wasilla (*invited*)

- **Ensuring a Successful Census** **Adventure**  
*While Alaska prepares for the 2020 census, many communities might be concerned about changes in population and what that might mean for program and funding decisions at the state and federal level. This session will address those concerns, and provide information about why participation is so important.*

- **Gabriel Layman**, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Cook Inlet Tribal Housing
- **Fred Parady**, Deputy Commissioner, DCCED

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- **Increasing Crime Trends and Municipal Impact** **Discovery**  
*Public safety is an essential government role that deserves attention, change and investment. Speakers will share where we're at, what to watch for, and ways that municipalities and the state can improve and address crime.*
  - Captain **Mike Duxbury**, Alaska State Troopers
  - Special Agent **Jolene Goeden**, Violent Crimes Supervisor, FBI
  - Special Agent **Michael Root**, US DEA
  - **Adam Rutherford**, Chief Mental Health Officer, Department of Corrections
  - Deputy Commissioner **Bill Comer**, Department of Public Safety
  
- **Local Government Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts in Alaska** **Endeavor**  
*Rapid climate change is threatening local communities. What can and should be done to understand and prepare for the threats to communities including safety, public infrastructure (including schools, housing and utilities), and ecosystem? A panel of experts will highlight what is currently being done and what more needs to be accomplished to increase resilience and respond to impacts and opportunities.*  
Moderated by **Jim Powell, PhD**, Program Coordinator & Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Southeast
  - **Nikoosh Carlo**, Senior Advisor, Office of the Governor
  - **Rosie Barr**, Vice President, Lands, Calista Corporation
  - **Denise Pollock**, Research Director, Alaska Institute for Justice
  
- 4:15 pm Break
  
- 4:30 pm **Cruise Port Community Update** – work session **Quarterdeck**
  - Chaired by **Rorie Watt**, City Manager, City and Borough of Juneau  
**Committee Meetings**
  - **Legislative Position Committee** – finalize position statement **Endeavor**
    - Chaired by **Pat Branson**, President, AML Board of Directors
  - **Resolution Committee** – review of and certify member resolutions **Endeavor**
    - Chaired by **Tim Navarre**, Acting First Vice President, AML Board of Directors
  
- 5:30 pm **Nominating Committee** – review and finalize candidate slates **Library**
  
- 6:00 pm **Host City Reception and Community Block Party** **Discovery**  
*Sponsored by the Anchorage Assembly*  
*Communities should plan to contribute a little bit of home – bring materials, information and other things to share with attendees. A fun evening with Alaska communities.*
  
- 7:30 pm Adjourn

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### Thursday, November 15

- 7:30 am      **Breakfast – Sponsored by AMLJIA**      **Discovery**
- **AMLJIA Business Meeting**
- 8:00 am      On-site Registration
- 8:30 am      **General Session – Online Sales Tax**      **Discovery**
- There are many questions related to the recent Wayfair case, which leave Alaska municipalities trying to understand and make decisions about online sales taxes. This session will provide as many answers as are known and describe the path forward.*
- **Brooks Chandler**, Attorney, Boyd, Chandler & Falconer, LLP
  - **Mike Bailey**, Local Government Representative to the Streamlined Sales Tax Project, GFOA
- 9:15 am      Concurrent Sessions
- **Municipal Innovation**      **Quarterdeck**  
*Across the country municipalities are turning to data and new processes to design innovative approaches to local government. These speakers will highlight a number of examples that are being tried and tested in Alaska, as well as across the nation.*
    - **Ben Matheson**, Data Analyst, Municipality of Anchorage
    - **Cheryl Burnett**, Director, Counties Solution and Innovation, National Association of Counties
    - **Margo Fliss**, Manager of Strategic Engagement, Center for Economic Development, UAA Business Enterprise Institute
  - **State of Alaska Program Briefs**      **Endeavor**  
*State agency staff will make brief presentations related to a number of important programs that impact municipalities, ranging from APOC updates to alcohol and marijuana. The session will be fast-paced with time for Q&A at the end.*
    - **Ethics and Lobbying**
      - **Madeline Scholl**, Public Official Financial Disclosure Paralegal, Alaska Public Offices Commission
    - **Alcohol Statute and Change, Marijuana Regulations**
      - **Jedediah Smith**, Local Government Specialist, Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office, DCCED
    - **Property Tax Administration Changes in Staff and Systems**
      - **Marty McGee**, State Assessor, Division of Community and Regional Affairs
    - **Elections Update**
      - **Josie Bahnke**, Division Director, Division of Elections, State of Alaska

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- **Managing Growth and Infrastructure Improvements** **Discovery**  
*A reduced or absent capital budget has meant that many communities are falling behind in maintenance of and improvements to infrastructure. Speakers will describe the challenges they are facing – from growth to glaring needs – and ways in which municipalities can address the looming infrastructure gap.*
  - **Steve Ribuffo**, Port Director, Port of Alaska
  - **Dan O’Hara**, Mayor, Bristol Bay Borough
  - **Gordon Brower**, Director, North Slope Borough
  - **Greg Kinney and David Gomez**, Alaska Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

- **Regional and Community Sanitation Planning** **Adventure**  
*ANTHC has recently embarked on creating regional and community plans of sanitation improvements in rural Alaska. These plans are being put together with the involvement of the regional and statewide partners interested in improving sanitation in the more challenging areas of the State.*
  - **Rebecca Pollis**, Director of Project Management, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

10:30 am Networking Break

10:45 am Concurrent Sessions

- **Effective Economic Development Strategies** **Quarterdeck**  
*Economic development at a local and regional level is an important responsibility of many municipalities. Learn about how some regions of the state are approaching the planning necessary to effect economic growth and diversification.*
  - **Robert Venables**, Executive Director, Southeast Conference
  - **Britteny Cioni-Haywood**, Division Director, Division of Economic Development, DCCED
  - **Wanetta Ayers**, Interim Executive Director, Prince William Sound Economic Development District
  - **Jeff Stepp**, Special Assistant, Economic Development Coordinator, Fairbanks North Star Borough (*invited*)
  - **Jenny Carroll**, Economic Development Coordinator, City of Homer (*invited*)

- **Homelessness and Housing** **Endeavor**  
*One of the perennial challenges in many Alaska communities is the lack of (affordable) housing and the trends related to homelessness. The reality is that Alaskans are working to address both, and this session will describe what’s being done, and what work there’s left to do.*
  - **Bryan Butcher**, CEO, AHFC & Chair, Alaska Council on Homelessness

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- **PILT update** **Adventure**  
*AML works with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to advocate for full funding of and positive changes to federal Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) funding. Alaskans recently traveled to DC to assist in this advocacy and will report out on the process and potential outcomes.*
  - **Cheryl Burnett**, Director, Counties Solution and Innovation, National Association of Counties
  - **John Quick**, Chief of Staff, Kenai Peninsula Borough
  - Mayor **David Landis**, Ketchikan Gateway Borough

- **Alaska Funders' Forum** **Discovery**  
*Access to funding for projects and programs is essential for municipal health. Speakers will highlight their unique attributes, what might be available to municipalities, and the planning necessary to be an effective advocate.*
  - **Diane Kaplan**, President & CEO, Rasmuson Foundation
  - **John Torgerson**, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
  - **Nina Kempel**, President & CEO, Alaska Community Foundation (*invited*)
  - **Fred Parady**, Deputy Commissioner, DCCED

12:00 pm

Lunch

**Discovery**

### **Smart Cities and Innovation**

Introduced by **Tina Pidgeon**, Executive Vice President, GCI (*invited*)

- **Juri Laurila**, Founder & CEO, Arctic Smartness Village Ltd. Oy, Finland  
*Juri has worked with different regional and area development associates, tasks and working groups for over 10 years as a volunteer and through his work at Finnish forest enterprise Metsähallitus. Juri created a new Smart Village concept to increase the vitality of rural areas.*

1:00 pm

### **AML Membership Announcements**

**Discovery**

- **Resolution Committee** – update to members on 2019 resolutions submitted
- **Legislative Position Committee** – update to members on 2019 Position Statement
- **Nominating Committee** – update to members on the slate of AML Board of Directors candidates
- **Board Candidates** – candidate intros

2:00 pm

### **AML Program Services**

**Discovery**

- **Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool** – beyond the bank, AMLIP delivers short term investment returns for easy municipal access
  - **Blake Phillips**, Vice President, Director of Institutional Sales, AMLIP; Alaska Permanent Capital Management

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- **AML Joint Insurance Association** – AML’s flagship service, providing member municipalities savings and risk management
  - **Kevin Smith**, Executive Director, AML Joint Insurance Association

2:30 pm      Networking Break and Exhibitor Drawing

3:00 pm      **At a National Level: Agency Updates and Federal Advocacy**      **Discovery**  
*Federal agencies and congressional staff will speak to priorities at the federal level, anticipated changes, and potential impacts to Alaska municipalities.*

- **Colleen Bickford**, Alaska Office Director, Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- **Chris Hladick**, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **Jerry Ward**, State Director of Alaska, USDA Rural Development (*tentative*)

**One-on-One follow up session:**

- **AMLIP**, with Alaska Permanent Fund Capital Management      **Easter Island**
- **AMLJIA**, with **Kevin Smith**, Executive Director      **Resolution**

4:15 pm      Break

5:30 pm      **President’s Reception**      **Discovery**

- **ACoM auction** – *mayors from across the state have donated special items from their communities for AML conference attendees to bid on, with funds raised in support of the ACoM mission*
- **Municipal Awards** – *help us celebrate municipal leadership with awards for service and excellence*

7:30 pm      Adjourn

### Friday, November 16

8:00 am      **Breakfast – Associate Recognition**      **Discovery**  
*AML’s Associate Program brings partners together from the private, public, civic and academic sector in support of Alaska’s municipal governments.*

8:30 am      **Elections**      **Registration Desk**  
*Vote for new board members, and AML’s First and Second Vice President*

9:00 am      **Annual Meeting**      **Discovery**  
*Members vote to amend or approve the 2019 Position Statement and Resolutions*

11:00 am      **Adjourn Annual Conference**  
*Attendees travel home*



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- 12:00 pm      **Lunch and Board Organizational Meeting**      **Club Room II**  
*Incoming and current board members should stay for this organizational meeting and to develop an implementation plan for AML priorities*
- 1:00 pm      **Legislative Position Committee Meeting**      **Club Room II**  
*Incoming and current board members will review the finalized resolutions and position statement to develop a legislative strategy.*
- 2:30 pm      **Adjourn**

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