



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2015 STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

- **REVENUE SHARING**

The Alaska Municipal League supports reinstating the deposit amount of \$60 million into the Revenue Sharing fund on a yearly basis. This amount is a small amount of the yearly state budget, yet helps to fund basic government services for 164 municipalities and approximately 50 unincorporated communities.

- **PERS/TRS**

The Alaska Municipal League remains committed to the promise by municipalities to partner with the State to pay the past service cost for the PERS/TRS liability, while agreeing through HB 385, to pick up an additional nine years of ongoing payments. The Alaska Municipal League supports keeping PERS past service costs at 22% of salary and the repeal of termination studies.

- **SENIOR CITIZEN'S/DISABLED VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

The Alaska Municipal League requests that the Legislature address the Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax exemption by either:

1. Funding the exemption, as required in AS 29.45.030(g); or
2. Repealing AS 29.45.030(g) legislatively, giving control to local governments for those decisions. The value of Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax exemption would not be added to the full value determination.

- **ENERGY**

The Alaska Municipal League supports efforts to build a large diameter natural gas pipeline to tidewater for the purpose of large scale gas exports and the dispersion of low cost energy throughout the state. The Legislature should proactively determine how to best distribute energy outside the pipeline corridor to as many Alaskans as possible; and be prepared to make necessary infrastructure investments early in the project to ensure appropriate ports, networks, transportation hubs, and/or distribution systems are in place when the line becomes active. An Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline must be designed and constructed in a way to ensure maximum distribution of energy resources and benefits to all Alaskan communities. AML recognizes the State's role in developing public infrastructure to support this goal.



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2015 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)**

The Alaska Municipal League urges members of Congress to support continued mandatory full funding for the PILT program. These funds are to offset costs incurred by Alaska's boroughs and cities for services provided to federal employees and families, the public and to the users of public lands. These include education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, search and rescue, health care, environmental compliance, firefighting, parks and recreation, and other important community services.

- **SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (Timber Receipts)**

The Alaska Municipal League urges the members of Congress to pursue a long-term congressional solution for continued SRS payments to forest boroughs and cities in Alaska. This act expired in 2012 and was extended for one year in October 2013. Congress should establish a new revenue sharing program to allocate revenues generated from the management of designated federal lands to all forest boroughs and cities. If Congress fails to renew its long-standing federal obligation by not providing a long-term solution, eligible boroughs and cities face dramatic budgetary shortfalls.

- **FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FROM ALASKA OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT**

The Alaska Municipal League urges the United States Congress to adopt legislation that would enable the State of Alaska to receive 37.5% of the money collected on leases on offshore oil and gas development in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Further, the Alaska Municipal League would urge the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation to share a portion of these revenues with Alaskan municipalities.