Resource Materials

1. Alaska State Legislative Directory – L.I.O.
3. Handouts
   - A Layman’s Guide to the Budget Process
   - The Legislative Process in Alaska
   - Steps in the Passage of a Bill.

Internet

- The Alaska State Legislative Website: Bill Action and Status Information System (BASIS)
- www.akleg.gov
LOBBYISTS

Four Types

1. Professional/Contract Lobbyist
   - Register & Report – Ethics Training

2. Employee/Part-time Lobbyist
   - Register & Report – 10 Hour Rule

3. Representational Lobbyist
   - Reimbursed for travel expenses, Register & Report
   - No Fee

4. Volunteer Lobbyist
   - Use of personal resources, Register, but not Report
   - No Fee
REGULATION OF LOBBYIST

- All Lobbyists are Regulated by the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC)
  - Questions: Call Juneau Office, 465-4864
  - All Lobbyists Must Register With APOC & File Reports (Employer of Lobbyist must Register & Report)
- Exceptions: “Narrow” for Local Government
  - Municipal Officials Acting in Official Capacity Are Exempt From Registering And Reporting: “official capacity” issue
  - If Municipality Hires a Lobbyist Then The City/Borough Must Report Your Expenses on The Employer Reports
- Annual Ethics Training Is Required
LOBBYING FUNDAMENTALS

Need to have an understanding of:

I. People – Legislators & Staff
II. Legislative Organization and Process
   • Leadership Organization
   • How a bill and/or appropriation becomes law
III. Public Policy, Argument/Persuasion, Advocacy
    • What works?

Tip: Don’t Forget About The Governor’s Office & Administrative Agencies. Example: Getting in the Governor’s Budget is easier to “keep” a project in than to add later in the legislative process.
I. PEOPLE: LEGISLATORS AND STAFF

- Do You Know Your Legislator?
  - Importance of local government officials
  - Meet with them before January Session
- Get To Know Staff
- Executive Branch
  - Need Support of Governor & Agencies
  - Get in Governor’s Budget
- Agencies and Governor’s Office
  - Separate Budget Process in Summer and Fall
II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

Senate Organization

Minority
Democrats (5)
- Begich
- Wielechowski
- Gray-Jackson
- Kiehl
- Olson

Republicans (Majority 12)
- D. Wilson
- Coghill
- Von Imhof
- Birch
- Reinbold
- Bishop
- Micciche
- Giessel
- Costello
- Stevens
- Stedman
- Kawasaki or Kelly (?)

Democrat (1)
- Hoffman

Republican Minority (2)
- Showers
- Hughes
II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

House Organization

Democrats
Majority
- Hannan
- Drummond
- Fields
- Hopkins
- Dodge or LeBon (?)
- Tuck
- Spohnholz
- Josephson
- Tarr
- Kreiss-Tomkins
- Wool
- Claman
- Story
- Lincoln
- Zulkosky
- Edgmon
- Foster

Democrats
Minority
- Ortiz

Republicans
Majority
- LeDoux
- Stutes

Republicans
Minority
- Carpenter
- Kopp
- Johnston
- Neuman
- T. Wilson
- Eastman
- Knopp
- Shaw
- Revak
- Pruitt
- Thompson

- Merrick
- Johnson
- Sullivan-Leonard
- Dahlstrom
- Tilton
- Rauscher
- Talerico
- Rasmussen
- Vance

* Changed Committee Structure – Per Uniform Rules
Proportional Representation

- Majority Coalition 22 - Democrats 17, Republicans 3, Independents 2
- Minority 18 - Republicans 18
II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

- Each House Organized by Majority and Minority
  - House 2019 (40 Members: ___Majority, ___Minority)
  - Senate 2019 (20 Members: ___ Majority, ___ Minority, ___ Republican Minority)
    Note: Handouts

- Majority Organization Holds Power
  - Leadership & Committee Chairs
  - Set Agenda (Importance of Understanding)
    - Size of Budget
    - Which Bills Pass
    - Governor
    - Bills Sponsored by Majority Members Move
II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

- Majority/Minority in Committee process
- Standing Committees
  - House: 4 majority, 3 minority *
  - Senate: 4 majority, 1 minority *
- Power of Finance Committee or Committee Chairpersons
  - House Finance: 7 Majority, 4 Minority
  - Senate Finance: 6 Majority, 1 Minority
- Standing Committees Do Most of the Work During Session
- Budget Goes to Finance Committee
  - Most important committee because it writes the Capital Budget
  - Reviews all Bills with Fiscal Impact

* Alaska State Legislature Uniform Rule 1 (e)
II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

- Know Who You Are Talking To
  - Leadership
  - Party Affiliation
  - Committee Membership
  - Expertise/Sphere of Influence
II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION & PROCESS

- What if Your Legislator is in the Minority?
  - Ask for help from Majority
  - Ask for help from Governor
  - Ask for help from Senator
  - Minority has done well in Capital Budget negotiations as part of Adjournment Package
- How To Communicate with Legislator?
  - Write Letters, Grassroots, Resolutions
  - Staff briefings
- Testify – Teleconferencing Network
  - Document Problems and Send to AML
III. ADVOCACY

- **Do’s / Don’ts / Tips**
  - Call Ahead for Appointments
  - Consistent Message
  - Prepare 5-minute explanation/justification of request or project
  - Local process and support
  - Agency support helpful
  - Leave Written Backup at Office
  - Work With & Know the Importance of Staff
  - Manage Your Time
  - Know who you are talking to
    - Leadership, party affiliation, committee membership
III. ADVOCACY

Do’s / Don’ts / Tips

• Ask advice about who to see and how to be the most effective
• Keep in touch frequently – “Squeaky Wheel”
• Be prepared with facts
• Cost/Benefit, Don’t Oversell
• Be prepared to justify your case to both majority and minority
• Get help from OMB
• Important to know Governor’s Staff
• Identify decision makers and people with expertise & influence on a topic
III. ADVOCACY

Do’s / Don’ts / Tips

- Remember Committee Process... What Committee’s need to approve my project or bill?
  - Who are your Committee Members?
  - Count your votes
  - Do I have support of Majority members on the Committee?
  - Visit offices before committee meeting to find out how they are likely to vote
  - How do I change an opponent to a supporter?
III. ADVOCACY

- **Do’s / Don’ts / Tips**

- **Remember: Your credibility is essential**
  - Legislators are busy, so respect their time and office
  - Respect the Process/patience; be humble but persistent
  - Always maintain sense of humor
  - Always argue on merits
  - Don’t Burn Bridges-no threats
  - Your opponent today may be your supporter tomorrow
  - What goes around comes around
III. ADVOCACY

- **Do’s / Don’ts / Tips**

- **Capital Project Reminders**
  1. Public Purpose-life, health, safety, basic infrastructure.
  2. Legislative web site requirements-justification and budget for all capital projects.
  3. Federal or local match.
  4. Maintenance and operation costs-who pays?
  5. Intense competition for scarce money both in capital and operating budget.
FISCAL CRISIS

- BASIS Demonstration – Time Permitting?
- QUESTIONS / COMMENTS