

Newly Elected Officials Training

- ▶ **Lobbying 101**
 - ▶ How to be effective advocates for your city or borough!

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Need to Know - The Alaska Legislature

- ▶ Each "Legislature" consists of two sessions
- ▶ Session convenes in January of each year and by law are no longer than 90 days. However, the Constitution allows for up to 120 days.
- ▶ Senate – 20 Senators who serve 4-year terms
 - ▶ The Senate is presided over by the Senate President.
- ▶ House of Representatives – 40 Representatives serve 2-year terms
 - ▶ Each Senate district in Alaska has two corresponding House districts
 - ▶ The House of Representatives is presided over by the Speaker of the House.

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What do Committees do?

- All Legislation is referred to Committees by the Presiding Officer
- Bills are scheduled at the discretion the Committee Chair
- Committee hearings on Legislation include the sponsor statement, **both invited and public testimony**
- Bills can be amended during the Committee process and on the Floor


Ten standing committees.

- ▶ Education
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Health & Social Services
- ▶ Judiciary
- ▶ Labor & Commerce
- ▶ Community & Regional Affairs
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Rules
- ▶ State Affairs
- ▶ Transportation

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Committees 101

- ▶ Committees are an essential part of the legislative process
- ▶ Committees also:
 - Hold oversight hearings on governmental operations;
 - Identify issues suitable for legislative review;
 - Gather and evaluate information through public testimony;
 - Recommend courses of action
 - Consider Appointees made by the Governor



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Budget Process

- (1) State agencies prepare their budget requests July-August
- (2) Requests are submitted in September to OMB for consideration by the director and Governor
- (3) Final budget requests approved by OMB Director and Governor are submitted in December to the Legislature
- (4) The bills are automatically referred to the Finance Committees in each body
- (5) Finance Subcommittees are appointed to handle each department's budget request
- (6) Each Subcommittee considers the budgets and makes recommendations
- (7) The full Finance Committee considers the bill, debates, amends, and passes out of committee.
- (8) The bills go to the floor ("second reading"). After amendments/discussion/debate, the bill is at "third reading" / final vote.
- (9) The operating budget has to travel through both bodies and have concurrence from the originating body. If the two bodies cannot agree on the budget, the items they cannot agree on will end up in conference committee.
- (10) When it is passed, it is transmitted to the Governor for his consideration and signature.

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How to Begin

Know:

- The schedule
- The process
- The players
- Your position
- Your purpose
- Your objective

Check The Schedule

Check the legislative website, with your legislative liaison, and with legislative staff to know when a bill is scheduled to be heard. Be advised: schedules can change quickly, especially in the final days of a legislative session.

Know the Process and Players

Before testifying, know who is sponsoring the bill, who supports or opposes the bill and why. Be familiar with the committee chair, committee members, and legislative staff. Let the sponsor of the bill or key legislators know beforehand you are testifying on the bill.

Know the Purpose of Your Testimony

Understand why you are testifying. Are you there to persuade, dissuade, provide expertise, or delay action on a bill? Know how to separate out the important points of your testimony to ensure they are heard.

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HB1 This really applies to the Finance Committees
Heather Brakes, 2/12/2021

Slide 6

HB2 I would add that checking with the Committee Aide is always a good idea as well. (1) they have the most up to date information on the Chair's intent to hear the bill even before Basis is updated (2) they are then aware you're going to be testifying.
Heather Brakes, 2/12/2021

Influencing the Bill/Budget Process

- ▶ The opportunity to influence the bill appears multiple times in the legislative process
 - ▶ Working with the bill sponsor to draft or amend legislation
 - ▶ Speaking during the public comment process, or submitting testimony
 - ▶ Contacting Committee members and your Legislators
 - ▶ Repeating the process in the other body
 - ▶ Contacting your Legislators and other influential Legislators when it goes to the floor

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Invited versus Public Testimony

What's the Difference?

Invited Testimony	Versus	Public Testimony
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Invited to speak by the Committee▶ Expert or Stakeholder opinion▶ Time limits vary▶ PowerPoints typically allowed		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Open to anyone▶ Time limits apply▶ Timing based position in a queue▶ Option to submit written material

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The Fundamentals

- ▶ Call in early – tell the operator which Committee and Bill you are calling to testify on
- ▶ Practice and time yourself
 - Time limits apply
- ▶ No guarantees
- ▶ Turn off volume of the live stream
- ▶ Ensure you are in a quiet setting
- ▶ Ensure you have a good connection
- ▶ Do not use a speaker phone

Call-in Numbers

- If calling from an ANC Prefix please call: 563-9085
- If calling from a JNU Prefix please call: 586-9085
- From any other prefix please call: 844-586-9085

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HB3 Just to point out -- as opposed to oral testimony
Heather Brakes, 2/12/2021

AML as Your Advocate
Resolutions, Positions, Tracking, and Resources

- ▶ AML Advocacy:
 - <https://www.akml.org/legislative-advocacy/>
- ▶ AML Resolutions:
 - <https://www.akml.org/legislative-advocacy/2021/resolutions/>
- ▶ AML Legislative Tracker:
 - <https://www.akml.org/legislative-advocacy/legislative-tracker/>
- ▶ Resources:
 - <https://www.akml.org/legislative-advocacy/legislative-resources/>

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Effective Lobbying/Advocacy

- ▶ Reach out to your legislator before or early in session to identify priorities
- ▶ Focus on negative or positive impacts to (1) your budget, (2) your ability to operate and maintain local control, and (3) residents in your community
- ▶ Respond to AML requests for impacts – identify the trade-offs you'll face
 - ▶ Increased taxes, reduced staffing, reductions or eliminations of programs, implementation challenges
- ▶ Share your stories – add a personal touch for how legislation or the budget might impact you or residents
- ▶ Maintain communication with your local and statewide media

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Supporting AML Advocacy

- ▶ AML follows all legislation with municipal impacts
- ▶ You will receive weekly updates on legislative activities, during session
- ▶ Each week we'll include a schedule for the next week
- ▶ You should:
 - ▶ Read through bills that we highlight
 - ▶ Contact your legislator or the Committee, if the bill negatively impacts you, or you support it
 - ▶ Listen to the Committee hearings that are relevant
- ▶ AML will sometimes push out Action Alerts, which we hope you will respond to by contacting Legislators or the Governor

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The Basics

- ▶ How to watch:
 - <http://akleg.gov/index.php>; or
 - <https://www.ktoou.org/gavel/>
- ▶ Terms to know:
 - <https://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/abbrac.pdf>
 - <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/glossary.htm>
- ▶ Code of Conduct:
 - https://ethics.akleg.gov/documents/ethics_code.pdf



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Resources

- ▶ AML weekly legislative update
- ▶ Legislative contact list
- ▶ Statewide media contact list
- ▶ www.akleg.gov
- ▶ BASIS
- ▶ CAPSIS

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