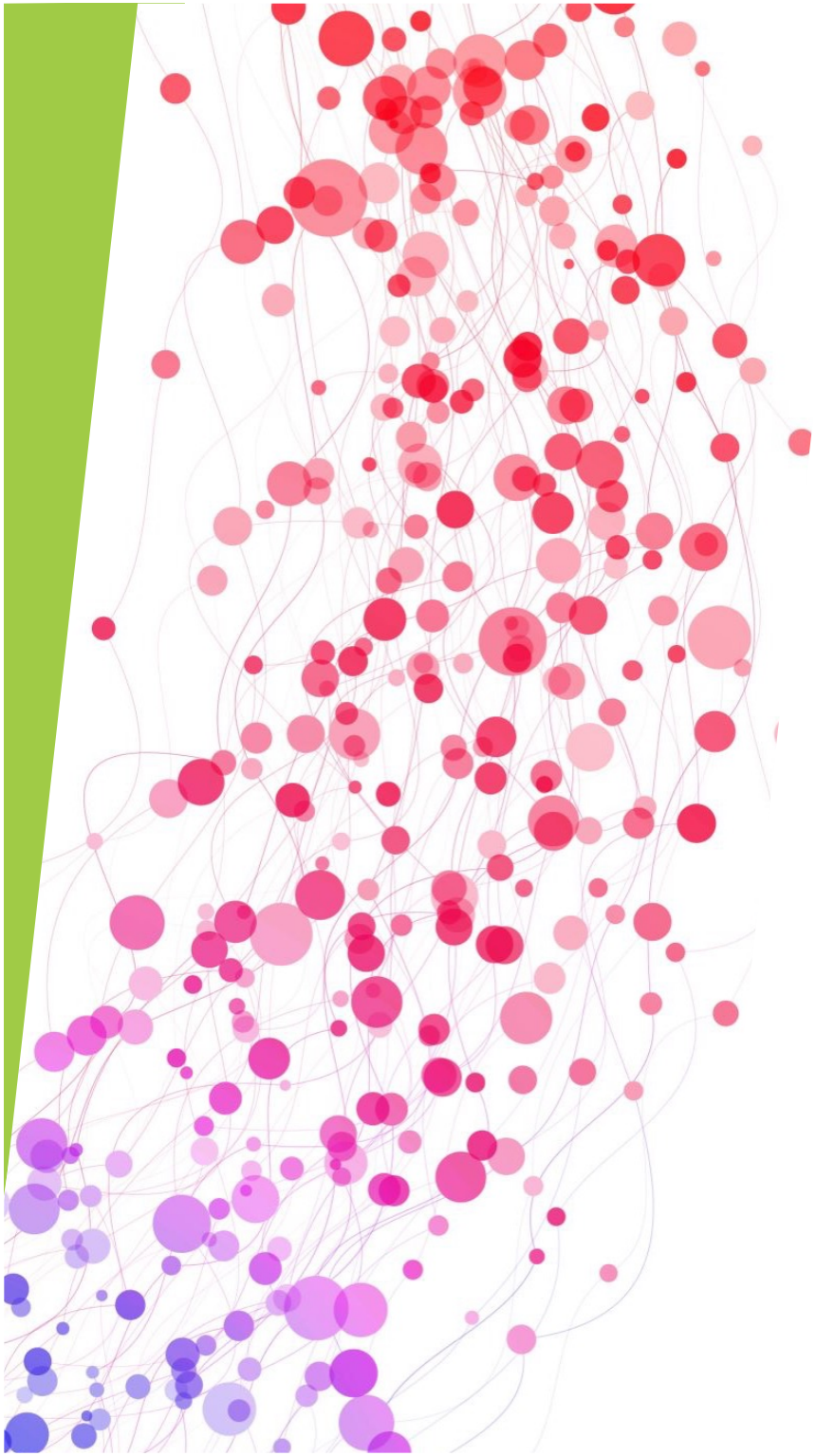


J&H Consulting and JM Walsh and Company

November 2026

Looking Ahead: Budget

- Due to oil prices some budget relief possible.
- The FY 26 budget which begins 7/1/26 is fully funded at $83 a barrel.
- Current average oil price is $94 a barrel so looking at a possible $400 million surplus.
- School needs alone could deplete the surplus.
- Recognize that high oil prices are detrimental to rural areas, additional relief may still be needed.

Election Results:

- Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins new governor. Transition team leaders are former Republican State Senator Click Bishop of Fairbanks, Ana Hoffman, President and CEO of Bethel Native Corporation, and Carol Gore, former president and CEO of Cook Inlet Housing Authority.
- Chief of Staff: Ira Slomski-Pritz, partner at Ship Creek Group and a former aide in the Walker and Anchorage mayoral administrations.
- OMB Director: Alexei Painter, longtime Legislative Finance Director.
- Mary Peltola new senator. Congressman Begich keeps his seat.
- Senate 11 member bi-partisan caucus. Thin majority.
- Sen. Finance Co-chairs are Sen. Kiehl and Senator-elect Rep. Edgmon; Senate President is Sen. Giessel; Majority leader is Senator-elect Rep. Stutes; and Rules Chair is Sen. Wielechowski. Sen. Tobin chairs Education Committee.
- House has a 23 to 24 member bi-partisan caucus. Solid numbers.
- House Speaker is Rep. Schrage; Rules Chair is Rep. Himschoot; Majority Leader is Rep. Kopp; Finance Co-Chairs are Rep. Hannan (operating budget), Rep. Carrick (Capital budget) and Rep. Foster (bills).
- Surprises: Reps. Vance, Costello, Moore, McCabe and Sen. Tilton not re-elected. Added two members to the House coalition.
- On-going Negotiations behind the scenes on final committee assignments.

Work Ahead:

- Be ready with operating and capital budget priorities
- Make legislative visits and follow up
- Shore up existing relationships and build new ones
- Continue to build and grow relationships with other organizations that have similar values
- Input capital requests in the state and federal web portals

- **Mon Dec 7 – Governor and Lt. Gov. Sworn into Office**
- **Tues Jan 19 – First Day of 35th Alaska State Legislature**