

## J&H Consulting and J.M. Walsh and Co. Update to the NWABSD September 2024

### Quick Update:

- Slow season but the pace will begin to pick up soon
- Budget due Dec. 15, 2023 - working on proposed budgets now
- Key budget staff recently left or were fired:
  - Paloma Harbor, Chief Fiscal Analyst, left
  - Shelly Willhoite, Chief Budget Analyst, left
  - Budget Director: Neil Steininger replaced with Lacey Sanders (worked under Arduin, big cuts)
- Rumor is big cuts this budget round
- New Education Director Deena Bishop former ASD Superintendent—likely education a key issue again this year

### Oil and Revenue:

Oil trending above projections for current fiscal year. OPEC still restricting output some projections above \$95 a barrel by 2024

\$67 a barrel to break even for FY 24. \$73 dollars gives a surplus of \$305.5 million. Currently around \$90 a barrel.

However, any surplus will go to an energy rebate for residents and to repay the CBR (in operating budget language) for FY 2024.

New Fall forecast for projected oil prices, oil production, and state revenue will be out in December, this is in part what the legislature bases budget funding on.

Elections following year, may reduce chances of real fiscal change plus oil process are higher.

Recent vetoes electric bike bill and PFAS bill.

### **What is Next:**

Will begin legislative prep in November/December but priorities need to be set soon and create handouts and working materials.

First day of session Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with all bills from last session still in play, like half-time.

May replace Rep. Patkotak by appointment if elected Mayor

### **Priorities to consider:**

- Increase BSA to \_\_\_\_\_
- Push for supplemental funding to cover vetoed BSA funding from last year in the supplemental budget
- Fund the READS Act and Pre-K as promised
- Funding for recruiting and mentoring teachers
- Funding for a grow your own program through the University system
- Fund a science curriculum
- Possible litigation on funding adequacy

### **CALENDAR**

- Mon Sept 25 – Alaska Congressional Delegation, AML, AFN, and the Alaska Office of Infrastructure “2023 Alaska Infrastructure Development Grants Symposium”; Anchorage, info [HERE](#)
- Oct 19-21 – Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) 2023 Convention; info [HERE](#)
- Thurs Oct 26 – thread “Economic Impact Summit: Quality Child Care Creates Futures” conference; Hotel Capt. Cook, details [HERE](#)
- Thurs-Sunday Nov. 9-12 AASB’s Annual Conference & Youth Leadership Institute – Hilton, Anchorage (*registration opens in September*)
- Mon Nov. 13 AASB Board of Directors Meeting – Hilton, Anchorage
- Mon Nov 20 – Statewide Broadband Advisory Board; 10 to 11 a.m., info [HERE](#)
- Wed – Fri Dec. 6-8 AML Local Government Conference, Anchorage, info [HERE](#)
- Sat. and Sunday Dec. 8-9 School Law & Equity Day – Clarion Suites, Anchorage
- Fri Dec 15 – Deadline for Gov. Dunleavy to release proposed FY25 budget bills

- Mon Dec 18 – Statewide Broadband Advisory Board; 10 to 11 a.m.,  
info [HERE](#)
- Tues Jan 16, 2024 – First Day of Second Regular Session of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Alaska  
State Legislature