

Below is a list of the results of legislation in relation to the Municipality of Anchorage priorities from 2024 Legislative Program. Priorities that were achieved are highlighted in yellow.

WINS

Housing

- **MOA Priority #2: \$4M for E 56th Ave Low Barrier Shelter** through June 30, 2025 ([Operating budget](#), page 104, line 10). Assembly Resolution, AR No. 2024-37, request to State Legislators to match \$4M of local investment to fund operations at the 56th Ave Shelter.
- **MOA Priority #2: \$6M for Housing Alaskans: Public-Private Partnership** ([Capital Budget](#), p 39, line 22). AR No. 2022-109 supported creation of the Housing Trust.

Education

- **MOA Wide Priorities: Public School Funding:** budget includes \$175 million in one-time school funding on top of the normal school funding formula. Last year, legislators approved the same temporary school funding increase, which Dunleavy then vetoed down to \$87.5 million. Citing inflationary pressures, Dunleavy said earlier in the month that he would support the \$175 million in extra school funding set to be shared between Alaska's 53 school districts. AR 2024-18 – Joint Resolution with School Board for BSA increase.
- **Assembly Resolution, AR No. 2024-166(S): Correspondence Study Program:** [A bill](#) requiring that overdose reversal drugs be available in Alaska schools was amended by the Senate in the final hours of the session to include a measure meant to stabilize correspondence schools after a recent court ruling.

Energy

MOA Emerging Priority. MOA requested legislative and executive action on energy issues and recommended passage of a Green Bank, renewable energy portfolio standards and funding for Renewable Energy Fund. Legislature took some actions, but did not put forward a strategy or plan for meeting short term natural gas needs through importing supply. Here is a summary of Energy Legislation:

- **Assembly Resolution, AR No. 2023-174:** [HB 273](#) would establish a state green bank at the Alaska Housing Finance Corp., intended to capture federal clean energy funding and to offer loans for renewable energy projects.
- [House Bill 307](#) to establish an integrated Railbelt electric transmission organization is intended to enable the lowest-cost power to be delivered across the Railbelt grid, and to integrate more renewable energy into the system.
- [House Bill 50](#) was originally a bill about carbon storage from GOP Gov. Mike Dunleavy, but was amended by the Legislature to include another bill from Dunleavy about geothermal resources, as well as several Cook Inlet provisions dealing with natural gas

storage regulation, the releasing of seismic and geophysical data, and reserve-based lending - which Bluecrest says is important for further development of their Cosmopolitan field.

- [SB 152](#) Community Solar (SAVE Act) Allows community energy program for renters and condo owners to pool resources to receive net metering benefits from a single project

Other

- **MOA Wide Priorities:**

- **Property tax exemptions:** [SB 179](#) allows localities to exempt property taxes for school districts from property tax exemptions (might also have removed the cap for length of exemptions to give more flexibility to localities); did not address blight properties; a bill to raise the amount of senior and veteran exemptions (which MOA opposed) failed
- Reinstate funding of **Community Assistance Program**. CAP was fully recapitalized, which means MOA will get a \$4.4M payment vs. 452K.
- **Invest in infrastructure:** [Capital Budget \(SB187\)](#) Lots of \$ for roads, pedestrian safety, parks and MOA facilities.
- **Funding for snow removal** – Southcentral Region of DOT (Anchorage, Mat Su, Kenai, Western AK) appears to have received increased funding, but it's unclear at this point how it will be carried out. So follow-up to DOT region staff will be needed to understand and ensure the money is used as intended and that Anchorage gets its fair share. See text from p. 40 of [Operating Budget](#):

10 It is the intent of the legislature that the Department prepare a plan to improve the timeliness
11 of snow removal from roads and sidewalks and submit it to the Co-chairs of the Finance
12 committees and the Legislative Finance Division in draft form by October 1st, 2024, and in a
13 final version by December 20, 2024. The plan should not include increased reliance on
14 contractors and should focus on use of Department staff.

15 Traffic Signal Management 2,389,100

16 Central Region Highways and 50,555,900

17 Aviation

18 Hiring & Recruitment 1,273,800

19 Incentives for Central

20 Region State Workforce

21 It is the intent of the legislature that funding in this allocation be focused on hiring mechanics
22 and operators to reach full capacity in Anchorage.

LOSSES/STALLED

- **MOA Wide Priorities**
 - Election bill failed

- BSA increase failed
- SB 77 to address blight properties – this part got dropped from final bill (SB 179)
- Ship Creek Small Boat Launch did not receive funding
- **MOA Priority #3:** Funding for MOA integrated medical/behavioral health outreach – not included in budget
- **MOA Priority #3:** Change state labor laws to allow Behavioral Health staff to work 12-hr shifts – did not get any traction
- **MOA-Wide Priorities: Strengthen benefits for public employees** – did not make it through House

OTHER

- [SB 22](#) to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday – passed (MOA did this in 2023)
- We didn't support these, but theoretically, they should strengthen one of our housing partners: [SB 205](#) AHFC AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE BUILDING and [HB 273](#) AHFC MAKE/PURCHASE MORTGAGE LOANS
- Habitat For Humanity- Anchorage - 750,000 for new multi-unit home development
- AR No. 2024-89 is a resolution of the Anchorage Assembly supporting House Bill 89, the Day Care Assistance and Child Care Grant Program; HB 89 got traction and passed the House, but stalled in Senate; the full text of the bill was rolled into SB 189 at the last minute, providing \$7.5 million for grants to childcare providers
- [House Bill 66](#), the consolidated crime legislation has a lot of provisions that might be of interest to Anchorage
- There may be a special session called to address Cook Inlet tax royalties after a report is produced this summer the Legislator's contractor

RESOURCES

- Alaska Landmine
- Alaska Beacon
- Anchorage Daily News
- Alaska Public Media
- Alaska Legislature website