



Assembly Report for Federation of Community Councils | November 2025

Update from the Vice Chair

Hello, Community Council delegates! I am missing tonight's meeting, typing this before boarding a flight, but we had a big meeting last night with passage of the FY26 budget, and there are many other things as well. Below is a brief update, and happy to follow up by e-mail, or at next month's meeting. Plus, reminder about signing up for the Assembly e-news.

- **FY 2026 Budget – approved on November 18!**

- At Tuesday's meeting, we approved the FY 26 Muni budget, which is actually 8 items total, including any reorganization of the org chart (also tied to the budget). This allows the administration, OMB and departments to get the budget queued up and ready to go for the new fiscal year on January 1.
- We mostly accepted the Mayor's budget, which is a continuation budget (few changes between 2025 and 2026). Members offered several amendments to the operating and capital budgets, and the Budget & Finance Committee Co-chairs (myself and Daniel Volland, Dist. 1) prepared omnibus amendments for both budgets, incorporating many of the amendments. Both passed after some robust discussion, and consideration of other amendments.
- Some highlights of adopted amendments: summary lists attached.

Operating: *budget-neutral (a nominal reduction overall of \$23,000), which allowed for funding some priorities while continuing the work to look for offsets and modest cuts that will not negatively impact core services.*

- Reduce budgets in both executive and legislative branches by \$192,280 and \$16,520. Unallocated cuts allow departments to adjust budgets where they have flexibility.
- Fund improvements to public services, including shifts toward more full-time Parks and Recreation maintenance positions (and fewer seasonal positions), and \$100,000 for an additional weekday for seniors to ride People Mover for free.
- Funding for a Comprehensive Plan update and ongoing community engagement on our fiscal future.

Capital: *added some specific projects that are priorities for 2026, if voters approve proposed bonds this coming election:*

- Added a few priority projects for the ARDSA (road and drainage) bond to repair and upgrade existing roads in multiple districts.
- Funds to continue the Downtown Wayfinding project, which supports tourism, placemaking, and economic development.



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- Setting clear priorities for the Chugach Access Service Area (CASA) 2026 bond, while holding off deciding the full 2027-2031 list until the already-formed community advisory group continues to fully develop a multi-year program for CASA projects that reflects community priorities, improving the infrastructure and amenities all residents use to access public trails. For 2026, CASA projects include:
 - \$1,500,000 for Basher Trailhead improvements
 - \$150,000 for Lost Cabin Trail extension
 - \$70,000 for Stewart Trail signage and wayfinding
- Operating budget is \$656.8 million, approx. \$198,000 below the tax cap. We do anticipate this will change in the next few months, as there are many unknowns and needed adjustments: we need to complete the 2024 audit to know any available fund balance; our largest bargaining unit contract (AMEA) is being moved forward; there is ongoing work to revise the Fire Department budget to meet our needs beyond time-limited grants for safe staffing and the Wildfire Division; and other items.
- The budget process has 2 main phases throughout the year: approving the budget before January is the first phase. The second step, First Quarter Revisions (1Q) in April is also important: by that time, we will have the proposed ASD budget for their new fiscal year, we will know what bonds voters approved for capital projects, and we will set the tax levy for 2026.
- Speaking of bonds: the deadline for deciding all items for the ballot will be the Assembly meeting on Tuesday, January 27. Amendments to the CIB now helps build that list, but we will make the final decisions for the 2026 ballot in the next 2 months. For all things budget, visit:
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/FOCUS-Budget-and-Taxes.aspx>
- **Proposed Revenue Measures**
 - There are currently 4 broad-based revenue measures proposed for consideration on the April 2026 ballot: each of these needs 8 Assembly votes to place it on the ballot, and would need voter approval to become law.
 - AO 2025-96(S): 1% sales tax, sponsored by Member Martinez
 - AO 2025-97: 5% short-term rental tax, sponsored by Chair Constant and Member Volland
 - AO 2025-117: 2% bed tax increase, sponsored by Vice Chair Brawley
 - AO 2025-133: 3% sales tax, sponsored by Mayor LaFrance.

I can't predict what will happen, but personally, I find it very unlikely all 4 of these would be placed on the ballot, so part of the discussion will likely include narrowing down what most people support to put before voters.



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- Visit the Budget & Taxes website (linked above) for more information, sponsor statements, and where things are in the process.
- The public hearing has closed on 3 items, and the Mayor's proposed sales tax will have a hearing at the Tuesday, December 2nd Assembly meeting. But it's never too late to give your feedback: e-mail Assembly members with your thoughts on this and any other topic at assembly@anchorageak.gov
- **MOA 50th Anniversary (Munification)**
 - We had a great celebration at the Anchorage Museum on Friday, November 7, with community members, organizations like FCC and others, and current and former local elected officials who played a part in building our city.
 - For all things Munification, check out our website – lots of great resources, images, stories, and more! www.muni.org/50

Stay Informed: Assembly E-newsletter

Did you know that the Anchorage Assembly produces a regular e-newsletter? Each issue has updates on big topics, a run-down of what happened at the most recent Assembly meeting, and a heads-up about items coming up on a future agenda. It's a great way to stay involved, especially if you're interested in the nuts and bolts of what we do.

Sign-up link [here](#) (written below):

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=96d4f04dc79ed1192b16097db&id=620cd57b2c>

Side note: if you are in West Anchorage, or you just want to stay in the loop with what I'm up to, you can also sign up for my e-newsletter [here](#)! (also written below)

<https://gmail.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=6f6b1a5fa6c8965a9e9550acc&id=1c1c63ff45>

Thank you,

Anna Brawley

Vice Chair and Member for District 3, West Anchorage

Anchorage Assembly

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