

Dealing with Current and Future Realities of Alaska's Politics

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The Problem—Not rocket science

1. The current political deadlock: is there a short-term and/or long-term solution? .
2. A little history: chronic economic and political crises and the response
3. The realities of Alaska's economy: natural resource dependency and no likelihood of economic diversification.
4. The oil-state budget link and Alaska's unbalanced revenue sources
5. Political inertia and fear of imposing taxes
6. The direct and hidden costs of cutting the budget.

Is there a Solution?

7. The "let's hope for oil prices to go up" syndrome
8. We need to cut the bloated state budget—a long-term solution?
9. There is only one real solution, a combination of:
 - a. Severing state revenues from the price of oil
 - b. Imposing taxes
 - c. Use of Permanent Fund earnings
10. The political likelihood of this
11. A long-term fiscal plan for Alaska?
12. So what will happen?