

# Legislative Process & Context

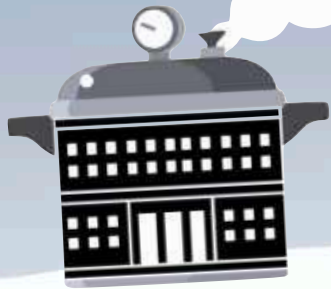
*Your Status as a School Board Member*



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# The Pressure is On!

- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature. All legislative bills lapse upon adjournment and the introduction of bills begins anew with the convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.
- 149 education-related bills have been introduced in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature. Every lawmaker wants their bill to cross the finish line and today is Day 27 of the session!
- This is an election year and legislators cannot accept contributions nor campaign as long as the legislature is in session.



# The Pressure is On!

- The PFD question remains unsettled. Many legislative campaigns ran on a platform of adhering to the “statutory PFD formula” and in some cases a “back payment” for those years of “shorting” the PFD amount.
- The electorate has a long memory concerning the PFD. Sitting legislators want to hit the reelection campaign trail with a positive PFD message.



# The Role of School Boards & School Board Members

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Alaska, and that **I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge my duties as a school board member to the best of my ability.**

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# Your responsibilities are numerous (and sometimes, onerous)

Oversee the finances of the district, provide an annual fiscal audit, provide bonding for the CFO, create and update board policies & administrative regulations, oversee an educational program for students, approve and revise curriculum, permit usage of school facilities, employ teachers & administrators, employ support staff, set school calendars, provide for the safety of students & staff, maintain student records, apply for and comply with grants, enter into contracts, purchase insurance, approve and oversee charter schools, operate a correspondence program, provide student transportation, you are are subject to lawsuits and court orders...



# You are a “**BIG DEAL**”

You are often the largest employer in your community or region

You are such a “big deal” that the legislature has indemnified, or protected you from personal liability as long as you are acting as a board!



# You have tremendous Compliance Responsibilities

- Fair Labor Standards Acts (FLSA)
- Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (OSHA)
- Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964



# Know your status as a School Board Member

As a school board member you are an agent of the State of Alaska.

The Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article 7, Section 1, establishes a “***system of public schools open to all children of the State.***”

You, as a school board member, were elected by the people of your community to govern and oversee that “***system of public schools open to all the children of the state.***”

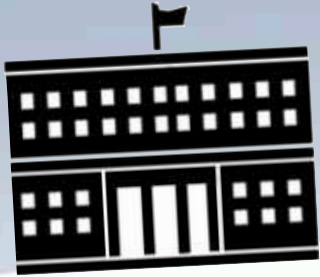




# What's the Purpose of this conversation?

Don't ever forget that oath of office you took as a newly elected or reelected school board member:

*“I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge my duties as a school board member to the best of my ability”*



# What Does This Mean?



**A legislator is not “doing you a favor” by agreeing to meet with you!**

**By traveling to Juneau you are faithfully discharging your duty as a school board member by advocating for the students of your district!**

**You enter a legislative office as an elected agent of the State of Alaska doing your job – just as every legislator is doing their job.**

**Never be apologetic for coming to Juneau and advocating for students. It’s your job!**



# A Crowded Gubernatorial Race

- The outcome of the 2022 gubernatorial election could have a profound impact on state policy issues no matter the winner.
- A crowded field of candidates for governor!
- Governor Dunleavy (R), Rep. Christopher Kurka (R), Kenai Mayor Charlie Pierce (R), Former Rep. Les Gara (D), Former Governor Bill Walker (I), William Toien (L), Bruce Walden (R).
- Ballot Measure Two, Ranked Voting, passed in 2020. It will be a much different election this year.
- On January 19, the Alaska Supreme court upheld a lower court ruling affirming the constitutionality of the voter approved Ranked Voting system.



# Ranked Voting - Primary Election

- The Primary Election will be a “top four.” Voters will vote for one candidate in each race and the top four candidates from each race will go on to the general election
- All candidates will be on the same ballot, and all voters will get the same ballot, regardless of their political affiliation.



# Ranked Voting - General Election

- Round 1 – Only your 1<sup>st</sup> choice is counted. If a candidate gets 50% +1 vote, they win. If not, the counting goes to Round 2
- Round 2 – Candidate with the fewest votes gets eliminated. If you voted for the eliminated candidate, your vote goes to your next choice and still have a say in who wins. If more than two candidates are left, counting continues.
- Round 3 – (and beyond) – If two candidates are left, the candidate with the most votes wins.



# Capitol Entry Protocol

- The Capitol is open to the public with certain COVID health protection protocols in place.
- Legislators & staff are undergoing regular testing.
- Masks are required at **ALL TIMES** for **EVERYONE** entering the Capitol.
- Social distancing is to be maintained.
- If you experience any COVID-like symptoms or have come into contact with anyone who has since tested positive for COVID, do not enter the Capitol.
- Be aware that the Legislative Council may amend Capitol entry rules or even shut down access at any time.

# Your Interaction with the Legislature is Important



“We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

- *Thomas Jefferson*