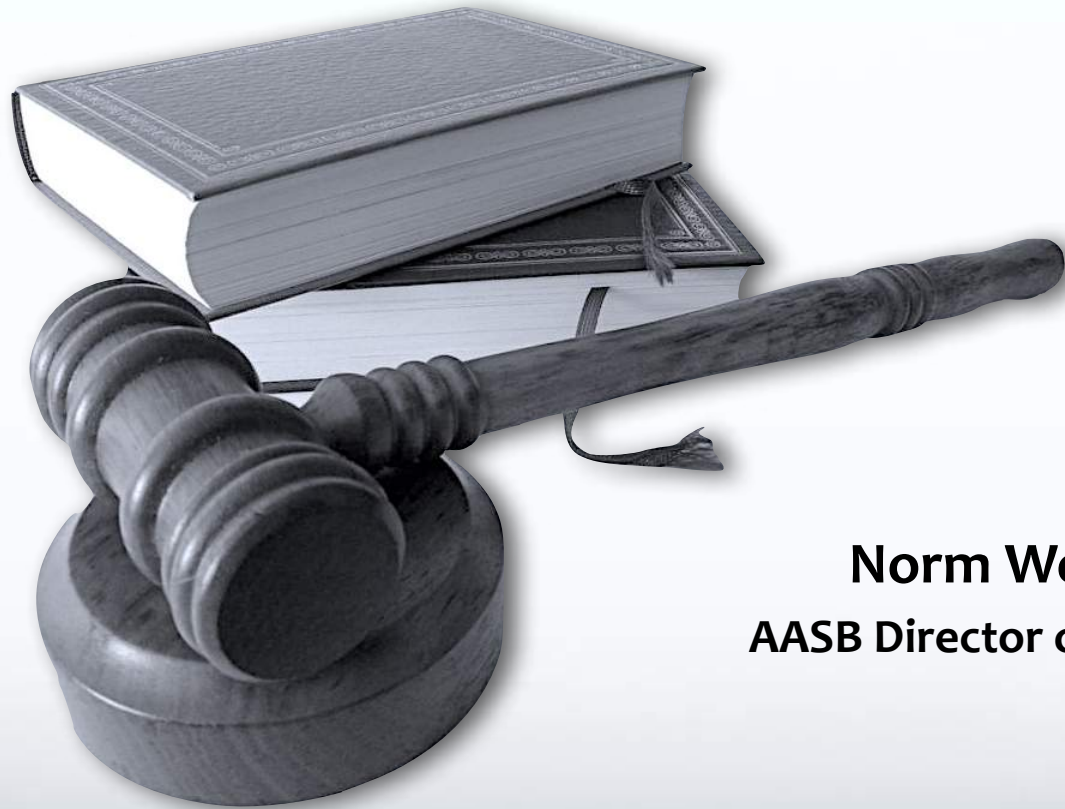


# Legislative Process & Context



**Norm Wooten**  
AASB Director of Advocacy



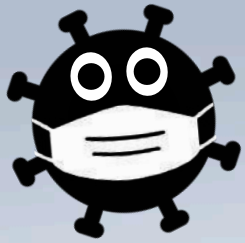
# The Pressure is On!

- 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.
- 138 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.



# One More Legislative Distraction!

- Everyone, including those of us in the room today, are tired of the pandemic.
- It is becoming particularly acrimonious in the legislature.
- A plethora bills were introduced this session to abolish COVID health mandates.
- These centered around vaccine/non-vaccine issues and the ability of personal choice for each person.
- I am not advocating for a particular position. I just want you to be aware of the conversation in the Capitol before you go onto the Hill.

# “Everything is good”

(said no legislator ever!)

- Continued gridlock with majority/minority unable to garner votes to pass substantive legislation.
- Civility among House members continues to be elusive. House Speaker Rep. Louise Stutes (R-Kodiak) has issued a warning and is keeping a wary eye on the behaviors.
- With little to no fiscal plan in sight, the bulk of the session continues to be more concerned with the PFD rather than public policy.
- The Rep. David Eastman (R-Wasilla) debate over his Oath Keepers membership is a significant distraction to the Legislature’s work.

**“Everything is good”**

**(said no legislator ever!)**

- Redistricting for the 2020 census has the potential to alter the makeup of a future legislature.
- The Alaska Redistricting Board released its recommendation by a vote of 4 -1.
- Four lawsuits have been filed over the decision of the proposed redistricting plan.



# 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.

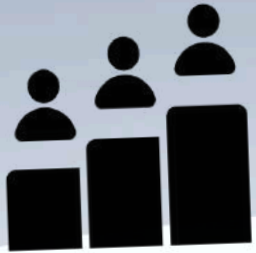




# Ranked Voting - Primary Election

- 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.



# Additional Opportunity to Meet With Your Legislator

- The week following the Fly-In (February 21 – 25) AASB is setting up virtual meetings with legislators and the school districts they represent.
- This will follow the the same format as used during the 2021 virtual Fly-In.
- We encourage your participation – even if you met with your delegation during the in-person Fly-In.
- This is one more opportunity to share AASB & local district priorities with lawmakers.
- The schedule will be provided to all board members following the Fly-In.

# 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**