

ALASBO Power Lunch

March 12, 2019

Communicating With Your Legislators
&
Preparing to Testify at Legislative Hearings

Where is the best place for finding information on the Alaska Legislature?

- Alaska State Legislature: akleg.gov
- <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php>

Where Should I Start?

- Of Interest
 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
 - Track Bills in BTMF
 - Legislative Abbreviations & Acronyms
- Popular
 - Legislators by District
 - Legislator Contact List
 - Tips for Using BASIS
 - Committees & Members
- Senate
- House
- Committees

Web Resources Continued

- Floor Calendar
- Daily Schedule
- Meetings
- Live Now
- 360 North – Gavel Alaska:
<https://www.360north.org/gavel-archives/?clientID=2147483647&id=122&listingPage=1&listingSortBy=descending&listingStart=2015-03-12&listingStop=2019-03-12>

What Should I Say and Do? Legislator Tips!

“Tell a story ... be concise” – U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski

“Data and results” – U.S. Senator Mark Begich

“Be prepared ... be on time.” – Speaker of the House,
Representative Mike Chenault

“Pay attention to legislative staff...” – Kenai Peninsula Borough
Mayor Mike Navarre, former legislator

Legislator tips: AVOID...

“I am most frustrated when they are not prepared to articulate what they want me to know and do. ...not helpful to just offer problems.”

– U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski

“Stopped in the hallway or out of the office to discuss issues or projects...” – Speaker of the House, Representative Mike Chenault

Don’t be put off or take offense if you don’t get the response you’d like or expect...” – Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre, former legislator

When Testifying

- Try to have written prepared remarks stating your position
- Address the Chair
- Name, Position, Representing
- I'm testifying in favor of or in opposition to HB 232
- Why? Put a District face on it! This is what it does to us.
- Be flexible and read the committee. If you are the 32nd person to testify and what you are going to say has been said 31 times, summarize and shorten. Perhaps respond to a previous question that wasn't answered or you can expand on.
- Offer solutions!
- Thank You For Allowing Me to Testify Today!
- Please let me know if you have future question or concerns, I would like to help.
- Submit the written prepared remarks for the record.

Working With Your Legislator is a Year Round responsibility!

- In Session in Juneau now, so face to face is limited
- If they come home for a Town Hall meeting, be there!
- Know their staff and their staff's areas of responsibility
- After session and pre-session contacts very important
- Get them in your schools when students are there!
- Then you will be able to tell them how different the picture will be as a result of a bill.
- Be a year round resource!