



Senator Mia Costello Alaska State Legislature



www.AlaskaSenate.org/Costello

January 31, 2019

Dear friends and neighbors,

Session has started and I'm proud to be serving as the majority leader. We are committed to repealing SB 91, protecting our dividend, and putting downward pressure on the budget.

By repealing and replacing SB91, we'll be able to give law enforcement officers the tools they need to keep repeat offenders behind bars and keep us safe. Our other top priority is to protect and grow the permanent fund and the dividend both now and in the future.

The new administration recently announced a supplemental budget. Last year, the legislature early funded, forward funded, fully funded, and added additional funding for education. The governor's supplemental removed some of that funding. I continue to support the investment we made to our students and schools and am pleased Senate Finance began hearings less than 24 hours after the supplemental budget was released.

Something I'm very proud of and would like to highlight is the tremendous work one of our neighbors is doing to address veterans in crisis. Jake Chapman has created an Alaska based, veteran operated nonprofit organization focused on preventing suicide among veterans. SPARTA connects suicide intervention trainers with veterans groups. Their goal is to train as many veterans as possible to efficiently recognize and react to a fellow veteran experiencing suicidal thoughts. [You can learn more here.](#)

If you find yourself in Juneau this session, please visit your district office in the capital. It's an honor to serve you and I look forward to staying in touch. I'd be happy to meet with you on the issues that matter to you and hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

LOCAL ISSUES

Support following the earthquake: The Anchorage Assembly voted to put neighborhoods in our district hard hit by the earthquake on the 2019 municipal drainage bond. I want to thank the residents who testified, as well as the Sand Lake community council, for their hard work to get this over the finish line. It's just the first step, but it's an important one that will help fund the beginning of the repair process. I was pleased that following my meeting with the Governor, he declared a disaster. Also, the adjutant general extended the application deadline for homeowners. If you're still dealing with earthquake damage, the State has extended the deadline for assistance- [click here to apply for State Individual Assistance.](#)

Jewel Lake lighting situation: To those who have reached out about the Jewel Lake lighting situation, I share your frustration. It is a multi-faceted issue that will require cooperation among all levels of government. The central problem is that the lights were removed on Jewel Lake Road so construction crews could widen the road for safety reasons. However, it will leave the road without lights after the road is rebuilt, endangering residents. This is completely unacceptable. I'm working closely with the Governor's Office, the Municipality, and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to see what can be done to have the lights reinstalled and have them properly maintained. I promise that my team will use every avenue available so that we can resolve this promptly.

- Sign up for my e-newsletter: www.AlaskaSenate.org/Costello
- Email me: Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov
- Follow Legislation: [Alaska State Legislature Website, BASIS](#)
- Call me at 907-465-4968
- Text a bill number (ex: SB126) to 559-245-2529 to text alerts on updated bill statuses



Mia meets with Rep. Rasmussen, the Municipality, and the Military and Veterans Commissioner, to discuss the Jewel Lake lighting situation



Mia takes her oath of office for Alaska's 31st Legislative Session on the Senate Floor



If you can, please choose a cause that is important to you, and use [Pick.Click.Give](#) to support their efforts to build Alaska



Mia speaks to KTUU's Sean McGuire about the Senate Majority's priorities going into the new session



Mia was at Ted Stevens Airport, flying back to Juneau after some meetings in Anchorage, when she ran into Vern Hurlburt! Vern owns the Bush Pilot Barbershop

Upcoming Community Councils



Sand Lake Community Council will meet this month on February 11th, 6:30pm, at Sand Lake Elementary



Spenard Community Council will meet this month on February 6th, 7:00pm, at the Spenard Recreational Center



Turnagain Community Council will meet on February 7th at 7:00pm, at West High in the Career and Technical Education Building, Room 152

Stay Connected With Mia

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