



Senator Cathy Giessel

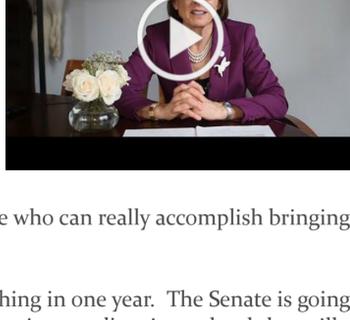
District N

Northeast Anchorage, Anchorage Hillside, Indian, Bird, Girdwood and Portage

March 12, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I really appreciate your thoughtful suggestions related to the budget. As I've said, it's clear that the proposed budget was a shock to many folks. The Senate has known this day was coming, and tried to sound the alarm for the last seven years. Governor Dunleavy served in the Senate during 5 of those years and recognized that. Even though we knew cuts needed to happen, the Governor is the only one who can really accomplish bringing the budget in line with reality.



While that's true, we can't do everything in one year. The Senate is going over the budget very carefully and is going to adjust it to a level that will not devastate the economy.

The Senate Leadership has met with the Governor. We will all be working toward a middle ground on the budget. The Senate has a great Finance Committee that is leading the department subcommittee budget reviews.

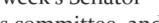
I hope you find this newsletter informative. The spotlight with Senator Shower is a great way to get to know him a little bit. The Finance meeting on SB 12 (Schneider Loophole) is very interesting; I hope you can take the time to listen to the testimony and discussion about that crime bill.

In this week's newsletter you'll find:

- Senator Spotlight with Senator Shower
- Senate Finance Hearings
- Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill 12 - Schneider Loophole
- District 27 Constituent Meeting - March 23rd
- Alaska's Third Governor, Keith Miller, Dies at 94
- EPA LGAC Nominations
- Safe Landing: Charting a Flight Path Through the Clouds
- Constituents in the Capitol

Best regards,
Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



Senator Spotlight

Senator Mike Shower from Wasilla joined me for this week's Senator Spotlight. Senator Shower chairs the Senate State Affairs committee, and serves on the Finance and Judiciary committees.



Sponsor Substitute for SB 12 in Senate Finance

Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill 12, which relates to crime and sexual assault, was heard in Senate Finance on Monday, March 11th. The bill is often referred to as the "Schneider Loophole" and would eliminate loopholes in Alaska law that have contributed to the inadequate prosecution and incarceration of perpetrators of some kinds of sexual assault. The case of Justin Schneider is one instance that has forced us to confront the inability of our justice system to protect victims and survivors of sexual assault.

	NEW PRESUMPTIVE RANGE – SB 12	CURRENT PRESUMPTIVE RANGE
AS 11.41.200 (Assault 1) Class A felony Max 20	1 st felony: 5-7 2 nd felony: 9-13 3 rd felony: 14-20	1 st felony: 3-6 2 nd felony: 8-12 3 rd felony: 13-20
AS 11.41.210 (Assault 2) Class B felony Max 10	1 st felony: 1-3 2 nd felony: 4-6 3 rd felony: 7-10	1 st felony: 0-2 2 nd felony: 2-5 3 rd felony: 4-10
AS 11.41.220 (Assault 3) Class C felony Max 5	1 st felony: 1-3 2 nd felony: 2-5 3 rd felony: 3-5	1 st felony: 0-2 2 nd felony: 1-4 3 rd felony: 2-5

Original Charges - Schneider	Current Penalty	Charges Under SB 12	Penalty Under SB 12
Assault 2 – Injury w/weapon (class B felony)	0-2 years Max 10 years	Assault 1 - Strangulation to unconsciousness	5-7 years Max 20 years
Harassment 1 (offensive contact w/ semen)	0-30 days	Unwanted contact with semen (class B or C felonies)	B – 5-15 years, max 99 C – 2-12 years, max 99
Assault 3 – Cause fear of injury w/weapon (class C felony)	0-2 years Max 5 years		
Kidnapping (unclass. Felony)	Max 99 years		
Assault 2 – Cause serious injury, recklessness (class B felony)	0-2 years Max 10 years		

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)
[Click here for a link to the documents from the hearing.](#)

Senate Finance

Economic Overview of Governor's Proposed Operating Budget
On Wednesday, March 6th, the Senate Finance committee heard from Ed King, Chief Economist at the Office of Management and Budget, and Dan Robinson, Chief of Research and Analysis at the Department of Labor.

[Click here for the documents and recording from the hearing.](#)

Budget Overview Continued and Consideration of Governor's Appointees

The economic overview of the Governor's proposed budget continued on Thursday, March 7th, by Mouchine Guettabi from the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), and by Ed King from the Office of Management and Budget. The committee then heard and considered Joe Riggs for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Board.

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)
[Click here for a link to documents from the hearing.](#)

Senate Bills 4, 16, and 41

Senate Bills [4](#), [16](#), and [41](#) were heard in the finance committee on Friday, March 8th. You can find more information about bills in committee by visiting the [Alaska State Legislature website](#).

District 27 Constituent Meeting, March 23rd

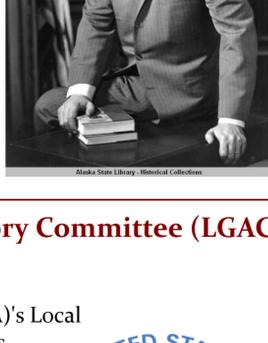
I look forward to this gathering in Anchorage on Saturday, March 23rd with Representative Pruitt to meet with constituents. The meeting will be at the Muldoon Community Youth Center from 1:00-3:00pm.

Senator Cathy Giessel & Representative Lance Pruitt invite you to the **District 27 Constituent Meeting**

➡ **DATE:** Saturday, March 23rd
 ➡ **TIME:** 1:00-3:00
 ➡ **LOCATION:** Muldoon Community Youth Development Center
 1005 Ermine Street
 Anchorage, AK 99504
 Any questions call 907-465-3438 or 465-4843

Alaska's Third Governor, Keith Miller, dies at 94

Keith Harvey Miller, Alaska's third governor, passed away on March 2nd, 2019 at the age of 94. Keith served as Alaska's governor from January 29, 1969–December 7, 1970.



During Miller's time as governor, he oversaw Prudhoe Bay's oil and gas lease sale, and proposed a state investment fund for oil royalties, which was later turned into the Permanent Fund by Governor Hammond.

EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Nominations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is accepting nominations. The LGAC provides advice and recommendations that assist the EPA in developing a stronger partnership with local governments through building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs. The ultimate goal of the LGAC is to provide more efficient and effective environmental protection at the community, state and federal level.



The Committee is composed primarily of elected and appointed local officials, along with several state representatives, environmental interest groups, and labor interests from across the country.

Application packets can be sent to Frances Eargle, Designated Federal Officer for the LGAC, at eargle.frances@epa.gov with subject header LGAC MEMBERSHIP 2019. The deadline to submit nominations is **March 15th**.

[Click here for more information about the LGAC nominations.](#)
[Click here to view the LGAC Fact Sheet.](#)
[Click here to view the LGAC Charter.](#)

Safe Landing: Chartering a Flight Path Through the Clouds by Scott Goldsmith

In October 1999, the Institute of Social and Economic Research published a paper on popular ideas for raising \$1 billion a year, and the difficulties associated with these approaches. Although written almost 20 years ago, many of the ideas still apply to this day. The paper brings up the notion of the "Safe Landing" strategy, which says that when dealing with such a large budget deficit, a combination of strategies are required (budget cuts, windfalls, Permanent Fund earnings, new taxes, and economic development).

[Click here to read the full paper by Scott Goldsmith.](#)

Constituents in the Capitol

It's always a pleasure to visit with constituents while I am here in Juneau. I appreciate the time and effort it takes to visit us during the legislative session. Here's who stopped by my office this past week:



National Education Association - Alaska members
Jenifer Singleton and Spencer Singleton



It's a pleasure to serve and represent the wonderful people of district N!

I look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions and comments.

[To email me, click here.](#)



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