



Senator Cathy Giessel

District N

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

May 15, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are at Day 121, the last day of the legislative session. The Senate has unanimously passed the Crime Bill to repeal and replace SB 91. The three Senate Committees heard five bills during the four months that we've been in Juneau, resulting in more than 53 hours of hearings with expert testimony and public testimony on the crime issue.



The final bill that was passed by the Senate took four of the individual crime bills and rolled them into one bill. The sexual assault loophole (Schneider Loophole) was a separate bill. It is our hope that the stricter penalties will result in criminals leaving Alaska!

Some folks expressed concern about the costs of enforcing these stricter laws. We believe firmly in the fundamental responsibility of government to keep citizens safe. That needs to be done, regardless of cost. Reforming Alaska's criminal justice laws are the first and foremost priority for the Senate.

We are putting our time and effort behind completing this work.

Specifically, the Senate's measure repeals SB 91 and goes beyond by:

- Increasing prison time by 2 years for most serious crimes; what was a 3 year sentence is now 5. (repeal SB 91).
- Cracking down hard on sex offenses, increasing jail time and restricting probation options (repeal and goes beyond SB 91).
- Targeting child pornographers with harsher sentences and updates laws to crack down on child porn sharing services (beyond SB 91).
- Adding additional jail time when drugs are dealt or produced near children (beyond SB 91).
- Requiring that anyone registered as a sex offender in another state, must also register in Alaska (beyond SB 91).
- Providing up to 1 year of jail time for first time drug possession (repeal SB 91).
- Giving judges full discretion to hold defendants pre-trial, ending catch-and-release (repeal SB 91).
- Removing jail time credit for time spent on electronic monitoring for violent crimes (repeal SB 91).
- Broadening the crime of terrorist threats, such as calling in a bomb threat to a school (beyond SB 91).
- Allowing a series of small thefts to be prosecuted as a single serious offense by combining the total value of items stolen over a 6 month period (beyond SB 91).
- Criminalizing the possession of auto-theft tools, including electronic devices for intercepting remote entry key codes (beyond SB 91).
- Criminalizing the repeated sending of explicit images, such as texting lewd pictures to someone else's phone (beyond SB 91).
- Disallowing good time credit for murderers and requires them to serve double the jail time before being considered for parole (beyond SB 91).
- Increasing penalties in cases where a hidden camera is placed in a private space (beyond SB 91).
- Removing marriage status as legal defense against a rape charge (beyond SB 91).
- Making harsher penalties possible for violating terms of bail, parole or probation (repeal SB 91).
- Establishing deadlines for the scientific processing of rape kits (beyond SB 91).
- Creating new and harsher penalties for identity theft (beyond SB91)
- Requiring courts to now presume that domestic violence and sex offenders are ordered to have no contact with the victim (beyond SB 91).

In this week's newsletter you'll find:

- Senate Finance
- Senate Passes Capital Budget
- Alaska Mining Day
- Alaska's Vaccine Assessment Program Renewed by Legislature
- South Anchorage Farmers Market
- Mayor's Proposal to Allow Marijuana On-Site Consumption

Kind regards,

Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



Senate Finance

Wednesday, May 8th:

9:00am **SB 19** Capital Budget

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

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)

1:30pm **SB 23, SB 24** PFD

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

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)

Thursday, May 9th:

1:30pm **HB 49** Crime

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)

Friday, May 10th:

9:00am **HB 49** Crime

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

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)

1:30pm **HB 49** Crime

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)

Saturday, May 10th: No meeting

Sunday, May 12th:

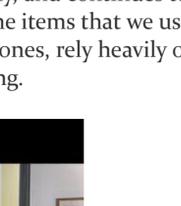
1:00pm **HB 49** Crime

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

[Click here to watch a recording of the hearing.](#)

Senate Passes Capital Budget

On Wednesday, May 8th, the Senate unanimously passed the 2020 fiscal year capital budget. The budget includes \$174 million in unrestricted general funds (UGF) to leverage over \$1 billion in federal funds for roads, highways, airports, and clean water for villages. **Senate Bill 19** is now in the House of Representatives for consideration.



[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Alaska Mining Day

Last Friday, May 10th, was Alaska Mining Day!

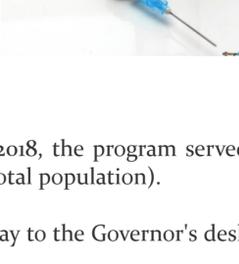
Mining has been a major piece of Alaska's economy, and continues to provide thousands of jobs for Alaskans. Many of the items that we use today, from our family cars to our high-tech cell phones, rely heavily on the materials extracted from mining.



Renewal of the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program

On Monday, May 6th, the Alaska Legislature approved a measure that improves statewide access to vaccines and reduces healthcare costs for patients, providers, and insurance payers.

Senate Bill 37, a bill that I sponsored, renews the Alaska immunization program in the Department of Health and Social Services. The program monitors, purchases, and distributes all childhood vaccines and select adult vaccines to providers, and makes access to vaccines universal for all Alaskans.



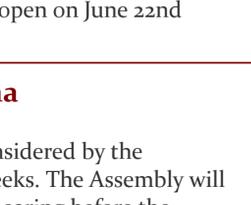
The program was established in 2014, and by 2018, the program served more than 333,000 Alaskans (45 percent of the total population).

The bill passed both bodies and is now on its way to the Governor's desk for his signature.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

South Anchorage Farmers Market

The South Anchorage Farmers Market is open and in full swing for the summer! The market is located at the Subway Centre (corner of Old Seward and O'Malley). The market is open Saturday from 9am-2pm.



[Click here for more information about the South Anchorage Market.](#)

Stay tuned! The Muldoon Farmers Market will open on June 22nd at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.

On-Site Consumption of Marijuana

On-site consumption of marijuana is being considered by the Municipality of Anchorage in the upcoming weeks. The Assembly will have work sessions, and there will be a public hearing before the Assembly.

1. [Presentation to the Federation of Community Councils about the On-Site Ordinances:](#)
NOTE: Public Participation will not happen at all of the meetings

- **Wednesday, May 15:** 6:00-8:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln (1st Floor Conference Room)

2. [Assembly Work Session on the two On-Site Ordinances](#)

- **Friday, May 17:** 2:00-3:00pm, City Hall (632 W 6th Ave. 1st Floor Conference Room)

3. [Public Hearing before the Assembly.](#)

- **Tuesday, May 21:** 5:00-11:00pm, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St. (Assembly Chambers).

[Click here to visit the Municipal web page on marijuana licensing.](#)



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.](#)



Juneau: State Capitol, Room 111, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Anchorage: 1500 W. Benson Blvd.,

Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: 800.892.4843

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Staff Contacts	Quick Links	Congressional Delegation	
Jane Conway	Senate Republican Majority	Senator Lisa Murkowski	Anchorage Office 907.271.3735
Akis Gialopoulos	Alaska State Legislature	Senator Dan Sullivan	Anchorage Office 907.271.5915
Kari Nore	State of Alaska	Congressman Don Young	Anchorage Office 907.271.5978
Emmie Jackson			