

Alaska House passes nearly \$500M budget deficit bill, amid split support for Dunleavy spending

By Corinne Smith, Alaska Beacon

The Alaska House of Representatives advanced a nearly \$500 million supplemental budget bill to address the state’s budget deficit — one of the largest budget shortfalls to date — amid debate and scrutiny from Republicans who opposed drawing from a state savings account to pay for it, leaving the bill unfunded for now.

Lawmakers passed House Bill 289, known as the supplemental budget, by a 24 to 16 vote on Monday, which is largely a routine process to address budget shortfalls and fund state government services and programs through the fiscal year that ends on June 30.

Top line items include an additional \$40 million for disaster relief, following the devastation of the remnants of Typhoon Halong on Western Alaska; \$55 million for last year’s million-acre wildfire season in the Interior of Alaska; \$70 million in transportation funding to unlock \$630 million in federal matching funds; \$130 million for the Higher Education Investment Fund; \$20 million for the Alaska Department of Corrections; and millions for public assistance including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, housing vouchers and senior benefits.

But members of the Republican-led House Minority caucus raised concerns and frustration at the “fast tracked” budget bill, as well as ex-

pansion of spending and high costs for this year. While some members said a few items may be mandatory like funding disaster relief efforts and transportation, other spending items need further vetting and review.

Voicing opposition, Republican members voted against immediately funding the roughly \$490 million budget bill through the state’s principal savings account, the Constitutional Budget Reserve — which failed by a 24 to 16 vote on Monday.

Unlocking the savings requires three quarters of the 40-person House, or 30 votes. Amid higher than expected state costs, and declining oil prices and state revenues, the Legislature must draw from the savings account to fund the state government.

The budget bill is expected to advance to the Senate for further debate and possible amendments. But on Monday, Rep. Mia Costello, R-Anchorage, a member of the minority caucus, requested a re-vote, expected on Wednesday, which may change the final vote tally but is not expected to delay the bill.

Historically, members of the minority have withheld support for the CBR vote until after the Senate approves the bill to maintain negotiating leverage.

Rep. DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer who serves as the House Minority Leader, raised objections to what she called a rushed process in the House.

“A rush through the budget without adequate scrutiny, in my opinion,

without transparency, that’s not efficiency, that’s just courting failure, that’s just a rush to failure,” Johnson said. “And history has shown that rushed budgets often lead to unintended consequences.”

Members of the bipartisan House Majority caucus called for lawmakers to support the budget bill, as requested by Dunleavy, and pay the state’s bills now.

“These obligations must be paid,” said Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage, co-chair of the House Finance Committee, speaking on the House floor on Monday. “There’s nothing unusual. The size is unusual, but the fact that they were requested and filed is not unusual. They are effectively binding contracts that must be paid. And the question is, when.”

Dunleavy first introduced the supplemental budget in December, and requested additional items up to last week, including \$35 million more for disaster relief if the state fails a federal appeal and is denied a request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund 90 percent of costs for the first three months of the typhoon disaster in October.

Some items, like the \$70 million federal transportation match, replace funds that Dunleavy vetoed last year — to the alarm of some lawmakers, union and construction industry groups because the money unlocks hundreds of millions of federal dollars. Lawmakers say it is time-sensitive to fund it in order to support the

summer construction season.

“I would say these are actually precise invoices, not a blank check,” said Rep. Chuck Kopp, R-Anchorage. “They’re ones that were already on the books, and we’ve already taken the responsibility to pay.”

Lawmakers also allocated nearly \$130 million to repay the Higher Education Investment Fund, which in part funds student scholarships, in order to cover state expenses last year.

Some Republicans questioned departments spending over what the Legislature appropriated last year, particularly the Alaska Department of Corrections, calling for more thorough oversight and transparency.

“We have departments who have come with us, who actually spent like drunken sailors last year,” said Rep. Jamie Allard, R-Eagle River. “We need to make sure that they’re reined in.”

Other lawmakers pushed back against critics for holding up the budget bill process.

“I feel like I’m in the Twilight Zone,” said Rep. Andrew Gray, D-Anchorage, on the House floor on Monday, in response to Republicans’ criticisms of Dunleavy’s budget request and administration spending. “And what I’ll say is that sometimes we just have to put our differences behind us. We have to collaborate, cooperate, and do what’s best for Alaska.”

Following the House votes on Monday, House Speaker Rep. Bryce

Edgmon, I-Dillingham, pointed out that the governor has not been involved in supporting the budget his administration has requested. “It’s quite interesting if this is a governor’s bill and the governor’s not involved at all in terms of promoting his own bill,” he said.

Rep. Jeremy Bynem, R-Ketchikan, a member of the minority, raised concerns on the House floor but ultimately voted to support the budget bill and the savings draw. “It was a difficult, challenging vote for me,” he said of voting against his caucus.

“I absolutely did not love the process we went through to get to where we were today. There are items in that (bill) I still have questions on,” he said. “The reality is that many of these items are things that we will have to take up and pay for.”

A spokesperson for Dunleavy’s office did not respond to a request for comment on the criticisms raised and lack of support from Republicans on the governor’s requested budget.

“The Alaska Constitution grants appropriation powers to the legislature, and that includes the CBR draw,” said Jeff Turner, communications director for Dunleavy. “The governor’s office is not part of any negotiations between the house caucuses.”

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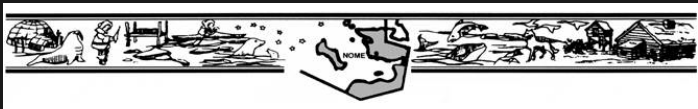
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Elim:
Direct Care Attendant Relief \$25.00 + DOE;
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE
Gambell:
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41+ DOE;
Maintenance Worker \$34.25 + DOE
Golovin:
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Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE;
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Koyuk:
Environmental Services Worker & Relief \$26.41 + DOE;
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Maintenance Worker Relief \$34.25 + DOE
St Michael:
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE
Savoonga:
Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE
Shaktoolik:
Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41 + DOE
Shishmaref:
Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE;
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE
Stebbins:
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Direct Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE;
Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE
Teller:
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE;
Environmental Services Worker Relief 26.41 + DOE;
Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE
Unalakleet:
Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE;
Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41 + DOE;
Administrative Assistant I \$25.00 + DOE;
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Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE;
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Clinic Travel Specialist & Relief \$26.51 + DOE
White Mountain:
Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE

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Legals



Request for Proposal

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority seeks proposals for Design, Procurement, Delivery, and turn-key completion of three one-bedroom, one-bath homes in Little Diomed, Alaska. The homes can be Modular, SIP packages, or stick framed packages. Our date for completing at least 1 home is **December 31, 2026, with the last one completed before September 30, 2027**. Please contact Erik Noet at enoet@bsrha.org or Jeanette Evan at jevan@bsrha.org. Jeanette can be reached at (907) 443-8623.





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Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation offers an attractive compensation and benefits package including competitive pay, 401K retirement program and comprehensive healthcare options.

Administrative Assistant (Nome):

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Very good prices. 907-452-7477. Knapp's Cutting Edge 1971 Fox Ave Fairbanks AK 99701. knappscuttingedge@gmail.com

Trooper Beat

AST PIO website, no "C" Detachment Press Releases 2/16-22/26.

Seawall

Nome Police Department

Weekly press releases

Activities reported between 2/16/2026 – 2/22/2026

During this period there were 115 calls for service received at the Nome Police Communications Center; 26 (23%) of these calls involved alcohol. The Nome Police Department dispatched 19 ambulance calls to NSHC. The Nome Volunteer Fire Department responded to 3 fire calls during this period. NPД responded to 3 call reporting intoxicated persons needing assistance. One person remained at the hospital for medical evaluation/treatment.

Arrests

A total of 2 arrests were made, with 2 (100%) alcohol related

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Charges: DUI, Violating Conditions of Release and Probation Violation. Name: Timothy Kowchee. Location: Greg Kruschek Ave.

Sunday, February 22, 2025

Charge: Violating Conditions of Release. Name: Judy Noyakuk. Location: W. 2nd Ave.

Traffic

NPД made 1 traffic stops, with 0 citations and 0 warnings issued. NPД responded to 2 reports of motor vehicle accidents.

This is a record of activity. The issuance of citations or the act of arrest does not assign guilt to any identified party. Officers refer all cases to the DA for action

Week ending 2/20/2026

Civil

Nichole Turner v. Matthew Iyatunguk; Other District Court Complaint
Nichole L. Tuner v. Matthew Iyatunguk; Unmarried Parents do NOT Agree (or are unsure) on Parenting Plan

Small Claims

No current claims filed; start 2NO-26-00001SC

Criminal

State of Alaska v. Edward Evan (4/27/82); CTN 001: Disord Conduct-Challenge To Fight; Date of Offense: 2/14/26; 5 days, 0 days suspended; Unsuspended 5 days must be served remanded - credit for time served; Surcharges due.
State of Alaska v. Robert Edgar Gilley (10/5/98); Dismissal; Count I: Harassment 2; Filed by the DAs Office 2/17/26.

State of Alaska v. Christopher Olanna (8/1/91); CTN 001: Assault 4-Cause Fear Of Injury; DV; DOV: 11/27/23; Plea: Guilty; Plea Agreement: Yes; CTNs Dismissed: 002-4; 0 days, 0 days suspended; Police Training Surcharge due; Restitution: must pay; Amount of restitution will be determined as provided in cited Criminal Rule; Judgment inadvertently not entered upon graduation from Wellness Court on 6/17/25; Court signs form 2/6/26, with correct Effective Date being the graduation date (6/17/25).

State of Alaska v. Janice Adams (4/1/91); 2KB-23-10CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 118118385; Violated conditions of probation; Conditions of probation modified as follows: Probation Terminated; The following jail term must noOw be served: 14 months, not to exceed time served; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated.

Legals

Building on our corporate strength and cultural identity, we shall assist our Shareholders to control our corporation and create our future.



KOYUK NATIVE CORPORATION

P. O. Box 53050, Koyuk, Alaska 99753
Office: (907) 963-2424 Fax: (907) 963-3552
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2026 Koyuk Native Corporation

Annual Meeting

In accordance with By-Laws

NOTICE IS HERE BY GIVEN

For the purpose of soliciting nominations for candidates to fill (7) Board of Directors seats. Election for these seats will be held during the 2026 Annual Shareholders Meeting on April 4, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Shareholders interested in running for election for the KNC Board of Directors must be 18 years of age or older, a KNC shareholder with 1 Full share, and must be in good standing with KNC within the past 5 years; complete and submit and application. Completed applications must be received by KNC by hand delivery, mail, or email, no later than March 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Koyuk Native Corporation

PO Box 53050

Koyuk, AK 99753

knc061880@gmail.com

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

Any shareholder who wants to run for a seat on the KNC Board of Directors must complete and submit an application by the above deadline to qualify as a candidate for election to the Board.

Candidate applications can be mailed to shareholders at the current address on record and are also available by contacting KNC at 907-963-2424.

By order of the Board of Directors.

President Morris Nassuk

Date: January 28, 2026

Court

Week ending 2/20/2026

Civil

Nichole Turner v. Matthew Iyatunguk; Other District Court Complaint
Nichole L. Tuner v. Matthew Iyatunguk; Unmarried Parents do NOT Agree (or are unsure) on Parenting Plan

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Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup

Makes 8 servings

1

10

8

6

3

2

8

2

1

2

2

12

3½-pound whole chicken

cups low-sodium chicken broth

carrots, peeled and sliced

stalks celery, trimmed and sliced

onions, peeled and sliced

cloves of garlic, peeled and minced

sprigs fresh parsley

sprigs fresh thyme

bay leaf

tablespoons butter

Salt, to taste

Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

ounces wide egg noodles



For the soup:

1. Skim any fat off the top of the strained broth.
2. Remove and discard the skin and bones from the chicken and cut the meat into bite-sized pieces; set aside.
3. Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven set over medium heat. Add the remaining carrots, celery and onions and cook for about 7 minutes or until the onions are translucent. Add the chicken pieces and chicken stock, season with salt and pepper. Bring soup to a simmer and cook for about 30 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.
4. Chop the remaining parsley; add the parsley and egg noodles, stirring frequently. Cook for 8 to 10 additional minutes or until the noodles are tender.
5. Ladle into soup bowls and serve hot.

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