

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Senate Co-Chair
Senator Loren Leman

House Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer

Anchorage Caucus

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Senate Members

John Cowdery
Bettye Davis
Johnny Ellis
Rick Halford
Loren Leman
Ben Stevens
Randy Phillips
Jerry Ward

Anchorage Caucus, Muni Share Ideas

(ANCHORAGE) – Mayor George Wuerch hosted eight members of the Anchorage Assembly and thirteen Anchorage Legislative Caucus members at City Hall today for a productive work session to discuss proposed legislative priorities.

“It was good to meet with the Assembly and Mayor while they are still drafting their priorities,” said Sen. Loren Leman (R-Anchorage), co-chairman of the Anchorage Caucus. “We were able to show them some of the constraints we face and illustrate how their priorities fit into the mix of important State issues.”

House Members

Ethan Berkowitz
Harry Crawford
Con Bunde
Sharon Cissna
Eric Croft
Fred Dyson
Joe Green
Gretchen Guess
Andrew Halcro
Vic Kohring
Pete Kott
Lesil McGuire
Kevin Meyer
Eldon Mulder
Brian Porter
Norman Rokeberg

Participants discussed a number of issues, including improvements to electrical transmission lines and water and sewer utilities in southcentral Alaska as well as the airport and port in Anchorage. Assembly members voiced concerns about State mandates and suggested that municipalities should be allowed to opt out of some of these mandates.

“I was pleased that substantial time was spent discussing statewide and regional issues beyond Anchorage,” said Leman. “And some local priorities really benefit other parts of the State. For example, improvements to our airport and port will benefit the whole state, especially when you consider that 80% of the consumer goods delivered to Alaska come through the Port of Anchorage.”

Legislators described plans to continue implementing a fiscal plan for the State; first addressing changes to the spending side with revisions to the management of the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund and the constitutional spending limit.

“Last session Mayor Wuerch really reached out to our Caucus, creating a constructive environment for us to continue to work together,” said Rep. Kevin Meyer (R-Anchorage), the other Caucus co-chairman. “I look forward to meeting with the Mayor and the Assembly in early December to review the Municipality’s list of legislative priorities.”

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