

Roads and School are Top Priorities with Peninsula Survey Takers

(JUNEAU)—Infrastructure maintenance and school funding should be top priorities for legislators this session, according to those responding to a recent survey conducted by Sen. John Torgerson (R-Kasilof).

“When money gets tight and we have to make tough decisions, people tend to stick to the basics—roads and schools,” said Torgerson. “The survey backs up what we hear in teleconferences and other communications with our people in the district.”

Survey participants were given a number of issues and asked to indicate how high of a priority they should be with legislators this session. Repair and maintenance of roads and buildings received the most high priority votes. Forty-five percent of respondents rated repair and maintenance as “highest priority.” In all 94 percent rated it as a “priority.”

Schools and education ranked second with 41 percent of all those who responded giving it “highest priority” ranking. A total of 86 percent rated it as a “priority.”

In other school-related questions, participants voted 2 to 1 in favor of school vouchers. Sixty-two percent said High School Exit Exams were a “report card” that reflected the quality of education the state’s students receive. Respondents were split 50-50 on whether or not the exit exams should carry all the weight in determining whether or not a student should graduate.

Respondents were also asked about the possibility of a new prison on the Peninsula.

“While the January survey seemed to indicate a lot of support for a new prison on the Peninsula, February survey takers were not keen on having a prison in their neighborhoods,” said Torgerson. “They voted 3 to 1 against having the medium security prison built near them.”

Torgerson’s monthly on-line survey is conducted via his legislative web page. The questions change each month to reflect the issues and bills in front of the legislature.

“The on-line survey is a terrific tool. It allows constituents to comment on a wide range of specific topics directly related to what we’re working on that month,” said Torgerson. “We heard from 29 Kenai Peninsula residents this time—but, we sure got a lot of additional comments. Everything from the prison to the permanent fund, and the need for more policing of sport and commercial fisheries.”

To take Sen. Torgerson’s current on-line survey, go to the senator’s web page at www.akrepublicans.org/22ndleg/torgerson.shtml and click on “Questionnaire.”

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