



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Assembly

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly  
April Trickey, CMC, Borough Clerk

**THROUGH:** Marna Sanford, Chair, Legislative Priorities Committee

**FROM:** Gina Gregg, Research Assistant

**DATE:** July 23, 2021

**SUBJECT: ACTION OF THE JULY 20, 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Convened at 12:01 p.m./Adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Members Present:  
Leah Berman Williams  
Marna Sanford, Chair

Members Absent:  
Jimi Cash

Others Present:  
Bryce J. Ward, Mayor  
Jill S. Dolan, Borough Attorney  
Yuri Morgan, Morgan Partnership, LLC

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## NEW BUSINESS

Discuss, amend and determine if the Administration's proposed 2022 State and Federal Legislative Priorities should be recommended to the Assembly as the Borough's 2022 Legislative Priorities.

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend PERS Contribution Rate and strategy to reduce unfunded liability (#1 on Mayor Ward's Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB, amended as follows:**

- 1. PERS Contribution Rate and strategy to reduce unfunded liability**  
Maintain the 22% PERS contribution rate as was agreed to by PERS employers and the state in allocating the unfunded liability and to provide certainty of set rates for all employers. There should be focused efforts to develop strategies to reduce the unfunded liability and reduce the overall payout through incentive programs not by adjusting the contribution amount. Options may include buy out provisions.



**NEW BUSINESS – continued**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend Defining Economic Development within Title 29 (#2 on Mayor Ward’s Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB, amended as follows:**

**2. Defining Economic Development within Title 29**

**Economic development should be defined more broadly for purposes of our powers, including spending revenue to assist local businesses and industries and for property tax exemptions or deferrals. This would allow for more incentives to make it more attractive for trades and businesses to maintain operations in the borough.**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend Support Military Affairs Commission Legislation (#4 on Mayor Ward’s Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB.**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend Government-to-government annexations (#7 on Mayor Ward’s Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB.**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend Creation of Enterprise Zones in state statute (#8 on Mayor Ward’s Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB, amended as follows:**

**8. Creation of Enterprise Zones in State Statute**

**An enterprise zone is a geographic area that has been granted special tax breaks, regulatory exemptions, or other public assistance to encourage private economic development and job creation. The programs may be used to encourage a private company to stay in a neighborhood, expand in it, or relocate to it. The creation of economic enterprise zones is a goal set forth in the FNSB’s Regional Comprehensive Plan.**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend Regulate Broadband as a Utility (#11 on Mayor Ward’s Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB.**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend The State of Alaska should fully fund education to the basic need (#13 on Mayor Ward’s Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022) as a legislative priority of the FNSB, amended as follows:**

**13. The State of Alaska should fully fund education to the basic need**

**Any local contribution would be added to the basic need provided by the state, not deducted from the amount the state would otherwise pay. Removing the required local contribution could incentivize communities to incorporate by no longer penalizing communities but by creating an incentive, to contribute additional funds to education. A new disparity formula would need to be taken into consideration for this change to ensure districts with low tax bases are not left behind.**

**NEW BUSINESS – continued**

**-The committee requested additional information for #9, Farm Use Definition, and #12, Statewide Managed and Operated E-911, on Mayor Ward's Proposed State Legislative Priorities White Paper 2022, to be provided in upcoming assembly worksessions.**

Discuss, amend and determine if the Assemblymember's proposed, if any, 2022 State and Federal Legislative Priorities should be recommended to the Assembly as the Borough's 2022 Legislative Priorities.

**-Approved (2-0) to include priorities from the FNSB Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in any capital budget requests, Resolution No. 2021-12.**

**-Approved (2-0) to recommend the following from the 2021 Legislative Priorities as a 2022 legislative priority of the FNSB.**

- **School Funding and Forward Funding Education**  
Maintain school funding and forward funding of schools.
- **Municipal Capital Project/School Construction Reimbursement**  
The Fairbanks North Star Borough has partnered with the State of Alaska on municipal capital and school construction projects. The Borough supports full reimbursement as provided for in state law.
- **Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) Program**  
The HSCMG program has significant and wide-ranging impacts in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and is an exceptionally cost-effective use of public dollars which are passed through to nonprofit recipients providing basic and essential human services to underserved residents.
- **Community Assistance**  
Support maintaining the community assistance program and considering ways to stabilize the fund and or expand to create consistency. Support a baseline floor of \$60 million annually, and encourage a long-term, sustainable solution.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None