



Representative Andy Josephson

District 17: Midtown, University & East Anchorage

I Answer to You!

Your Voice in the Alaska House of Representatives

Josephson's Journal

Education Funding

Yesterday, Governor Dunleavy's Office of Management and Budget Director, Donna Arduin and Budget Director, Lacey Sanders, presented a walk-through of the fiscal year 2019 supplemental budget bills. [Click here](#) to view a summary. Typically, supplemental budgets are used to address emergency expenses not otherwise covered by the budgets passed during the prior session. However, the Governor's supplemental budget **eliminates \$20 million in one-time education funding** that the Legislature approved last year.



Photo Credit: House Press

Taking funds from school districts in the middle of the school year undermines our investment in education. Each year, school districts across the state build their budgets based on revenue and enrollment projections. This year, those projections included the \$20 million.

The Anchorage School District used its \$5.77 million portion to **hire 25 teachers** (positions that had been cut from a previous budget) and to help cover the new teacher pay contract. Asking ASD to reverse those decisions halfway through the second semester would have broad, negative impacts on the entire school district.

Many lawmakers agree that education funding cannot withstand further cuts without negatively affecting Alaskan children. I continue to believe that educating our young people is our best investment in Alaska's future, and I remain committed to strengthening our public school system and supporting our hard-working teachers.

Anchorage Caucus

Please join me and the other Anchorage legislators on Saturday, February 23 for Anchorage Caucus at the ASD Education Center located at 5530 E Northern Lights Blvd. Stop by to meet your Senator and/or Representative and to share your thoughts and

ideas for the 31st Alaska State Legislature. From 10-11:30am we will provide a legislative update and public testimony, then from 11:30 to 12:30 we will have breakout sessions by Senate District.

UAA Education Accreditation

Earlier this week, the State Board of Education voted to certify 40 UAA students affected by the teacher education program's recent loss of accreditation. Students who graduate with a bachelor's degree or a master's degree from the UAA college of education this May or August will be certified to teach in Alaska. In most cases, other states will honor those certificates, and UAA has pledged to help if students experience problems with other states.

Since teaching for three years during the 90s in the Kuskokwim village of Kalskag, I've kept my teaching certificate valid so that I may teach again. I understand how critical licensure is, and I'll do everything I can to support the students caught in this accreditation lapse.

Fifty-five students were caught in the lurch; fifteen of those have transferred to UAS or UAF which have maintained their accreditation. UAA lies smack dab in my legislative district and I'm a huge university supporter. Even though it can take up to three years for the College of Education to regain its accreditation, I will do all I can to help.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

ANCHORAGE CAUCUS

on Saturday, February 23rd from 10am-12:30pm

**AT THE ASD EDUCATION CENTER
5530 E NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99504**

Come meet your Anchorage Senators and Representatives for the annual Anchorage Caucus. The legislature has been in session for over a month and we want to hear from our neighbors. Legislators from throughout the Anchorage Bowl will be available to listen to your questions, concerns, and ideas.

RUSSIAN JACK SPRINGS PARK MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27TH
(6-8PM)

WILLIWAW
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1200 SAN ANTONIO STREET

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is updating the master plan for Russian Jack Springs Park and we want to hear from you! Join us for the first in a series of workshops to learn about the project and to share your ideas for the future of the park. Ideas and feedback from this workshop will help the Parks and Recreation Department prioritize future funding and improvements at the park.

For more information and project updates visit us online... <http://bit.ly/russianjack>

Project Contact:
Brenda Ruffalo, Sr. Park Planner
Anchorage Parks and Recreation
P. (907) 543-4088
E. bruffalo@community.ak.gov



Russian Jack Springs Park

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is beginning the planning and public involvement process to update the master plan for Russian Jack Springs Park. As one of Anchorage's oldest and most popular parks, Russian Jack is important to the recreational interest of all Anchorage residents.

To ensure that the master plan aligns with the desires of the community, Anchorage Parks and Recreation is asking residents and park users for their input. As part of this process, the Parks Department is administering an online survey and will be hosting a public workshop on February 27th. Feedback from residents and park users will help Parks and Rec identify priorities for future management, maintenance, and development of the park.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RJSPsurvey1>

For more **information and project updates** visit:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/RussianJackSpringsParkMasterPlanUpdate2019.aspx>

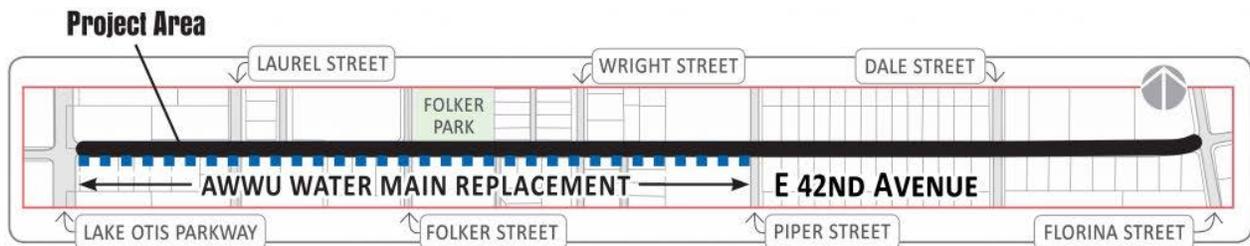
42nd Avenue Upgrade

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) is planning to upgrade East 42nd Avenue between Lake Otis Parkway and Florina Street (see map below). Improvements are expected to include:

- New road foundation
- New asphalt pavement
- New storm drain system
- New pedestrian facilities
- Improved street lighting
- 3,000 feet of water main replacement

How to get involved:

- Attend the University Area Community Council Meeting: The project team will present updates at a few council meetings starting in late 2018.
- Fill out an online questionnaire by **February 28, 2019**.
- Attend a public open house: Two open house meetings are planned for 2019.
- Sign up for e-mail updates, select the link at the bottom of this page to sign up.
- Contact us anytime with comments or questions at comments@crweng.com.



Project Questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/42aveupgrade>

For more **information and project updates** visit: www.42ndavenueupgrade.com or call Holly Spoth-Torres at (907) 223-0136.

My office is open and working for you

You can contact me by phone at 465-4939 or 1-800-465-4939. I am also available by email at rep.andy.josephson@akleg.gov. Don't forget to follow me on Twitter and Facebook. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Photo Credit: www.turnagainphotography.files.wordpress.com



Please Contact Me!

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465--4939
(800) 465-4939



Contact Other Elected Officials

Governor
Michael J. Dunleavy
907-269-7450

[Email](#)

Senator
Dan Sullivan
907-271-5915

[Email](#)

Senator
Lisa Murkowski
907-271-3735

[Email](#)

Congressman
Don Young
907-271-5978

[Email](#)

Write a Letter to the Editor

Submit your 175 word letter to the Alaska Dispatch News, attn: letters to the editor
email: letters@alaskadispatch.com; fax: 907-258-2157