

Reinbold Report

from the Alaska State Legislature

WINTER ★ 2020

*Happy
Holidays!*

2020 has been a difficult year in many ways, though we are working to forge a positive path forward. We have faced unforeseen challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our businesses, our schools, and our world have changed like never before in recent history. 2021 may end up being an even more interesting year. Political challenges include budget shortfalls, pandemic response, and getting our schools and businesses back in full operation. My legislative priorities include:

- **protecting our constitutional rights** that America was founded upon—even during a pandemic;
- **reducing the state budget** during these difficult fiscal times, using audits to identify fraud, waste, and abuse in particular in the HSS budget;
- **paying out the largest PFD possible** in this difficult economic environment;
- **creating a stable environment to develop our treasured resources** and improve our economy;
- **protecting parental rights** regarding their childrens' educations and healthcare decisions;
- **protecting the rights of employees and citizens to direct their own healthcare choices**, which may include decisions about vaccinations.

Senate

The Senate has a majority of 13 Republicans and a minority of 7 Democrats. We are in the process of setting our agenda for the upcoming session.

The House of Representatives is in nearly a 50:50 split between Republicans and Democrats. They are still trying to organize and set their priorities.

The Executive Branch's political response to COVID-19 has been of deep concern. Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers help create a stable political environment. Constitutionally, the legislature has the power of the purse and the authority to write laws. In the history of Alaska, according to statute disasters were not to last more than 30 days. Without proper legal authority, the executive branch has extended the disaster declaration beyond eight months, through December 15. Sadly, the executive branch took control of the COVID relief money without any input or oversight from the legislature. In addition, the executive branch put forth 18 restrictive, controversial health mandates and 8 health orders that interrupted our state's economy, religious freedom, educational system, tourism and travel, fishing, resource development, and so much more. To preserve balance of power, constitutional concerns must be addressed.



Know your Rights

I encourage you to know America's rich history. Re-read the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Federalist Papers, and Original Intent. These documents will help you grasp an understanding of the supreme law of the land, which has held this country together for nearly 250 years. The largest private collection of America's founding documents is available at Wallbuilders, wallbuilders.com/constitution-hub/ Wallbuilders has excellent resources for educating our students about our great country. Know your rights and stand by them as a business, parent, citizen, student and resident of Alaska.

“ But a Constitution of government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.”

- John Adams

Should Churches and Businesss stay open?

For one perspective, visit muni.org or dhss.alaska.gov

For a diverse viewpoint, visit thehealthyamerican.org

We encourage Alaskans to responsibly enjoy traditional holiday celebrations. Many churches in our community are open. According to the US Supreme Court, government may not arbitrarily restrict religious freedom or the right to assemble.

supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20a87_4g15.pdf

Shop local! For online purchases, please shop at the Merry Merchant Marketplace Facebook page. For more information please see the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce.



Senator Lora Reinbold

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Vaccines

My office is closely following developments related to COVID-19 vaccines. We will fight to ensure that your healthcare and privacy rights are protected.



Disaster Plan

As we are all aware, disasters or pandemics can strike at any moment. Please take disaster planning seriously; while government can attempt to provide aid its resources are limited, and no one can prepare you for a disaster as well as yourself. Please visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for tips on how to start preparing your family for unexpected events. Please remember that constitutional rights cannot be suspended even during disasters or pandemics.

“ Any society that will give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.”

- Benjamin Franklin

Military

I recently had the honor of joining a teleconference with Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett and Lt. Gen. David Krumm, Commander ALCOM 11AF, Alaska Region NORAD. They emphasized that the Arctic is a geostrategic keystone of US security. It is an honor to serve the many veterans and active duty military in our community. I plan to continue to serve on the Military & Veterans Affairs or Joint Armed Services Committees, to ensure we stay up to date on the important needs of our military and veteran families. Visit the Anchorage Regional website for the VA for more local information regarding benefits va.gov/anchorage/



Education

Thank you to our healthcare workers, parents educating their children at home, businesses that are staying open, and the teachers who are working hard to educate our children online in challenging circumstances.

Public Safety

Our community strongly supports law enforcement. Our office will work with law enforcement to improve safety in our community. Thank you to our local law enforcement for protecting our community and upholding constitutional rights even during a pandemic.

Eagle Exit

Many in our community are disappointed with the recent unconstitutional COVID-19 decisions made by the Anchorage Assembly. Local control is often the best type of government because we have the freedom to set policies that are right for our community. Get involved: for more information go to eagleexit.com

COVID-19 Research and Resources

Sensible and Compassionate Approach

imprimis.hillsdale.edu/sensible-compassionate-anti-covid-strategy/

The Great Barrington Declaration

gbdeclaration.org/

Unemployment Benefits

labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/COVID-19.htm

Small Business Loans

[Commerce.alaska.gov](https://commerce.alaska.gov)

Local Food Pantries

Eagle River Church of God 694-9395

First Presbyterian Church 907-694-5228

Town Halls

Tentative dates for virtual Town Hall meetings:

- Jan. 14, Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 pm and
- Saturday Feb. 27 from 4:00-6:00 pm



Contact Senator Reinbold

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New website coming soon at EmpoweringAlaskans.com