

Alaska Commission on Aging
Alaska Aging Advocacy Network Tool-Kit

Key Advocacy Issues

1. Access to affordable health care, specifically providers accepting Medicare.
2. Increased grant funding and support for home and community based services (HCBS), statewide.
3. Safe, accessible, and affordable independent senior housing.

Who Needs to Deliver the Message?

- Those who can speak from experience and can tell a personal story.
- Those with recognized authority on the issue.
- Those who may have special influence with the target.
- Those who care about the quality of life of older Alaskans.

How is the Message Delivered to Your Target?

- Sending letters or emails.
- Having a meeting with a candidate as possible.
- Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper.

The following is a sample letter you may consider using to contact candidates. Including your personal message in this letter will make a meaningful difference.

[Insert your information here]

Mr. /Mrs. /Ms. First name Last name

123 Street Address

My Hometown, AK 12345

October 5, 2006 **[insert today's date]**

[Insert the candidate's information here]

The Honorable First name Last name **(use Honorable if office-holder currently)**

123 Street Address

City, State 12345

Dear **[Insert Official's Title and Name here]**:

As a constituent, a senior advocate, and an important member of the voting community, I urge you to support the key issues that have been identified by seniors and senior advocates in Alaska, which include:

- Access to affordable health care, specifically providers accepting Medicare.
- Increased grant funding and support for home and community based services (HCBS), statewide.
- Safe, accessible, and affordable independent senior housing.

Please support the *Keep the Elders Home Initiative* introduced by the Alaska Commission on Aging requesting increased funding for Home and Community Based Senior Services. Examples of these services include home delivered meals, senior transportation, chore services, respite services, caregiver support, and other core services. **[Insert your personal testimony as to why these issues are important to you.]**

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns and look forward to hearing from you as I prepare to make my choice in this important race on November 7th.

Sincerely,

[Insert your signature here.]

Who Needs to Hear the Message?

Current Legislators. You may use the link below to find interim contact information for the incumbent legislators in your district.

Legislator and Staff Contact List (during interim)

http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/infodocs/leg_interim_staff.pdf

Candidates for State Senate and House seats are listed on the State of Alaska Website: <http://www.ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/cand06g.php>

Alaska State Legislature Website:

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/home.htm>

Active Alaska Candidates

U.S. Congress:

At Large: Don Young (R)

<http://donyoung.house.gov/>

Active Candidates:

Diane Benson (D)

<http://www.bensonforcongress.com/>

Eva Ince (Green)

<http://evaforcongress.us/>

Alexander Crawford (Lib)

Bill Ratigan (Ind)

<http://impeachnow.blogstream.com/>

Patrick McGonegal (Write-In)

Governor and Lieutenant Governor:

Sarah Palin (R)

<http://www.palinforgovernor.com/>

& Sean Parnell (R)

<http://www.alaskansforparnell.com/>

Tony Knowles (D)

<http://www.tonyknowles.com/>

& Ethan Berkowitz (D)

<http://www.ethanberkowitz.com/>

Walter Dixon (Alaska Frontier Constitutional)

& Pete Ekstrom (Alaska Frontier Constitutional)

Don Wright (Alaskan Independence)

& Doug Welton (Alaskan Independence)

<http://www.dougwelton.com/site/952349/>

Billy Toien (Libertarian)

& Robert Mirabal (Libertarian)

Andrew Halcro (Independent)

<http://www.andrewhalcro.com/>

& Fay Von Gemmingen (Independent)

*If you are receiving this toolkit in the mail and do not have access to a computer and would like further information, please do not hesitate to call our office at 907-465-4786 or 465-3250. You may also contact your local senior center for assistance with contacting political candidates. If you do have computer access and have additional questions, please also feel free to email: jeannette_lacey@health.state.ak.us and we will work to assist you in any way we can.