



The House Majority Caucus

PRESS RELEASE

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CAUCUS RELEASES RESULTS OF SUBSTANTIAL DITTMAN POLL

Annual effort seeks to gauge Alaskans' views on legislative issues

Tuesday, March 20, 2012, Juneau, Alaska – A new in-depth poll by Dittman Research & Communications released by the Alaska House Majority Caucus today carries a wealth of data on a number of issues before the legislature, from oil taxes to film incentives, to coastal zone management and education funding.

Dittman Corp. surveyed 1,000 Alaskans during the first week in March, asking 45 impartial questions, in order to secure a low 3.1-percent margin of error. The caucus traditionally commissions a poll to help inform members and the public on priority issues before the legislature.

"The data shows that a majority of Alaskans are feeling good about the state of the state: our leadership, our economy, and future opportunities. Alaskans are willing to invest in large projects like the in-state gasline and other mega-projects, and on education funding and film incentives – provided there's accountability," Caucus leaders said in a joint statement. "We're pleased with the hard work done by Dittman Research and staff and will use this information as we enter the home stretch of the legislative session when these issues come before us."

In-State Natural Gas Pipeline

The poll shows overwhelming support for building an in-state natural gas pipeline, and for using the gas in-state. Of those who support the project, a strong majority also support the state investing in the cost of building the line.

Film Incentives

The poll shows that people, overall, are supportive of the concept, but don't believe the program should be extended this year, and strongly believe that the salaries of non-resident movie stars and directors should not be eligible for the tax credit.

Education Funding

Alaskans are very supportive of education funding, but want to see funding increases tied to performance.

Oil Taxes

As a general principle, Alaskans believe that lower taxes equal greater business investment in Alaska; with a majority believing the ACES tax structure should be repealed or modified. Of those who believe it should be modified, a vast majority believe it should be done this year.

Coastal Zone Management

A strong majority of Alaskans support the concept of a coastal management program, but are split on the issue of local control.

The poll also measured Alaskan's views on projects like the Susitna Dam, Knik Arm Bridge, Port of Anchorage expansion, and proposed Pebble Mine.

Alaskans believe Governor Sean Parnell is doing a good job, along with the Alaska House and Senate.

Top-line survey results will be made available during the press conference, which begins at 12:00 p.m. today in the Speaker's Chamber; the PowerPoint presentation is at <http://bit.ly/GEV0XU>.

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