



# Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce 2024 Advocacy Priorities

## Standing Priorities

- **Develop, advance, and promote** the economic, industrial, commercial, professional, cultural, and civic welfare of Juneau.
- **Stabilize Demographic Trends:** Work with CBJ and other organizations to address declining population and impacts of the aging population.
- **North Douglas Crossing:** Continue to engage in the PEL study process and support efforts to secure federal funding as the project progresses through the environmental and design process.
- **Juneau Access** (Cascade Point current “next step”): Maintain focus on road access to Juneau but engage in AMHS and air travel discussions that improve access to Juneau.
- **CBJ Budget:** Engage in CBJ operating and capital budget process, including monitoring of proposed “big ticket” capital expenditures and CBJ tax collection in excess of operating costs.
- **CBJ Initiatives:** Monitor CBJ initiatives that impact the health of the business community.
- **State Legislation:** Monitor and engage in proposed state legislation that directly impacts the business community.

## 2024 Priorities

- ❖ **Housing Development:** The chamber’s Housing & Development Committee will focus on identifying ways to promote the construction of single and multi-family housing to meet the current and future demand for housing.
- ❖ **US Coast Guard Icebreaker:** Home porting an Icebreaker in Juneau must be a top priority for the CBJ and will continue to actively support this effort.
- ❖ **Property Tax Revenue - Mill Rate - Grants:** Work with CBJ officials to establish a transparent and equitable process to determine commercial and residential assessments, and to change the policies and process for setting property tax revenue. The CBJ should establish a process to measure the effectiveness of grants that are routinely approved but may not be producing the intended results.
- ❖ **5<sup>th</sup> Dock – “Aakw’a” (HTC):** The chamber supports the proposed uplands development of Aakw’a including the floating dock that will provide the 5<sup>th</sup> shoreside mooring for an additional cruise ship. This will improve traffic flow and provide additional infrastructure for this area of town. The CBJ should agree to transfer the tidelands permit necessary to construct the dock.
- ❖ **Remote Sales Tax / Local Sales / Visitor Industry impact:** Monitor the levels and relationships between the three primary sources of sales tax. In regard to remote sales tax, there should be a review of local contractors/businesses that should probably not be charged sales tax but are not captured in the exceptions. (Example – Hecla Greens Creek is paying sales tax on shipments of gravel and concrete coming in on barge from Pacific Northwest, without any limit)
- ❖ **Tourism:** The Chamber views a vibrant and balanced visitor industry as a critical piece of the Juneau economy and will work to find an appropriate balance for impacts on business and the community.
- ❖ **Childcare:** The Chamber believes that the lack of affordable childcare remains a local (and national) issue that impairs the ability of family members to return to the workforce.
- ❖ **Public Safety:** The Chamber supports the funding, recruiting and retention of a fully staffed police force; and legislation and development of facilities and services necessary to address the houseless population living on private and public property.

## ***Vision for Juneau***

The chamber believes that there is an added responsibility that comes with being the capital of Alaska – which is a critical component of our economy. In addition to being the capital, we are also a world-class tourist destination. Both of these requires the City & Borough of Juneau, the business community and the residents of Juneau to have a vision of what the community should look like to serve as the capital, balance tourism, and attract and retain people to work and live in Juneau.

The chamber believes there are projects that should be considered for the future development of Juneau. These projects must make fiscal sense, and in some cases will require “substantial” support in the form of state and/or federal funds. While the chamber may not necessarily promote these projects the chamber will work to ensure that the decisions are in the best interest of the business community.

**Telephone Hill:** The chamber believes that CBJ should develop *Telephone Hill* for its highest and best use with a careful balance of housing, open space and commercial opportunities that will best serve downtown Juneau for the foreseeable future.

**City Hall:** The Chamber continues to believe that a City Hall that houses all CBJ departments/employees should continue to be a CBJ priority.

**Centennial Hall:** The chamber believes that Centennial Hall needs to be fully remodeled and expanded to meet the demand and expectations of the convention industry which has a significant economic impact for local businesses.

**Capital Civic Center:** The proposed expansion of Centennial Hall to include a theater and additional space for conventions and events is in line with the vision for the capital city. However, this very expensive project can only make sense if there is a substantial contribution of federal and/or state money.

**New City Museum:** There is a vision by the CBJ to build a new city museum that will enhance the visitor experience. The chamber agrees this is another project to enhance our role as a top visitor destination but will not actively promote the project but rather monitor any proposals to ensure there is no negative impact on the business community.

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