

2024 City of Valdez Federal Priorities

- 1) **Housing Shortage:** Advocate for solutions to address the housing shortage in Valdez.
 - i. The City Council will prioritize advocacy to address the housing shortage in Valdez and highlight all the projects that the City of Valdez has done to be a part of the housing solution.
 - ii. Identify opportunities to improve housing options for USCG at the federal level.
- 2) **Childcare Needs:** Working to address the childcare crisis in Valdez through federal funding opportunities to ensure there are adequate childcare services.
 - i. Identify federal funding opportunities to facilitate the City of Valdez Childcare Task Force report on
 - ii. Senator Murkowski was able to secure \$3 million for childcare facilities in Valdez as part of the FY24 Appropriations bill.
- 3) **USCG: Future of Cutter:** Identify a long-term strategy to maintain Coast Guard presence in Valdez.
 - i. In coordination with the Alaska Delegation, the City Council will advocate for the importance of the partnership between the City of Valdez and the USCG. In particular, the City Council will highlight the importance of adequate emergency response to handle TAPS and other sensitive material that enter the Port of Valdez.
- 4) **Infrastructure Investment:** Advocate for federal funding to improve and maintain Valdez's local infrastructure, including roads, bridges, ports, and modernizing the Valdez Container Terminal for economic growth and environmental safety.
 - i. Pursue annual appropriations funding for community development projects in Valdez, which includes infrastructure funding.
 - ii. Sea Otter Park is an undeveloped site and is currently being used for warehousing and informal recreation. The focus for the site will be to build off its deep-water access and potential for industrial or marine related uses.

- 5) **Economic Development:** Pursue federal initiatives that support economic diversification in Valdez, particularly in areas such as tourism, sustainable energy, and harbor expansion to facilitate economic growth and job creation.
 - i. Partner with the U.S. Forest Service and Chugach Corporation to build a vocational and visitor Center in Valdez.

- 6) **Education and Workforce Development:** Promote federal funding for educational and vocational training programs in Valdez, specifically tailored to the needs of the local workforce and industries, including maritime and environmental management.
 - i. With the high price of a college degree, many in Congress have realized trade and vocational schools have been forgotten to a degree, and we have a serious lack of trained and skilled workers in this country. The City Council of Valdez will advocate for federal funding to support local workforce development programs.

- 7) **Healthcare Access:** Seek federal support to improve healthcare access in Valdez, including funding for healthcare facilities and addressing the healthcare workforce shortage.
 - i. The City Council and local partners have identified gaps in specialty healthcare services – including obstetrics and long-term care.

- 8) **Disaster Preparedness and Response:** Prioritize federal assistance for disaster preparedness and response in Valdez, focusing on the city's vulnerability to natural disasters and the potential impacts of climate change.
 - i. Public Safety Radio Infrastructure Upgrades would be a project that needs federal funding to improve our emergency response capabilities.

- 9) **Climate Change and Environmental Protection:** Addressing the immediate impact of climate change on Valdez's coastal ecosystems, including protection of glaciers and marine life. Prioritize funding for climate resilience projects in Valdez.
 - i. Find opportunities for federal funding to support resilience for the City of Valdez in future natural disasters.

- 10) **Sustainable Resource Management:** Support legislation that promotes sustainable fisheries management in the Prince William Sound, timber conservation, and wildlife protection in the Valdez area.
- i. Reauthorization of the Magnus-Stevens Fisheries Management Conservation Act. This is an opportunity to evaluate possible changes that could be beneficial to Prince William Sound.
 - ii. The same strategy will be applied to mariculture, timber and wildlife protection developments projects in Valdez, which includes infrastructure funding.
- 11) **Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination:** Support legislation that addresses the unique needs of the Valdez Native community.
- 12) **Arctic Policy:** Advocate for policies that recognize Valdez's position as a strategic Arctic gateway and promote sustainable development, environmental conservation, and infrastructure improvements to support increased Arctic activity.
- i. The Arctic is becoming more prevalent in members minds for a host of reasons, including Senator Sullivan's determination to educate members on the resources and national security concerns as Russia continues to build out the Arctic.