



# 2025 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

## SUPPORT LOCAL HOUSING EFFORTS

### Advocate for solutions to address the housing shortage in Valdez.

- Highlight projects that the City of Valdez has done to be a part of the housing solution. These have included:
  - Reexamination of land use policies and local zoning requirements- including updating the Comprehensive Plan and taking on a rewrite of our zoning code.
  - Housing incentives for new dwelling units and development
  - Temporary property tax exemptions for key areas
- Identify opportunities to improve housing options for USCG at the federal level. Work with the Alaska Delegation to explore solutions to expedite housing for the Coast Guard.
- Continue to seek federal funding through HUD and other agencies to promote additional high-quality housing units in Valdez with an emphasis on replacement of the large number of aging mobile and manufactured homes in our community.

## ADDRESS CHILD CARE NEEDS

### Work to address the child care crisis in Valdez through federal funding opportunities to ensure there are adequate child care services.

- Update Alaska Delegation on current child care initiatives in City of Valdez that focus on the interrelated areas of facility creation, workforce development and funding mechanisms to help businesses create licensed care in the community.
- Senator Murkowski was able to secure \$3 million for a child care facility in Valdez as part of the FY24 Appropriations bill. We are awaiting the award letter for funding.
- Explore options for a local Head Start grantee manage and operate city-owned early education facility.

## KEEP A STRONG COAST GUARD PRESENCE IN VALDEZ

### A robust USCG presence is important to maintaining of adequate emergency response capabilities and security for Valdez's strategically important port.

- Work with the Alaska Delegation to replace Liberty as soon as possible. The Coast Guard has committed to 87' foot cutter to be stationed in Valdez.
- Identify a long-term strategy to maintain Coast Guard presence in Valdez.
- The City Council will highlight the importance of adequate emergency response to handle TAPS and other sensitive material that enter the Port of Valdez.
- Identify future military assets to be station in Port of Valdez.
- Valdez will continue to highlight the strategic advantage City of Valdez provides.



## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

**Advocate for federal funding to improve and maintain Valdez's local infrastructure, including roads, bridges, ports, schools and modernizing the Valdez Container Terminal for economic growth and environmental safety.**

- Pursue annual appropriations funding for community development projects in Valdez, which includes infrastructure funding. The top priorities for funding include the Emergency Radio Communications tower project, design funding for Phase V Pavement Management on Pioneer Drive, design and permitting for dock at Sea Otter Park for future vessels.
- Urge Congress to pass, and continue to fund, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

## HEALTHCARE ACCESS

**Seek federal support to improve healthcare access in Valdez, including funding for healthcare facilities and addressing the healthcare workforce shortage.**

- The City Council and local partners have identified gaps in specialty healthcare services – including obstetrics, senior support services, and long-term care.

## SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Support legislation that promotes sustainable fisheries management in the Prince William Sound, timber conservation, and wildlife protection in the Valdez area.**

- Request Federal support for emergency declaration for local fisheries affected by meager salmon run in 2024.
- 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.
- The same strategy will be applied to mariculture, timber and wildlife protection developments projects in Valdez, which includes infrastructure funding.

## ARCTIC POLICY

**Advocate for policies that recognize Valdez's position as a strategic Arctic gateway.**

Promote sustainable development, environmental conservation, and infrastructure improvements to support increased Arctic activity.

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 related to the Arctic.



## **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.**

- Seek federal funding to support the Avalanche Center, including National Weather Service daily weather observations.
- Find opportunities for federal funding to support resilience for the City of Valdez in future natural disasters.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Address the immediate impact of climate change on Valdez's coastal ecosystems, including protection of glaciers and marine life and prioritize funding for climate resilience projects in Valdez.**

## **TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION**

**Support legislation that addresses the unique needs of the Valdez Native community.**