

Legislative Update



January 15, 2010



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For immediate release:

Stay Informed About Your Legislature

Gavel to Gavel Alaska, will premiere on the first day of the legislative session, January 19th. The television service is broadcast over the air in Anchorage and Juneau, and is carried by cable systems statewide and streamed live on the Internet. For further information, go to <http://www.ktoo.org/gavel/>.

You can also track/research bills on our Legislative on-line "BASIS" system. Basis has been designed to help the public access legislative information. Inside Basis you can find information on bills, schedules and Legislative members. Basis offers an automatic notification sent to your email on bills or committee hearings that you specify. For further information, go to <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp>.

2010 U.S. Census: RURAL OUTREACH

The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and is a count of everyone living in the United State every 10 years. This year, the Census Bureau has decided to use only the short form, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

January 25th is the official "kick-off" of the 2010 U.S. Census in *Noorvik, Alaska*. This advanced outreach is focused on rural and remote areas, which will largely be "hand-counted."

January 27th is the start of the PHASE 1 outreach to rural villages. Phase 1 consists of the Northwest Arctic Borough, the Seward Peninsula, the Y-K Delta region down to Goodnews bay and all the way up the Kuskokwim and Tyonek areas. The Hub cities themselves of Bethel, Nome and Kotzebue are classified with urban areas and will participate in the March 2010 regular U.S. mail count process.

February 16 is the start PHASE 2 in Bristol Bay, Kodiak, Interior Villages and Glenallen Villages. This phase includes villages of Doyon, Ahtna and the Bristol Bay Area.

March 9th is the start of WAVE 3 in the Aleutians and the North Slope.

March 20 is the scheduled date when census forms are mailed to the rest of the State; Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. This mail out will include the rural hubs that have been classified with "urban" for the purposes of counting.

April 1, 2010 is the official U.S. Census count that will be used for redistricting (and other formulas). *Over the years, our Rural/Bush communities have seen an out-migration as people move into the urban areas. For this next cycle to redistrict our Legislative districts, it is predicted that urban representation will grow and rural/bush representation will diminish. It is very important that all Alaskan's are counted!*

AVTEC: Power Plant Operating Training

The Alaska Vocational and Technical Center in Seward is offering a basic Power Plant Operator course March 17 through May 11, 2010. An advanced course will be held in the fall of 2010. The beginning course lasts for 40 training days. Students spend 60% of the course operating and maintaining diesel generator sets and the remaining time is spent in classroom instruction.

The State of Alaska/Denali Commission training funds will pay for a limited number of students. This includes tuition, deposit, room and board (including meals) and training-related materials and transportation expenses to and from AVTEC. The Alaska Energy Authority enrolls students and arranges all of the logistics. For further information or an application, you may contact Monica Moore toll free at 1-888-300-8534.

Permanent Fund Dividend

Application Deadline

March 31, 2010

Apply on-line

<http://www.pfd.state.ak.us/>