



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Tax Revenues Alternatives: With recent conversations due to OR 25-076, there have been questions regarding what other revenue options are available outside of property taxes. Below is a list of current and potential tax options. One important distinction in these taxes is that excise taxes are approved by the Assembly, while sales taxes are approved by the Assembly to go on the ballot and must be approved by voters.

- Marijuana Sales Tax: An increase to the existing marijuana sales tax could generate an additional \$750,000 to \$1.8M annually, depending on the rate selected (voter approval required).
- Tobacco Excise Tax: An increase to the existing tobacco excise tax could generate an additional \$1M to \$5M annually, depending on the rate selected.
- Bed Tax: An increase to the existing bed tax could generate an additional \$900,000 to \$2M annually, depending on the rate selected (voter approval required).
- Alcohol Sales Tax: A new alcohol sales tax at 5% could generate \$3M to \$6M annually (voter approval required).
- Severance (gravel) tax: A new severance (gravel) tax could generate \$750,000 to \$1.25M annually.
- Sales Tax: A new areawide sales tax @ 1% could generate approximately \$14M annually (voter approval required).

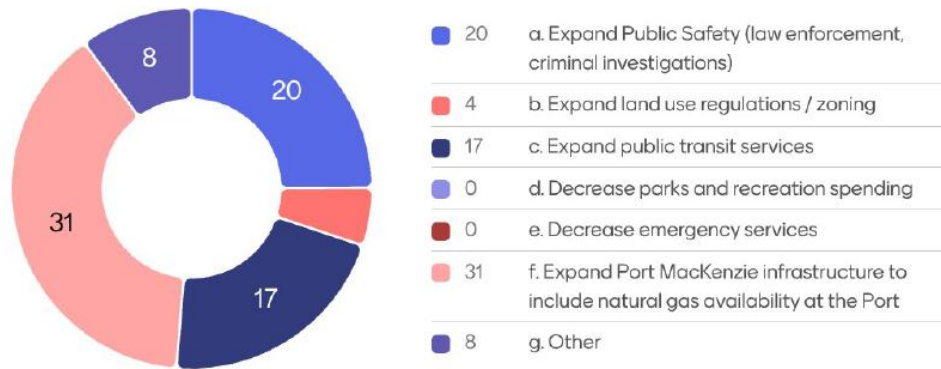
Special Public Safety Meeting Follow-Up: On Saturday, August 2 the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, DPS Staff, and several officials and staff from the cities of Houston, Palmer and Wasilla, along with Matcom and Palmer Dispatch staff, met with the Mayor and Assembly to discuss regional public safety issues. The Assembly has directed the Manager to begin researching a potential regional public safety facility and consider the option of adding space for the Alaska State Troopers. Additionally, the Manager has been directed to pursue potential consolidation of regional dispatch facilities, as well as begin steps to consider future consolidation of areawide animal care services.

Wasilla Chamber Presentation: On Tuesday, August 5, 137 people attended the Wasilla Chamber lunch meeting where the Borough presented a state-of-the-borough update titled "Mat-Su Forward." The presentation materials can be viewed on the Manager's page of the Borough website here: [Mat-Su Forward: GWCC August 25](#). The results of questions posed to meeting participants are below.

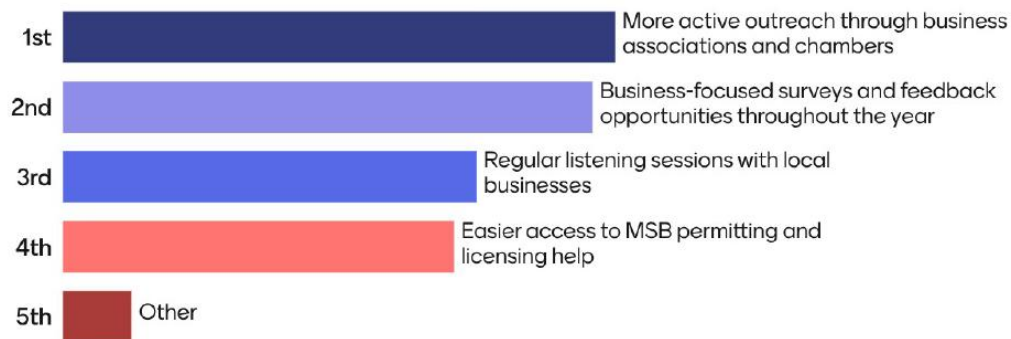
Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

When the group was asked “Is there an area in Mat-Su Borough spending you think should be thinned?” of 86 respondents, 65% selected “I don’t think any area needs to be reduced at this time.” 21% of respondents stated “grants to external organizations,” 9% selected “Planning, land use, and code enforcement” and 5% selected “public education funding.”

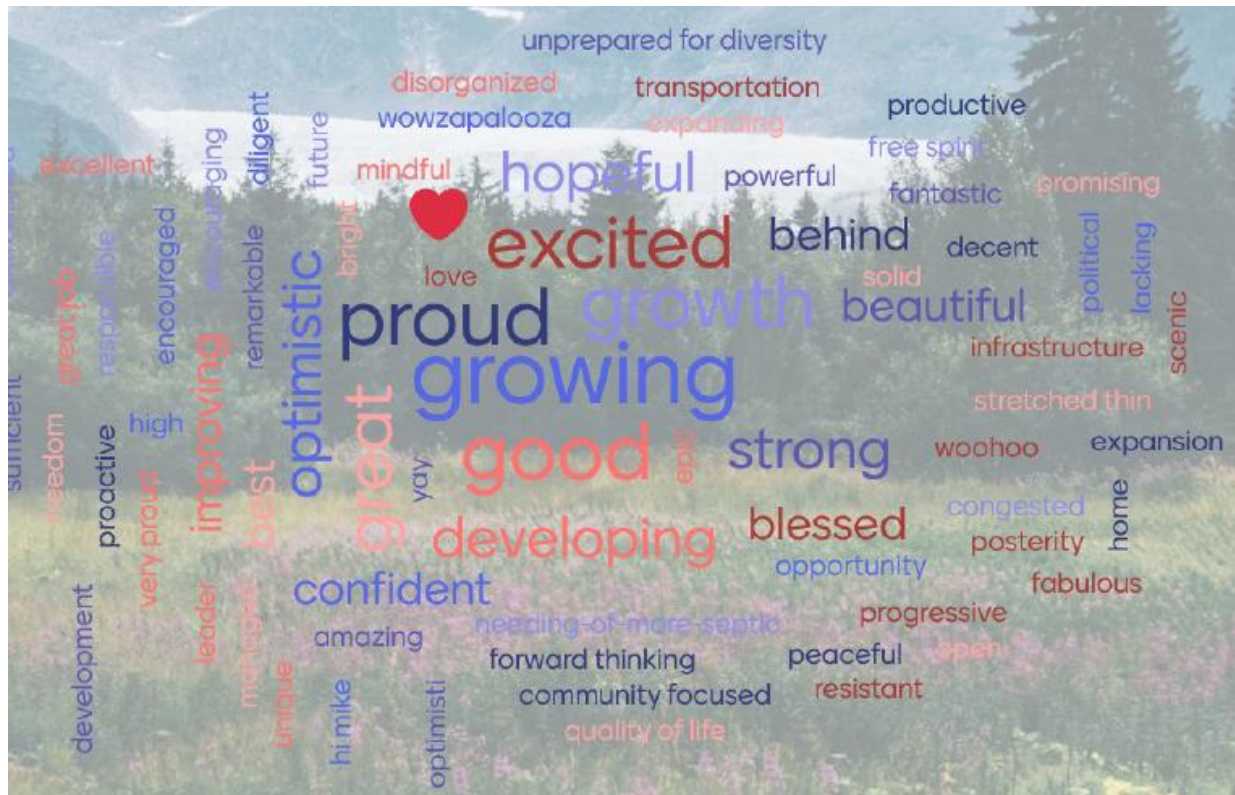
What services(s) should MSB expand or decrease?



How can the MSB better engage the business community?



What's one word to describe how you feel about MSB's standing?



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Resource Development

- [Alaska development agency applies for key West-Su Access permit](#)
Alaska Beacon
- [Alaska tops world in mineral potential](#)
Mining News
- [Nova Minerals welcomes milestone on road to Estelle Development](#)
Mercury

Trails

- [Chase trail may see more traffic](#)
KTNA

2025 Election

- [The Alaska Governor's race power rankings](#)
The Alaska Current

Tourism

- [Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau rolls out its new "Branding" Strategy](#)
Frontiersman

Animal Care

- [Video of shy dog who won't leave his kennel](#)
Alaska's News Source
- [Dog suspected of nearly ripping off 7 year old boy's ear found](#)
Alaska's News Source

Education

- [Millions in federal education funding released to Alaska Districts](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

State of the Borough

- [Mat-Su's State of the Borough spotlights growth and what's coming next](#)
Your Alaska Link

Assembly

- [New Gas tax faces public hearing at Mat-Su Borough Assembly Meeting](#)
Alaska's News Source
- [Mat-Su residents to cast 'advisory vote' on proposed borough gas tax](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Public Safety

- [Wasilla City Council Approves upgrade to 911 system](#)
Frontiersman
- [Proposed Mat-Su safety hub could close trooper posts in Palmer, Meadow lakes](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Fishing/hunting

- [Awash in Fish](#)
Craig Medred
- [Shifting water levels affect use of Talkeetna Landing boat launch](#)
Alaska Sporting Journal

Facebook

[Flood Watch](#)

156k views – 84% Non-followers – Gained 34 follows

[Free Junk Vehicle Removal Program](#)

100k views – 84% Non-followers – Gained 22 follows

[Fish Creek Video Reel](#)

69k views – 85% Non-followers – Gained 98 follows