

Alaska Public Policy Issues

Public Opinion Survey
Live Interviewer Telephone Survey
43% Cell, 57% Landline

Topline Results

n=602 Alaskan Registered Voters
Fielded May 28 to June 1, 2019
Margin of Error= ±3.99%

1) Generally speaking, how would you rate Alaska's current economy?

Very good	3%	} 51%
Good.....	48%	
Not too good	37%	} 48%
-or- Pretty bad.....	11%	
Unsure.....	1%	

2) Thinking about Alaska right now, do you think things are headed in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction.....	32%
Wrong track	61%
Unsure.....	7%

3) Generally speaking, would you like to see your local state legislator be more supportive or less supportive of Governor Dunleavy's policies?

More supportive	40%
Less supportive	47%
No change (volunteered)	2%
Unsure.....	11%

4) Do you support or oppose using a portion of the Permanent Fund Dividend to pay for state government? ...and do you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose) this?

Strongly support.....	21%	} 43%
Somewhat support.....	22%	
Somewhat oppose	11%	} 54%
Strongly oppose	43%	
Unsure.....	3%	

5) Do you believe more taxes are needed to fund state government?

Yes.....	52%
No.....	46%
Unsure.....	2%

6) Governor Dunleavy proposed a state budget that includes significant cuts in order to match state spending to the amount the state receives in revenue. The Governor's budget does not use any money from Permanent Fund Dividends to pay for government. Do you support or oppose the Governor's budget? ...and do you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose) it?

Strongly support.....	25%	} 47%
Somewhat support.....	22%	
Somewhat oppose	10%	} 47%
Strongly oppose	37%	
Unsure.....	6%	

7) Alaska law requires the Legislature to pass a budget every year. So far this year the Legislature has not been able to come to an agreement and pass a budget. If a budget is not passed by July first, the state government will shut down. Were you aware of this, or is this new information?

Aware 67%
 New information 32%
 Unsure 1%

8) If the state government were to shut down because a budget had not been passed, would you view that shut down as a crisis, a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?

Crisis 19% } 63%
 Major problem 44% }
 Minor problem 24% } 37%
 Not a problem 13% }

9) If the state government were to shut down, who do you believe would be most responsible – the Legislature or Governor Dunleavy?

Legislature 49%
 Governor Dunleavy 36%
 Both (volunteered) 12%
 Unsure 3%

10) Some leaders in the Legislature do not support paying a full Permanent Fund Dividend to Alaskans, and they have proposed not passing a budget to force a government shutdown to pressure Governor Dunleavy to agree to their terms. Do you agree or disagree with this approach to negotiating on the state budget? ...and do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

Strongly agree 9% } 24%
 Somewhat agree 15% }
 Somewhat disagree 19% } 71%
 Strongly disagree 52% }
 Unsure 5%

[Randomized Support/Oppose Batteries]

Now, I'm going to read some statements made by those who SUPPORT using the Dividend to fund government. After hearing each statement, please tell me how convincing you find it as a reason to SUPPORT using the Dividend to fund government. First... ..is that very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or not convincing at all?

[Randomized statements]	Total convincing	Total not convincing	Net convincing	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Not too convincing	Not at all convincing	No opinion/ Unsure
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11) To pay dividends while cutting funding for critical services like education is a short sighted approach to dealing with the budget situation. Alaska cannot cut its way to prosperity.

54%	44%	+10%	28%	26%	16%	28%	2%
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12) The Governor's budget cuts are too drastic and will negatively impact thousands of Alaskans and hurt the economy. Using a portion of the Permanent Fund Dividend to help fund government will cause far less of a negative impact, and will allow the state to maintain a similar level and quality of service.

52%	47%	+5%	22%	30%	18%	29%	1%
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13) The State of Alaska is not bringing in as much revenue as it used to, and its citizens are going to have to chip in. If the money doesn't come from Permanent Fund Dividends, it is going to come from an income tax or sales tax, which is far less fair than using Dividends.

41%	58%	-17%	13%	28%	20%	38%	1%
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14) The Permanent Fund Dividend has turned into an entitlement program. It was never intended as something for Alaskans to count on and depend on, and now that that is happening, it is having a negative impact on our society. It is time to end the Dividend program.

24%	74%	-50%	7%	17%	21%	53%	2%
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Now, I'm going to read some statements made by those who OPPOSE using the Dividend to fund government. After hearing each statement, please tell me how convincing you find it as a reason to OPPOSE using the Dividend to fund government. First... ..is that very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or not convincing at all?

[Randomized statements]	Total convincing	Total not convincing	Net convincing	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Not too convincing	Not at all convincing	No opinion/ Unsure
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15) Since Bill Walker vetoed the Permanent Fund Dividend, it has become a political football. For decades the dividend amount was determined by a formula under state law. Now politicians arbitrarily decide the amount of the dividend, and use the rest to pay for their spending. This is never how the Permanent Fund Dividend was intended to be used.

68%	31%	+37%	46%	22%	13%	18%	1%
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16) For nearly 40 years the Permanent Fund Dividend was sacred. Politicians never raided it because it was viewed as belonging to the people of Alaska. Today, the Permanent Fund Dividend is the first place politicians go when they need more money. The idea that it is okay to raid the Permanent Fund Dividend needs to end now, before there is nothing left.

65%	34%	+31%	39%	26%	13%	21%	1%
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17) After three years of having their dividends cut, Alaskan's elected Mike Dunleavy as Governor to put an end to dividend cuts. Elections matter. The legislature needs to respect the will of the voters.

58%	41%	+17%	38%	20%	14%	27%	1%
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18) Many of Alaska's institutions are failing. Our education system, public universities, Medicaid, the marine highway system, are all underperforming for Alaskans. These entities have seen their budgets double over the last decade, and performance has gotten even worse. They need to reform how they operate instead of expecting Alaskans to give up their Dividends to pay for poor performance.

53%	44%	+9%	34%	19%	17%	27%	3%
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19) The reality is there are a number of legislators who have never supported the idea of a Permanent Fund Dividend for Alaskans. These legislators are now using the state budget deficit as a convenient opportunity to end the Permanent Fund Dividend for good.

44%	55%	-11%	23%	21%	17%	38%	1%
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20) And now taking everything into consideration, I'd like to ask you again, do you support or oppose using a portion of the Permanent Fund Dividend to pay for state government? ...and do you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose) this?

Strongly support.....	21%	} 44%
Somewhat support.....	23%	
Somewhat oppose	10%	} 55%
Strongly oppose	45%	
Unsure.....	1%	

21) In 2016 Senate Bill 91, also known as SB 91, was signed into law and changed the way Alaska sentences criminals and handles prosecutions. Do you think the SB 91 crime law should stay in place, or should it be repealed? ...and do you feel strongly or just somewhat about that?

Strongly repeal.....	42%	} 55%
Somewhat repeal	13%	
Somewhat stay in place	11%	} 19%
Strongly stay in place	8%	
Unsure.....	26%	