

## Commissions, Committees, Councils, Task Forces, and Other Groups Addressing Alaska's Fiscal Policy

Year	Group	Goals	Reports	Notes
<b>Executive Branch Groups</b>				
1975	Alaska Growth Policy Council	To help develop a definition of critical problems affecting the development and growth of Alaska by examining the implications of processes such as population growth, community change, rural development, economic maturation, national and international influences, changing life styles, environmental quality, etc.; by providing policy, program, and other recommendations to the governor; and by providing stimulus to citizen, citizen-group, legislative, agency, or other input to the state government in the study areas.	Annual Reports	
1978	Public Forum Policy Committee	To insure that the opinions and recommendations of participants in the public forum conducted by the Alaska Growth Policy Council are considered in the decision-making and priority-setting process of the state government and to serve as an on-going implementation mechanism.	Annual Reports to Alaska Growth Policy Council and to governor	
1982	Governor's Council on Economic Policy (Successor to the Alaska Growth Policy Council)	To consider the economic future of Alaska with emphasis on the state's anticipated economic condition 5-10 years from the time of the council's consideration.	"Governor's Council on Economic Policy: Final Report," Dec. 1982	
1987	Trade Alaska Program	To make recommendations to the Governor regarding the trade and economic development policies and programs of the state.	None identified	
1992	Alaska Economic Summit	To obtain the views of community leaders from around the state about approaches to addressing the fiscal gap and to help raise the level of understanding among community leaders and the public about Alaska's fiscal situation and its implications for the future.	Preliminary Report, "Managing the Fiscal Gap, Enhancing Revenues, Ratcheting Down Spending," December 14, 1992	Gov. Hickel's Economic Summit Coordinating Committee selected 125 delegates to the 3-day summit. Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and others presented fiscal policy briefings.
1994	Governor's Council of Economic Advisors	To advise the Governor on public policy issues related to the economy, including work force development and preparedness, economic development, research priorities, and implications of those policies on the economic stability of the private and public sectors.	None identified	

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1995	Marketing Alaska	To help direct the state's economic development. The group included legislators to serve on focus groups to examine what government can do to enhance economic opportunities in various areas. Economic sector groups were to prepare marketing plans for approval by the Marketing Alaska executive committee.	"Marketing Alaska: The Governor's Economic Development Initiative," 1996	Jan 1995--Marketing Alaska work groups produced 7 reports with about 185 recommendations on investing in Alaska's future, creating opportunities for Alaskans and their communities and selling Alaska goods and services nationally and globally.
2001	Task Force on Jobs and the Economy Since September 11th	To analyze the impacts that the September terrorist attacks will have on Alaska's economy and to make recommendations on legislation or administrative actions we can take to mitigate the impacts on businesses and our workforce.	Report to governor, December 19, 2001	
<b>Legislative Branch Groups</b>				
1969	Conference on the Future of Alaska	To address various issues on the future of Alaska, including the opportunities and potential pitfalls associated with new oil wealth, and the economic foundations of Alaska's future.	Various statements resulting from conference seminars	Convened by the Legislative Council in association with The Brookings Institution. Seminar statements are available in the Legislative Library.
1975	Interim Committee on Taxation and Revenue	See note (a).	Report No. 1--2/1976; Report No. 2-- 3/16/76	Reports on microfiche in Legislative Library.
1977	House Special Committee on Permanent Fund	To analyze the economic and fiscal effects of various changes to the Alaska Permanent Fund.	"The Permanent Fund and the Growth of the Alaskan Economy: Selected Studies," ISER, December 15, 1977; various other committee reports	Comments from the report's transmittal letter from Lee Gorsuch, ISER director, included the following: ". . .one unavoidable conclusion derived from the study. It dramatically underscores the danger of making incremental investment or expenditure decisions without regard for their long-term economic or fiscal effects and poignantly highlights the need for the legislature to engage in long-term fiscal planning."
1979	Conference on Alaska's Future Frontiers	To make recommendations on various issues concerning the future of Alaska.	"A Conference on Alaska's Future Frontiers," December 1979	A continuation of the process begun with the 1969 Conference on Alaska's Future, this three-day conference was convened by the Legislative Council. Documents in Legislative Library include transcripts, correspondence, public papers, and department and executive branch responses to conference recommendations.
1979	House Special Committee on Permanent Fund	See note (a).	None identified	

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1986	Joint Special Committee on State Tax Policy	See note (a).	Final Report, January 1988	Final report includes the following two studies: "A Comparative Analysis of the Economic Effects of Reimposing Personal Income Taxes, Reducing Permanent Fund Dividends, or Reducing State Spending," prepared by the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), and "Income and Investment Flows from Alaska Oil and Gas Producing Activities," prepared by Prof. Edward B. Deakin.
1988	Joint Committee on Economic Recovery	To develop legislative solutions to the economic crisis.	Final Report of the House Members, May 1988	Report is available in the Legislative Library.
1989	Commission on the Future of the Permanent Fund	To gather public testimony, report findings, and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature.	Final report, "Alaskans on the Future of the Fund," January 31, 1990	Report included recommendations of the Commission suggesting statute modifications designed to preserve the value of the permanent fund and to assure a stable flow of earnings. In addition to the Commission report, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation trustees submitted papers collected at public hearings conducted on the Permanent Fund, entitled "The Role of the Permanent Fund in Alaska's Fiscal and Economic Future: A Collection of Public Policy Perspectives," (Trustee Papers, Vol. No. 3, August 1989). These papers are available at <a href="http://www.apfc.org/library/TP3.cfm?s=5">http://www.apfc.org/library/TP3.cfm?s=5</a> .
1989	Senate Special Committee on Banking and Economic Development	To examine issues relating to economic opportunities and the potential for economic diversification.	None identified	
1993	Joint House & Senate Economic Task Force	To identify priority issues for passage in law on how to improve the state's economy.	Report, March 13, 1993	Mini-summit, March 13, 1993, to examine ways to "assist industry with economic growth and development." Report is available in the Alaska State Library.
1995	House Special Committee on Economic Development	To study opportunities for future economic development of the state's resources.	None identified	
1995	Long Range Financial Planning Commission	To assess the state's financial condition and to recommend a strategy to balance the state's revenues and expenditures--to develop a long-range financial plan for the state.	"Alaska's Growing Fiscal Gap," August 12, 1995	Included members of legislature and executive branch, as well as private sector members.
1997	House Special Committee on Economic Development	See note (a).	None identified	

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2001	Fiscal Policy Caucus	A bi-partisan group of legislators seeking to close the fiscal gap and to develop a long-term fiscal foundation for Alaska.	"Facts and Findings for a Long-Range Fiscal Plan for Alaska," December 1, 2001	Report is available on-line at <a href="http://www.akrepublicans.org/22ndleg/pdf/fiscalpolicy112012001.pdf">http://www.akrepublicans.org/22ndleg/pdf/fiscalpolicy112012001.pdf</a> .
<b>Other Groups</b>				
1976	Common Sense for Alaska	On-going private watchdog organization targeting fiscal policy and economic development issues through public education, advocacy, and communication.	Budget and Fiscal Issues Newsletters; various reports	This organization maintains a website newsletter and articles on government spending, economic development, and related issues; available at <a href="http://commonsenseforalaska.org/csa/index.shtml">http://commonsenseforalaska.org/csa/index.shtml</a> . Various reports are also available in the Alaska State Library.
1980	Commonwealth North Study Group on Resource Revenues and Spending	To analyze ways to invest Alaska's resource revenues for the long-term benefit of the state.	"Alaska's Golden Opportunity: Resource Revenues and State Spending," December 1980	Summary is available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend3.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend3.html</a> .
1981	Commonwealth North Study Group on Alaska's Future	To examine ways to stabilize Alaska's economy.	"Investing in Alaska's Future: The Capital Investment Fund," June 1981	Group recommended creation of an "Alaska Capital Investment Fund" to channel a portion of revenues into the financing of the state's economic infrastructure. Summary is available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend5.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend5.html</a> .
1985	Commonwealth North Study Group	A discussion of Alaska as an "owner state" in which the state owns a substantial amount of land and resources and has an obligation to provide its residents with a sustainable economy.	"Compass North -- Five Challenges for Alaska," February 1985	Summary is available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend10.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend10.html</a> .
1988	Commonwealth North Study Group on Use of the Permanent Fund to Stabilize the Economy	To examine use of the Permanent Fund earnings as a positive counter-cyclical force in the state's economy.	"Using the Permanent Fund as a Positive Counter-Cyclical Force in the Alaskan Economy," February 1988	Summary is available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend11.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend11.html</a> .
1988	Commonwealth North Study Group on the Alaska Development Board	To examine the need for in-state investment in revenue-generating projects to diversify the state's economy.	"The Alaska Development Board," October 1988	Summary is available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend15.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend15.html</a> .
1993	Commonwealth North Budget Conference: Closing the Fiscal Gap	Proceedings to discuss the fiscal gap, spending regulation, use of liquid reserves, taxation, Permanent Fund and economic development.	"Closing the Fiscal Gap," October 1993	Summary available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend20.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend20.html</a> .

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1994	Commonwealth North Study Group	To develop a long-term financial plan that will compensate for declining oil revenues.	"Breaking the Fall: Budget Recommendations for Alaska," March 1994	Summary available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend23.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend23.html</a> .
1995	Alaskans for a Plan	To help state government develop a long term plan to close the fiscal gap.	None identified	At the end of a business roundtable, Governor Knowles suggested this semi-formal business group continue to gather statewide information and follow-up on the work of the Long Range Financial Planning Commission. Fall of 1995 - 1996. Group conducted market research on public opinion on implementation of fiscal plans.
1997	Commonwealth North Study Group on Alaska's Future	An analysis of the condition of Alaska's economy, quality of life, educational systems and government at a pivotal point in its history.	"Agenda 2000: Alaska's Future in a New World," June 1997	Summary available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend25.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/studies/recommend25.html</a> .
1997	Alaska Humanities Forum Conference-- Principles and Interests Permanent Fund Conference	A statewide conference and public meetings to begin a dialogue about the role of the Permanent Fund in Alaska's future.	"Principles and Interests"	An analysis of the Principles and Interests Permanent Fund project is available in the Alaska Permanent Fund Trustee Papers, Volume No. 6, November 1999; <a href="http://www.apfc.org/library/TP6.cfm?s=5">http://www.apfc.org/library/TP6.cfm?s=5</a> .
1998	Commonwealth North Economic Stability Study Group	To examine Alaska's assets to identify the management principles which, if consistently applied, would improve their financial return and enhance Alaska's economic stability.	"Alaska's Asset Portfolio: Managing for Maximum Return," December 1998	Report available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/reports/assetreport.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/reports/assetreport.html</a> .
1998	Fiscal Policy Council of Alaska	An informal, primarily business group that grew out of the Alaskans for a Plan effort to address the fiscal gap and stabilization of the economy.	"Economists' Views on Alaska's Fiscal Gap," September 8, 1999	Dr. Scott Goldsmith, University of Alaska, Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), conducted the survey of Alaska economists on the state's fiscal policy; results and representative comments from the participating economists are available at <a href="http://www.fiscalak.org/pdf/econpoll.pdf">http://www.fiscalak.org/pdf/econpoll.pdf</a> . The Council also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter on fiscal policy and budget issues during the legislative session months; recent issues are available at <a href="http://www.fiscalak.org/news.htm#fs">http://www.fiscalak.org/news.htm#fs</a> .
1999	Commonwealth North Permanent Fund Study Group	To study and make recommendations on uses of the Alaska Permanent Fund earnings in the context of total state fiscal needs.	"Earnings--Phase II: A Cornerstone for Fiscal Certainty," May 1999	Report available at <a href="http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/reports/fundreport/pfundreport.html">http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/reports/fundreport/pfundreport.html</a> .

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2001	Alaska 20/20	Multi-year, statewide project of public meetings to develop goals for different aspects (including the economy and fiscal sustainability) of Alaska's future and benchmarks for measuring progress toward those goals. The project is comprised of numerous private organizations and public entities, including the Legislative Council, State of Alaska, and various federal agencies. Statewide conference held in November 2001 after approximately 2 years of planning. Facilitated by the Alaska Humanities Forum.	None identified	Participants deemed fiscal sustainability to be the first priority among the five major themes.
2001	Alaskans United	A non-partisan citizens' group (outgrowth of Alaskans United Against the [tax] Cap) pushing for a long range fiscal plan.	Citizens Information Kit	Copy of the document is available in the Legislative Research Library.

### NOTES:

Please note that we do not consider this list to be exhaustive. We exclude, for the most part, groups that targeted specific issues rather than the overall fiscal situation. Examples of groups we exclude are the task forces on Health Care Cost Containment, Housing Finance, and Liability Insurance in 1989, those on State Leases and Construction of a Trans-Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline in 1990, the Oil and Gas Policy Council in 1995, and the Alaska Highway Natural Gas Policy Council in 2001.

Although not a group, the series of Fiscal Policy Papers published by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), represent a significant contribution to the dialogue on the fiscal health and economic future of the state. This series of papers, which began in 1989, are available through the ISER website at <http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Home/ResearchAreas/FiscalPolicyAnalyses.htm>.

Additionally, Alaska Common Ground, a public policy citizens group formed in 1991, has held several conferences on fiscal issues over the years.

(a) Groups listed without information on goals and/or reports represent groups for which we were unable to identify information on such items. Such gaps are not meant to represent that no goals or reports exist.

### SOURCES:

Information derived from searches of Session Laws and Legislative Resolves, Administrative Orders, Special Legislative Committee files, on-line press releases, on-line *Anchorage Daily News* archives, holdings of the Alaska State Library, and various individuals.