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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

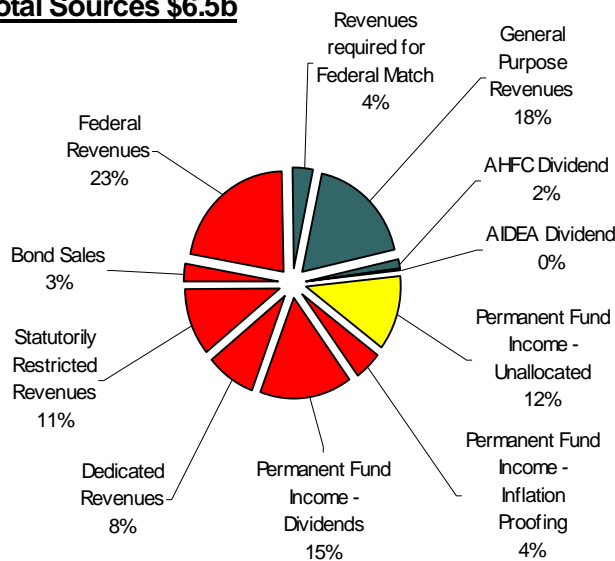


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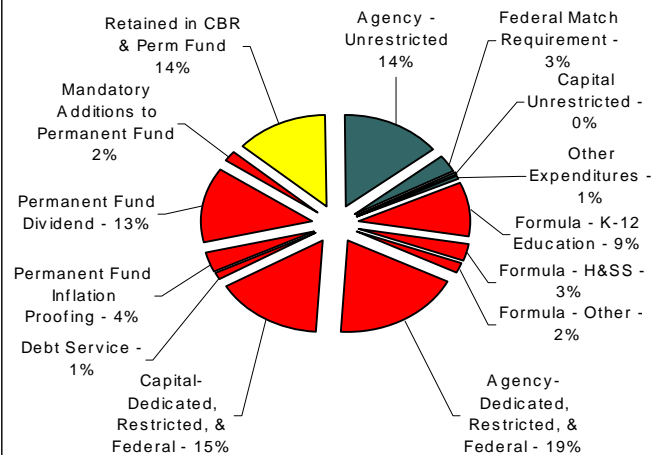
## Representative Ethan Berkowitz • District 13

### Alaska's Budget - Pieces of the Pie

#### Total Sources \$6.5b

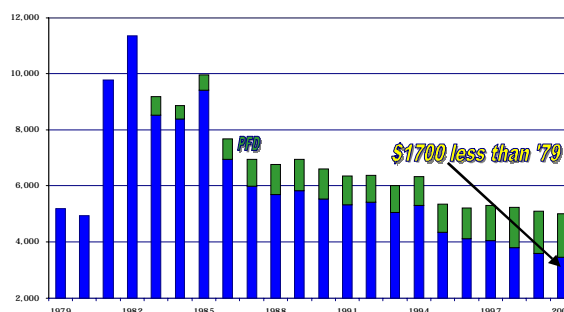


#### Uses of Funds \$6.7b



How much have  
we cut?

General Fund Spending Per Alaskan  
In Today's Dollars



*“General Fund spending has dropped more than we realize. At \$2.3 billion, spending is \$1 billion less than it would have been, if it had grown with population and inflation since 1991.”*

-Scott Goldsmith,  
Institute of Social &  
Economic Research

#### Subscribe to Ethan on-line!

If you have e-mail, let me know and I'll send you regular electronic updates of the Berkowitz Bulletin during session. E-mail me at: [Representative\\_Ethan\\_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us)

More information is available on my web page at: <http://www.akdemocrats.org/bios/berk.htm>

# The Berkowitz Bulletin



Dear Neighbor,

The 21st Legislature ushered in the 21st Century, and now we are halfway through our 121 day legislative session. I wanted to take this opportunity to do something a little different, something that requires your assistance. Every year, the legislature struggles over the state's budget. This effort has special significance given the \$700 million budget gap. Unfortunately, the focus has become one of numbers and not of values. A budget should reflect the state's values and aspirations, but it is impossible for the budget to reflect those goals without direction from Alaskans.

These last years have seen a great hue and cry to "cut the budget". That slogan is not a solution on its own -- it provides only limited direction. Everyone is committed to eliminating waste, fraud and abuse wherever it exists. I would appreciate it if you would tell me when you see areas that appear to escape detection. But more than that, please let me know what programs should be eliminated from the state's budget, or delivered in another fashion (for example, by local government or through privatization). Also, let me know what programs are doing well, including those that should be enhanced or otherwise strengthened. Your response will help me arrive at a better valuation of what the budget does.

A variety of revenue proposals have been suggested to help bridge the state's revenue shortfall, and I would be interested in receiving your comments. They include:

- Permanent Fund, \$25,000 payout and use the remainder to fund government - by Sen. Mackie (R-Craig)
- Permanent Fund Endowment, uses 80% of PF earnings for dividends and 20% for government - by Rep. Hudson (R-Juneau)
- State income tax - by Rep. James (R-North Pole)
- Separate Accounting, raises some taxes on oil companies and lowers other corporate taxes - by Rep. Croft (D-Anchorage)
- Motor Fuel Tax, raises motor fuels taxes from 8 cents to 17 cents per gallon - by Gov. Knowles

Alaska deserves a budget that delivers values – quality education from preschool through university, infrastructure capable of moving people and goods efficiently, and safe, healthy communities free from danger. We can have a vigorous economy, top-flight schools and limited government – but we need substantive conversation about where we want to go and how to get there. As an Alaskan who cares about the state's future, I look forward to discussing budget solutions with you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ethan".

Ethan Berkowitz

## District 13 Meeting!

**Where:** Inlet View Elementary School.  
**When:** Saturday, March 11, 11 am - noon.  
**Why:** I'd like to hear what you think.  
**Contact:** My office for more information.

## How to keep in touch

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