

Hello From Eaglexit,

We've had a steady freeze-thaw Spring! And steady work is also happening at Eaglexit! Spring is a time of great prospects, and we're excited to share the latest. And now, drumroll, please....

We told you we'd be sharing some numbers, and are happy to present to you a preliminary proposed budget for our new borough. Below we'll give you background on sources for numbers, give the preliminary proposed budget, and then information on what's next and how YOU can move this forward.

We started by looking at budgets for the same basic services we currently pay for as part of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) for Fire (including the Chugiak Fire Service Area), Police, Parks & Rec, and CBERRRSA (Roads). A good indicator of a budget might be what we currently spend as taxpayers of Assembly District 2 in the MOA. As 15% of the total population of the Muni, a target level for basic services could be 15% of the overall Muni budget. See the 2020 Municipality of Anchorage CAFR for more details:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/finance/controller/Pages/CAFR.aspx>

We also looked to other governments in Alaska, to know what funding levels their areas require. Northern Economics did an Expenditures Analysis of communities with similarities to our own. They looked at expenditures for basic services in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the City of Fairbanks and others, to come up basic service budgeting in other areas. See the Northern Economics Expenditure Analysis for more details:

<https://eaglexit.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eaglexit-Phase-2a-Expenditures-Analysis-Final-2020-09-30.pdf>

We took those two sets of data, revised up or down based on how our local services are provided currently and what different needs may be with a new government. These are the preliminary numbers:

2021 Property Tax Contributions to Muni Budget by Anchorage Assembly District 2 Taxpayers

— Fire & Police: \$12.9 million

— Road Maintenance & Lights: \$7.1 million

— Parks & Recreation: \$4.1 million

— Administration: \$8.7 million

The total collected property tax for all Basic Areawide Services: \$32.8 million

Property taxes collected for Schools: \$32.9 million

— **TOTAL 2021 PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED: \$65.7 million**

Chugach Regional Borough PRELIMINARY Proposed Property Taxes

— Fire & Police: \$9.5 million

— Road Maintenance & Lights: \$7.3 million

— Parks & Recreation: \$4.7 million

— Administration: \$1.3 million

The total collected property tax for all Basic Areawide Services: \$22.8 million

Property taxes collected for Schools: \$32 million

TOTAL PRELIMINARY PROPERTY TAXES: \$54.8 million

This is a simple budget. The list of other general government expenditures can be a long, so our question to the community is, **“What services do you want and how much do you want to pay?”** We absolutely believe, through tailoring services directly to our community’s wants and needs and contracting out for services like we do so successfully now through CBERRRSA, our road board, that we will be spending less than we do currently as part of the Municipality of Anchorage. We are happy to go over details with you. Your feedback is critical to our success forming a workable new government, and ultimately in gaining our independence.

WHAT’S NEXT? We are finalizing the draft Petition to Detach and Incorporate to submit to the legal team on May 19th. A legal review and brief that must accompany the Petition will cost tens of thousands of dollars. To those contributing monthly already, know that your dollars have funded this effort to date, and are allowing us to pay for the first installment of legal work. To those waiting until we “see the numbers” to know your taxes won’t be more than they are as part of the Municipality of Anchorage – HERE THEY ARE!

HOW YOU CAN HELP! Please, donate NOW so we can continue to move this forward. We as an Eaglexit Board and engaged members of the community have worked so very hard, week in and week out. Upcoming costs we need to fund include the legal brief and representation retainer, and a marketing campaign to inform your neighbors and friends about the details of the Petition and Charter. This is a requirement of the LBC. We need help funding the legal work. We could ask you to attend a spaghetti feed, buy an item at an auction, or other fundraising method. We will do that if we can’t raise the funds with a simple ask, PLEASE DONATE NOW, at www.eaglexit.com/donate.

We will have the full petition available for public viewing and opportunity for comments and suggestions soon. Look for our next email for more details, and let Chair Sean Murphy know if you can help, at sean.eaglexit@gmail.com.

It takes all of us!

- Time – Get involved
- Effort – Share with friends and neighbors
- Analyze - Review the work we have done
- Money – Donate at www.eaglexit.com/donate

Thank you for joining us in this effort!

Sean Murphy, Chair

Sean Murphy came to Alaska in the Army. Met his wife and moved to Eagle River in 1999 with his family. He is a retired Anchorage School District educator and administrator. He is active with his community council and is the chair of Eaglexit. He can be reached at Sean.Eaglexit@gmail.com or 907-632-5307.