

[TAB 5]

Executive Director's Report

Presented By:

Heather Hebdon, Executive Director

APOC Budget Overview

FY26 Budget	Personnel	Travel	Services	Supplies	Total
	\$1,174,00	\$9,000	\$81,300	\$8,000	\$1,272,500¹

FY25 Budget Close Out	Personnel	Travel	Services	Supplies	Total
Starting Balance	\$1,101,700 ²	\$9,000	\$102,000	\$8,000	\$1,220,700³
Spent	\$965,597	\$7,675	\$195,899	\$19,357	\$1,188,528
Close Out Balance	\$136,103	\$1,325	(\$93,899)	(\$11,357)	\$32,172⁴
FY24 Actuals	\$932,200	\$5,900	\$162,600	\$5,600	\$1,106,300

This shows the FY26 starting budget, the FY25 budget closeout, and actuals for FY24. In FY25, the agency lapsed funds (~\$21,000) with approximately ~\$10,000 in uncollected program receipts. The lapsed funds are the result of extended personnel vacancies.

You can see a significant amount had to be transferred from the personnel line to cover a shortfall in contractual and supplies costs. The FY26 budget has a slight increment to account for annual increases in personnel costs. However, FY26's contractual line has been cut by about 20% leaving funding at roughly 40% of FY25 actuals. If contractual costs are similar to FY25, this will result in a shortfall of approximately \$100,000.

Personnel: FY26 has nine budgeted full-time staff positions. Currently only five are filled. Both admin positions are vacant with the LOA2 having been vacant since December of 2023. Both the CD and POFD paralegal positions are vacant. With the state hiring freeze, recruitment waivers have been submitted for the LOA 3 and paralegal positions. To date, only the waiver for the LOA3 position has been approved and it is currently posted for recruitment.

On the positive side, given the anticipated services shortfall we will again need to transfer funds from the personnel line so those continued vacancies will help our bottom line. But, given the length of time the LOA2 position has been vacant, I fully expect it to be permanently cut, likely during this budget cycle. When a position is deleted, the associated funding for the position will also be cut. We will then need to rely on holding other positions vacant.

¹ \$1,106,000 UGF (general funds) + \$166,500 DGF (program receipts) = \$1,272,500

² SB259 provided a 5% cost of living adjustment and one step salary step adjustment for non-union employees which added \$70,800 to APOC's FY25 personnel budget.

³ \$1,057,200 UGF (general funds) + \$163,500 DGF (program receipts) = \$1,220,700

⁴ Minus \$10,918 in uncollected program receipts – the agency lapsed \$21,254

This is a problem, but given the state of declining state revenue, I do not foresee it improving anytime in the near future.

FY26 will see the deadline for candidates to file for the 2026 state election. 2026 will be a gubernatorial election and will likely see another ballot measure aimed at repealing the open primaries and ranked-choice voting. It will be a busy and contentious election cycle, and it is highly unlikely that we will be able to catch up with the backlog of complaints, let alone keep up with those that will come with the new election cycle.

Travel: Travel should still cover all costs for Commissioner travel for FY26 in-person meetings and travel for one person, to the annual COGEL conference that will be held in Atlanta in December. However, along with the hiring freeze there is also an out-of-state travel freeze. I have submitted a waiver to send our campaign disclosure coordinator, but there has been no response and I am not optimistic it will be approved.

Contractual: Includes general contractual fees, overhead costs and chargebacks for centralized services provided by the Department of Administration. It is an area where we have little control.

APOC PENDING CASES – COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT

September 2025 Commission Meeting

25-16-CD	Michael Alexander v. Justin Ruffridge
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
September 5, 2025	Complaint filed (accepted after special legislative session adjourned)
25-15-CD	Michael Alexander v. Cathy Giessel
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
September 5, 2025	Complaint filed (accepted after special legislative session adjourned)
25-14-CD	Michael Alexander v. Mia Costello
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
September 5, 2025	Complaint filed (accepted after special legislative session adjourned)
25-13-CD	Michael Alexander v. Ashley Carrick
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
September 5, 2025	Complaint accepted (accepted after special legislative session adjourned)
25-12-CD	Michael Alexander v. Jesse Bjorkman
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
September 5, 2025	Complaint accepted (accepted after special legislative session adjourned)
25-11-CD	Jerad McClure v. David Wilson
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
August 15, 2025	Complaint filed
25-10-CD	Craig Gilliland v. Kelly Merrick
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
August 4, 2025	Complaint filed (response stayed until after special legislative session)
25-09-POFD	Tyler Vose v. Fadil Limani
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
August 13, 2025	Response to Complaint filed
July 22, 2025	Complaint filed
25-08-POFD	Tyler Vose v. Thomas Matthews
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
August 11, 2025	Response to Complaint filed
July 21, 2025	Complaint filed

25-07-CD	Michael Alexander v. Kevin McCabe
Current Status:	PENDING HEARING
Procedural History	
September 10, 2025	Commission Hearing
August 22, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
August 13, 2025	Consolidated Staff Report issued
July 28, 2025	Order Granting Consolidation issued
July 25, 2025	Request to Consolidate (w/24-12-CD) filed
July 15, 2025	Answer to Complaint filed
July 1, 2025	Complaint filed
25-05-CD	Randy Ruedrich v. Daniel Volland
Current Status:	PENDING CONSENT AGREEMENT
Procedural History	
February 28, 2025	Complaint filed
25-04-CD	David Long v. Keep It Alaska and Joel Borgquist
Current Status:	PENDING INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
January 15, 2025	Complaint filed
25-03-CD	David Long v. Keep It Alaska and Joel Borgquist
Current Status:	PENDING HEARING
Procedural History	
September 10, 2025	Commission Hearing
August 25, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
August 13, 2025	Staff Report issued
January 10, 2025	Complaint filed
25-02-CD	David Long v. Alaska Voter Coalition/John Carr
Current Status:	PENDING HEARING
Procedural History	
September 10, 2025	Commission Hearing
August 25, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
August 21, 2025	Staff Report issued
January 7, 2025	Complaint filed
25-01-CD	Mike Widney v. Kevin McCabe
Current Status:	PENDING REHEARING
Procedural History	
September 10, 2025	Commission Hearing
August 26, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
July 5, 2025	Commission Order Granting Reconsideration in Part
July 10, 2025	Request for Reconsideration filed
July 7, 2025	Final Commission Order issued (\$3,200 civil penalty assessed)
June 25, 2025	Commission Hearing held
June 12, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
June 12, 2025	Staff Report issued
January 21, 2025	Response to Complaint filed
January 2, 2025	Complaint filed

24-13-CD	Tom Oels v. Robert Carr and Alaska Voter Coalition
Current Status:	PENDING HEARING
Procedural History	
September 10, 2025	Commission Hearing
August 25, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
August 20, 2025	Staff Report issued
December 27, 2024	Complaint filed
24-12-CD	Michael Alexander v. Kevin McCabe – Expedited
Current Status:	PENDING HEARING
Procedural History	
September 10, 2025	Commission Hearing
August 22, 2025	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
August 13, 2025	Consolidated Staff Report issued
July 28, 2025	Order Granting Consolidation issues
July 25, 2025	Request to Consolidate (w/25-07-CD) filed
January 16, 2025	Response to Complaint filed
December 31, 2024	Expedited Consideration Denied
December 31, 2024	Hearing to Consider Request for Expedited Consideration held
December 27, 2024	Expedited Complaint filed
24-08-CD	907 Initiative v. Families of the Last Frontier – Expedited
Current Status:	PENDING CONSENT AGREEMENT
Procedural History	
October 31, 2024	Emergency Order issued
October 30, 2024	Response to Complaint filed
October 30, 2024	Hearing on the Merits of Complaint held
October 24, 2024	Expedited Consideration granted
October 24, 2024	Hearing to Consider Request for Expedited Consideration held
October 24, 2024	Opposition to Motion for Expedited Consideration filed
October 23, 2024	Expedited Complaint filed
24-06-CD	Donald Handeland v. Kelly Merrick
Current Status:	PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION
Procedural History	
February 5, 2025	PAID IN FULL
January 24, 2025	Final Order Resolving/Remanding in Part (\$150 penalty assessed)
January 16, 2025	Commission Hearing
December 20, 2024	Notice of Hearing & Procedural Order issued
November 15, 2024	Staff Report issued
October 31, 2024	Response to Complaint filed
October 9, 2024	Complaint filed

23-07-CD	Alaskans for Better Elections v. Alaskans for Honest Elections, et al.
Current Status: PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION	
Procedural History	
March 19, 2024	Order Dismissing in Part/Remanding in Part issued
February 28, 2024	Commission Hearing
February 12, 2024	Notice of Hearing & Procedural Order issued
February 5, 2024	Staff Report issued
January 18, 2024	Response to Respondents' Answer filed
January 10, 2024	Answer to Complaint filed
December 6, 2023	Order Denying Expedited Consideration issued
December 6, 2023	Expedited Hearing held
December 4, 2023	Expedited Complaint filed
23-04-CD	Izon v. Alaskans for Better Elections
Current Status: PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION	
Procedural History	
March 15, 2024	Order Dismissing in Part/Remanding in Part issued
February 28, 2024	Commission Hearing
February 12, 2024	Notice of Hearing & Procedural Order issued
January 23, 2024	Amended Staff Report filed
January 22, 2024	Response to Staff Report filed
January 12, 2024	Staff Report issued
November 14, 2023	Reply to Answer filed
November 3, 2023	Answer to Complaint filed
October 16, 2023	Complaint Addendum filed
October 9, 2023	Complaint accepted
22-01-CD	AKPIRG, et al. v. RGA/ASA, et al.
Current Status: PENDING INVESTIGATION SUPERIOR CT ENFORCEMENT ACTION and APPEAL TO SUPREME CT	
Procedural History	
February 7, 2024	Notice of Appeal to Supreme Court filed
January 25, 2024	Order Granting Mtn for Summary Judgement (in favor of APOC)
January 17, 2023	Enforcement Complaint in Superior Court filed
December 8, 2022	Final Order Denying Objections to Subpoenas issued
December 7, 2022	Hearing on Objections to Subpoenas held
November 28, 2022	Objections to Subpoenas filed
November 17, 2022	Order Issuing Subpoenas
November 4, 2022	Staff's Motion for Subpoenas filed
October 17, 2022	Order Denying Expedited Consideration, issued
October 14, 2022	Expedited Hearing on Complaint held
October 12, 2022	Hearing on Request for Expedited Consideration held
October 11, 2022	ASA's Partial Non-Opposition to Req. for Extension filed
October 10, 2022	Plaintiffs' Request for Expedited Consideration filed
October 7, 2022	Staff's Request for Extension of Time filed
October 5, 2022	Second Supplement to Complaint filed
October 3, 2022	Staff's Motion for Subpoenas filed

September 23, 2022	RGA's Motion to Dismiss Complaint filed
September 23, 2022	Huber's Response to Complaint filed
September 23, 2022	Dunleavy's Response to Complaint filed
September 23, 2022	ASA's Response to Complaint filed
September 6, 2022	Complaint filed
23-01-CD	Alaskans for Better Elections v. Alaskans for Honest Elections
Current Status: PENDING APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT	
Procedural History	
August 19, 2024	Notice of Appeal to Supreme Court
July 18, 2024	Order Affirming in Part/Reversing in Part issued
February 2, 2024	Notice of Appeal to Superior Court filed
January 3, 2024	Commission Final Order issued
November 16, 2023	Commission Hearing
October 19, 2023	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
October 2, 2023	Response to Staff Report filed
September 8, 2023	Staff Report issued
August 14, 2023	Reply to Response to Answer/Third Supplement to Complaint filed
August 8, 2023	Third Supplement to Complaint filed
August 3, 2023	First Amended Answer to Complaint filed
August 1, 2023	Response to Answer to Complaint filed
July 26, 2023	Answer to Complaint filed
July 25, 2023	Second Supplement to Complaint filed
July 12, 2023	First Supplement to Complaint filed
July 11, 2023	Complaint accepted
20-05-CD	Yes on 2 For Better Elections v. Defend Alaska Elections, Brett Huber, Protect My Ballot, and Alaska Policy Forum
Current Status: PENDING SUPREME COURT APPEAL	
Procedural History	
September 15, 2022	Notice of Appeal to Supreme Court filed
August 16, 2022	Decision and Order issued (upholding Commission Order)
August 12, 2021	Notice of Appeal to Superior Court
July 12, 2021	Final Order on Reconsideration
July 12, 2021	Order Granting Reconsideration issued
July 6, 2021	Request for Clarification
June 21, 2021	Final Order issued (no penalty assessed)
June 10, 2021	Commission Hearing
May 20, 2021	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
January 8, 2021	Order Dismissing Huber
January 4, 2021	Motion for Summary Judgement - Huber
December 30, 2020	Order Granting Continuance
December 28, 2020	Motion for Extension of Time
December 16, 2020	Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order issued
October 15, 2020	Staff Report issued
September 28, 2020	Huber's Answer to Complaint filed
September 24, 2020	APF's Answer to Complaint filed
September 8, 2020	Complaint filed

Administrative Order No. 360

I, Mike Dunleavy, Governor of the State of Alaska, under the authority of Article III, Sections 1, 23, and 24 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, hereby rescind Administrative Order 157 (Directives regarding Administrative Regulations in order to accomplish objectives) and Administrative Order 266 (establishing regulatory efficiency guidelines) and replace them with Administrative Order 360, the purpose of which is to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the State's regulatory environment.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The State of Alaska is committed to growing its economic base, increasing its gross domestic product ("GDP"), and ensuring Alaskans have the freedom to do business, innovate, and pursue opportunities while complying with state and federal laws. Regulations are essential for interpreting and implementing these laws. However, the state's regulatory system has expanded over time, often adding layers of requirements without considering the burden imposed on Alaska's citizens and businesses. Alaska must be competitive on the world stage – including its regulatory framework – to attract investment and grow its economic base.

The public is best served when regulations are up-to-date, clearly written, account for impact on individual Alaskans and those doing business in the state and allow state agencies to facilitate implementation of laws in the most reasonable and cost-effective manner.

In light of the steady expansion of state regulatory requirements, I am announcing a statewide review of all existing regulations, guidance documents [1], and materials incorporated by reference to reduce unnecessary burdens on Alaska's citizens and businesses. I am also directing that all current guidance documents be published on the Alaska Online Public Notice System to ensure transparency and accountability.

[1] The term "guidance document" in this Order refers to documentation other than regulations produced by an agency often referred to as guidance documents, policies, interpretive bulletins, and the like.

GOALS

This Order is issued to achieve the following goals:

- Promote growth and investment in Alaska by reducing administrative and economic burdens associated with regulatory compliance, including removing barriers, finding solutions, and identifying alternative pathways.
- Streamline permitting processes and improve coordination and efficiency within all permitting departments, including the Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”), the Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”), and the Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”).
- Ensure boards and commissions adjust regulatory structures as necessary to maintain critical consumer protection while eliminating unnecessary barriers to entry for new professionals.
- Engage stakeholders early and continuously in the regulatory development and reform process.
- Ensure all regulations are clearly written, legally sound, and supported by a demonstrated need.
- Regularly evaluate existing regulations for effectiveness, redundancy, clarity, and impact.
- Reduce the regulatory burden on all Alaskans.

APPLICABILITY

This Order applies to all executive branch agencies, including departments, boards, commissions, and public corporations (hereafter referred to as “agencies”).

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following agencies (“implementing agencies”) are responsible for ensuring agency compliance with this Order:

- **The Office of the Governor.** This office will provide oversight and ensure interagency cooperation.
- **The Department of Law.** This department will coordinate the implementation of and ensure compliance with this Order pursuant to its role under AS 44.62. The Department of Law will provide the training and documentation to be used in implementing this Order.

ORDER

REGULATORY REDUCTION

Each agency shall:

Review existing regulations, guidance documents, and materials incorporated by reference to identify provisions that are outdated, redundant, or unclear.

Develop proposals for the revision, repeal, or streamlining of the regulations, guidance documents, and materials incorporated by reference identified above.

Reduce the number of regulatory requirements by 15 percent by December 31, 2026, and 25 percent (cumulative) by December 31, 2027.

AGENCY REGULATORY LIAISON

The **commissioner of each state department** shall designate an **Agency Regulatory Liaison** (“ARL”) to oversee regulatory reform for agencies housed within their department. Commissioners may designate more than one ARL when approved to do so by the Office of the Governor.

Each department’s ARL shall submit a quarterly progress report to the Office of the Governor, with copies to the Department of Law.

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder feedback is essential and required at all stages of regulatory reform. Accordingly, each agency shall:

Solicit written and oral input from the public, affected industries, and community organizations regarding which regulations are the most burdensome and should be prioritized for reform, and how the agency’s regulatory system could be reorganized or simplified.

Document and publish stakeholder and public feedback and agency responses.

PERMITTING REFORM

To improve the efficiency and responsiveness of Alaska’s permitting systems, and to support responsible resource and economic development while protecting environmental and public interests, DNR, DEC, and DFG shall focus their initial regulatory reform efforts on permitting process reform. Accordingly, DNR, DEC, and DFG shall:

Review and revise permitting procedures to eliminate unnecessary steps, reduce duplicative reviews, simplify application requirements, streamline internal workflows, and clarify interagency roles to reduce inefficiencies and delays.

Adopt, in regulation, clear timelines and deadlines for permit application processing, review of milestones, and final decision making, including provisions for automatic approval if deadlines are not met.

Ensure transparent processes by making permit application statuses, timelines, and decision rationales available to applicants and the public, to the extent allowable by law.

Promote predictability in decision-making by applying regulatory standards consistently.

Leverage technology, such as artificial intelligence ("AI"), to support digitization, automation, and public access to permitting information.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Agencies may not utilize or issue guidance documents unless the Department of Law has reviewed the documents and verified the documents (or portions thereof) are not required to be promulgated as a regulation.

Agencies shall post all guidance documents on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

STATE UNIFIED REGULATORY PLAN

Annually, all agencies shall submit to the Office of the Governor a projected regulatory plan that lists all anticipated rulemaking actions during the subsequent state fiscal year. The Office of the Governor shall approve individual agency plans. The Department of Law shall compile the approved agency plans into a single State Unified Regulatory Plan and post the plan on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

DURATION

This Administrative Order takes effect immediately and remains in effect until revoked.

DATED this 4th day of August 2025.



Implementation Strategy
for
Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative

Governing Documents

The implementation of the governor's regulatory reform initiative is governed by Administrative Order 360, the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, the *Drafting Manual for Administrative Regulations*, and this document. The foregoing will be updated or supplemented by the Department of Law as needed. Pursuant to Administrative Order 360, the Office of the Governor and the Department of Law are collectively referred to herein as the "implementing agencies."

Regulatory Reduction Requirements

Pursuant to Administrative Order 360, agencies must reduce their respective regulatory requirements by 15% by December 31, 2026, and 25% by December 31, 2027 (cumulative).

Key Program Components

Regulatory Burden Reduction

Utilizing the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, each agency must first establish its regulatory baseline of discretionary requirements. All discretionary requirements in regulation, including requirements set forth in materials incorporated by reference, must be tabulated to establish the agency's baseline number. The mandated reductions of 15% by December 31, 2026, and 25% by December 31, 2027, are calculated from this baseline.

Any new regulations and materials incorporated by reference after the establishment of the baseline number must be added to the baseline and will require additional reductions. For example, if the agency has a baseline of 1,000 requirements, to reach the mandated 25% reduction, it will need to reduce its overall number to 750 requirements (a reduction of 250 or 25%). However, if the agency adds 100 new requirements, it must still reach the 750 target, so it will have to reduce the overall number by 350 requirements.

Requirements mandated by federal or state law, or court orders, are not counted in the baseline. If a statute mandates that an agency take a particular action, then that action is considered "mandatory" and does not count towards the discretionary baseline. However, in implementing a mandatory requirement, discretionary requirements are often added in a

regulation and must be considered part of the baseline and count towards the 25% reduction target. For example, a state law may mandate a continuing education requirement for doctors, and the agency may decide by regulation how many hours to require (one discretionary requirement), the need to complete a form (second discretionary requirement), and the payment of a fee (third discretionary requirement). The requirement of continuing education does not count as discretionary, but the three components of the requirement do count.

Easy initial targets for reduction include out-of-date regulations and sections of materials incorporated by reference that can be streamlined. In the above example, reducing the number of hours of continuing education, shortening the form, or reducing the fee could all count towards a reduction in regulatory burdens.

Stakeholder and Public Engagement

Each agency must solicit stakeholder and public recommendations regarding regulations and materials incorporated by reference that are the most burdensome and should be prioritized for reform. The purpose of stakeholder and public engagement is to receive written and oral comments from affected industries, community organizations, and the general public. The Department of Law will provide templates and instructions for soliciting stakeholder and public feedback.

The agency must create a decisional document identifying all stakeholder and public recommendations received and whether each recommendation was accepted or rejected. If a recommendation was accepted, the decisional document must identify how the recommendation was implemented. If a recommendation was rejected, the decisional document must identify why. This decisional document will be included in the agency's proposed plan for regulatory reform to be submitted for review and approval.

At a minimum, each proposed plan for regulatory reform must:

- List each specific regulation identified for reform;
- Include the decisional document referenced above identifying recommendations received;
- Propose how the agency will organize the regulations identified for reform into discrete projects for submittal to the Department of Law for preliminary review;
- Identify whether agency staff will be drafting the revised regulations or whether the agency is requesting drafting assistance from the Department of Law; and
- Provide a timeline for submitting the draft revised regulations to the Department of Law for preliminary review.

State Unified Regulatory Plan

Administrative Order 360 requires the creation of a State Unified Regulatory Plan that is to be published annually. This plan is modeled after the "Federal Regulatory Agenda" and will provide more transparency for the general public relating to the state's planned regulatory agenda.

Each agency must develop an annual list of planned regulatory actions for the subsequent fiscal year. The agency's list will then be provided to the Office of the Governor for review and verification that the proposed regulatory actions further the agency's mission. Once approved, the Department of Law shall compile each agency list of planned regulatory actions into a single, comprehensive State Unified Regulatory Plan and post the plan on the Alaska Online Public Notice System. Once approved, the regulations are also considered approved for the purposes of compliance with AO 358, and further waivers are not required. Regulatory packages in addition to the State Unified Regulatory Plan will still require a waiver under AO 358. Approval of the State Unified Regulatory Plan or a waiver under AO 358 does not waive obtaining approval from the Governor's office prior to publicly noticing regulations.

Quarterly Progress Reports

Agencies must report ongoing reductions in Quarterly Progress Reports to the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Governor, with a copy to the Legislation, Regulations, and Legislative Research Section in the Department of Law. The progress reports must include the number of new requirement reductions made, new requirement additions made, and the overall progress towards the mandated reductions set forth in Administrative Order 360.

Agencies must submit the progress reports to the implementing agencies on the following schedule:

- Each October 1: First Quarterly Progress Report
- Each January 1: Second Quarterly Progress Report
- Each April 1: Third Quarterly Progress Report
- Each July 1: Fourth Quarterly Progress Report

Permitting Reform Impact on the Regulatory Program

The Department of Natural Resources ("DNR"), the Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"), and the Department of Fish and Game ("DFG") must include in their respective plans for regulatory reform recommendations to improve permitting processes. The recommendations must include specific proposed revisions to existing regulatory permitting procedures that, to the extent allowed by law:

- Eliminate unnecessary steps, reduce duplicative reviews, simplify application requirements, streamline internal workflows, and clarify interagency roles to reduce inefficiencies and delays.

- Adopt clear timelines and deadlines for permit application processing, review of milestones, and final decision making, including provisions for automatic approval if deadlines are not met.
- Ensure transparent processes by making permit application statuses, timelines, and decision rationales available to applicants and the public.
- Promote predictability in decision-making by applying regulatory standards consistently.
- Leverage technology to support digitization, automation, and public access to permitting information.

Roles and Responsibilities

Office of the Governor

The Office of the Governor will:

- Provide oversight and ensure interagency cooperation with the governor's regulatory reform initiative.
- Review and approve each individual agency's list of planned regulatory actions for the subsequent fiscal year. And, once approved, provide the approved list of planned regulatory actions to the Department of Law for compilation into a single State Unified Regulatory Plan.

Department of Law

The Department of Law will:

- Ensure compliance with Administrative Order 360, the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, and this document as part of the department's regulatory review under AS 44.62.
- Develop and implement training programs for Agency Regulatory Liaisons ("ARLs") and regulatory staff to ensure compliance with Administrative Order 360, the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, and this document.
- Update the *Drafting Manual for Administrative Regulations* as necessary to implement Administrative Order 360, the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, and this document.
- Review submissions received under Administrative Order 360, the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, and this document, and provide feedback to the submitting agency and the Office of the Governor.

- Annually compile and publish the State Unified Regulatory Plan.
- Notify the Office of the Governor anytime it identifies an agency materially non-compliant with the Administrative Procedure Act, the *Drafting Manual for Administrative Regulations*, Administrative Order 360, the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*, or this document.
- Fully implement its statutory revisor duties under AS 44.62.125, including
 - Reviewing existing regulations and making recommendations to agencies concerning deficiencies, conflicts, and obsolete provisions in the agency's regulations and the need for reorganization or revision;
 - Preparing regulations to be adopted by the agencies, correcting or removing the deficiencies, conflicts, and obsolete provisions;
 - Editing and revising existing regulations in the manner provided for the revisor of statutes under AS 01.05.031, including
 - Renumbering sections, parts of sections, articles, chapters, and titles;
 - Changing the wording of section or subsection titles, or deleting subsection titles, and changing or providing new titles for articles, chapters, and titles;
 - Changing capitalization for the purpose of uniformity;
 - Substituting the proper designation for the terms "the preceding section," "this regulation," and like terms;
 - Striking out figures if they are merely a repetition of written words or vice versa, or substituting figures for written words or vice versa for purposes of uniformity;
 - Correcting manifest errors that are clerical, typographical, errors in spelling, or errors by way of additions or omissions;
 - Correcting manifest errors in reference to laws;
 - Rearranging sections, combining sections or parts of sections with other sections or parts of sections, dividing long sections into two or more sections, and rearranging the order of sections to conform to a logical arrangement of subject matter as may most generally be followed in the Alaska Administrative Code;
 - Changing all sections, when possible, to read in the present tense, indicative mood, active voice and if the use of personal pronouns cannot be avoided in a section change the section to read in the third person, and singular number, or any other necessary grammatical change in the manner generally followed in the Alaska Administrative Code;
 - Deleting or changing sections or parts of sections if a deletion or change is necessary because of other amendments that did not specifically amend or repeal them.

Commissioners

The commissioner of each state department shall:

- Appoint and supervise an ARL for their department. *Note: The work of the governor's regulatory reform initiative will not be suspended during legislative session; commissioners should keep this in mind when designating an ARL to ensure compliance with appropriate deadlines;*
- Ensure interagency support and coordination;
- Review all recommendations received from the public for existing regulations and materials incorporated by reference being considered for reform;
- Review and approve their department's proposed plan for regulatory reform; and
- Review and approve the submissions of their department's contribution to the annual State Unified Regulatory Plan.

Agency Regulatory Liaison

Each department's Agency Regulatory Liaison ("ARL") is responsible for coordinating the regulatory reform actions for the agencies housed under their department. The ARLs are not responsible for conducting each task for each regulation, but are expected to be a resource for agency regulatory staff to answer questions on how to conduct the analysis and ensure the department is meeting its benchmarks. It is imperative that there is consistency across the state and within each department regarding the conduct of regulatory reform actions.

In addition to the specific duties set forth herein, each ARL shall:

- Provide consistency in the implementation of the regulatory reform initiative;
- Track the regulatory requirement baseline for their respective agency and adjust the baseline on an ongoing basis;
- Track existing regulations, guidance documents, and materials incorporated by reference that have been reviewed by the agency and provide required quarterly progress reports;
- Prepare a decisional document that identifies the action taken for each comment received during stakeholder and public engagement;
- Prepare their agency's annual submittal for the State Unified Regulatory Plan.

Key Milestones

No later than August 18, 2025, the commissioner of each state department shall designate the Agency Regulatory Liaison (ARL) to oversee regulatory reform for the agencies housed within their department.

No later than August 25, 2025, the Department of Law shall provide agencies with a template for noticing stakeholder meetings.

No later than September 8, 2025, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall submit to the implementing agencies for approval a schedule of stakeholder meetings organized by topic or another method approved by the implementing agencies.

No later than September 8, 2025, the Department of Law shall publish training materials for use by regulation contacts and ARLs when implementing Administrative Order 360.

No later than September 15, 2025, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall submit for review by the implementing agencies a comprehensive list of all current guidance documents in use by the agency.

No later than October 1, 2025, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall post all guidance documents in use by the agency on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

No later than October 13, 2025, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall calculate and submit to the implementing agencies the department's regulatory requirement baseline calculated pursuant to the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*.

No later than January 5, 2026, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall submit to the implementing agencies for approval a proposed plan setting forth regulations identified for reform based upon stakeholder meetings. The plan must be designed to reduce the agency's regulatory requirements by 15% by December 31, 2026, and 25% by December 31, 2027 (cumulative), in accordance with the *Regulatory Reduction Guide*.

As previously stated DNR, DEC, and DFG must include in their respective plans for regulatory reform recommendations to improve permitting processes.

No later than February 1, 2026, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall post their approved plans for regulatory reform on the Alaska Online Public Notice System. This posting is separate from the public notice of proposed regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

No later than February 1, 2026, the Department of Law shall initiate a review of each agency's guidance documents and opine whether each guidance document is legally allowable as a guidance document or whether the guidance document, or portions thereof, must be promulgated as a regulation.

No later than September 30, 2026, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall submit to the implementing agencies an updated listing of all current guidance documents in use by the agency identifying which guidance documents are new and which guidance documents have been revised since the last posting. New documents and revised documents shall be reviewed by the Department of Law, who shall opine whether each guidance document is legally allowable as a guidance document or whether the guidance document, or portions thereof, must be promulgated as a regulation. After review and approval by the implementing agencies, each agency shall post the updated guidance documents on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

No later than October 1, 2026, each agency, through their designated ARL, shall submit to the implementing agencies the initial projected regulatory plan that lists all anticipated rulemaking actions for the subsequent state fiscal year.