

# Alaska Fiscal Solution

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Resource Development Council, and Alaska Support Industry Alliance March 30, 2017





Spending hit FY13 high: \$8 billion (UGF)

Significant reductions:

44.6% over 4 years op/cap

\$3.5 billion

(26% operating reductions)

Current (proposed) budget:

\$4.3 billion

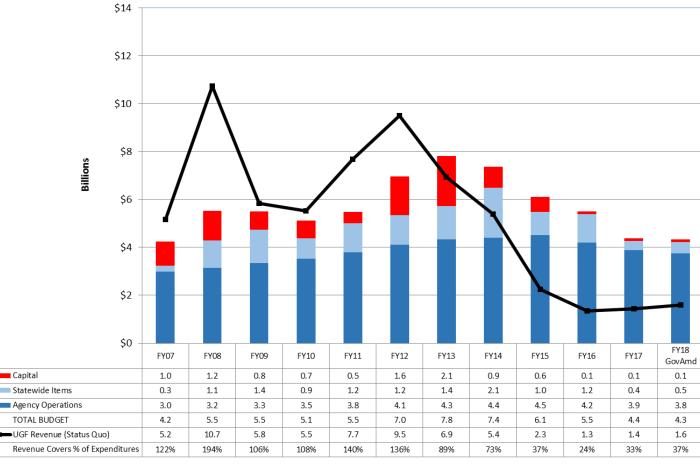
Current deficit:

\$2.8 billion

\*Budget described in "UGF" – undesignated general funds. This is the budget the Legislature has discretion over, unlike dedicated or federal funds. 3/1/2017

#### Total Agency Operating Budgets, Statewide Items and Capital Budget Compared to Revenue

(UGF Only--\$billions) (Excludes Permanent Fund ERA Appropriations)



Legislative Finance Division

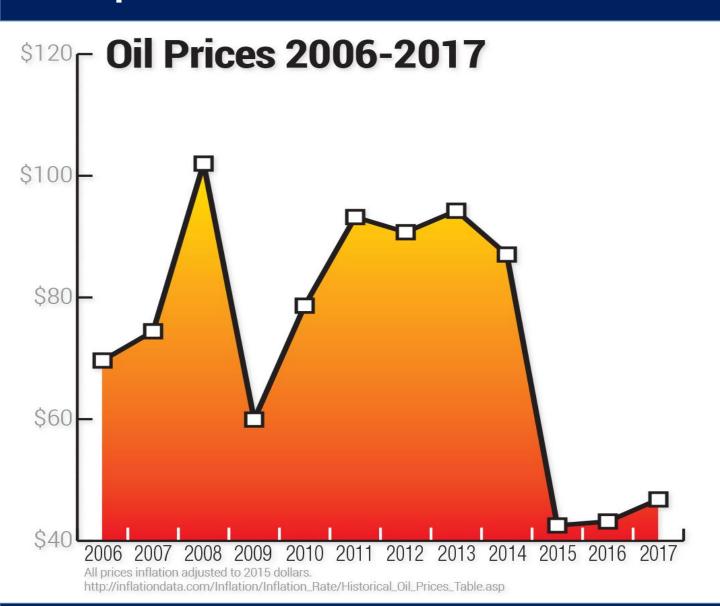
Capital

Statewide Items

TOTAL BUDGET



### Oil prices won't save us



Under SB 21 tax system production is up, but prices remain low – and profits are slim

Alaska would need prices of \$103 per barrel to balance a \$4.3 billion budget



# And now ... a recession

- Officially in a recession
- Economy is hurting
- Highest job losses since 1980s recession/highest unemployment in nation
- Consequences to our actions (or inaction)
- Priority protect private sector



Employment cuts across Alaska have mounted monthly since late 2015, leading to four straight quarters of **job decline** as Alaska remains **mired** in recession with the nation's worst unemployment rate.

Alaskans faced with the first recession in decades

Marketplace.org, July 13, 2016

Recession grips Alaska as employment losses hit new sectors

ADN, Dec. 2, 2016

After years of growth, the Anchorage housing market flattens

ADN, Jan. 31, 2017

Alaska Railroad lays off 31 and cuts vacant positions

Alaska's recession will last through 2019, economists tell

Legislature

Juneau Empire, Jan. 20, 2017

#### The No-Action Alternative



- Bigger deficits
- Deplete our reserves
- Devastating cuts
- More job losses
- Drive oil, other investment elsewhere
- Weaken a fragile economy
- No reserves left to bail us out

### How deep, how long, does the recession go?

### Alaska Fiscal Solution



# Do what we know needs to be done – and *do it now*

- Stabilize state spending
- Stabilize state revenue
- Protect future reserves and Alaskans' dividend

"We're in a recession; we have the highest unemployment rate in the nation. The Senate is focused on the only thing we believe can actually stabilize Alaska."

- Sen. Anna MacKinnon, Senate Finance Committee Co-Chair

### Alaska Fiscal Solution



#### 1. Reduce state spending

- Goal is \$300 million reduction in operating budget this year
- Part of \$750 million target reduction over three years
- Most will come from structural reforms but these take time

#### 2. Reform the spending cap

Maintain downward pressure on state operating budget

#### 3. Manage state reserves prudently

- Preserve Permanent Fund, dividend, CBR for future
- Apply Permanent Fund Earnings in structured draw to help pay for smaller government and a sustainable dividend
- After oil revenue and Permanent Fund Earnings draw, strategic CBR draws fill in if needed – but only up to overall state spending limit



# Solution – spending cap

### Spending cap 'holds the line'

- Statutory first \$4.1 billion
- In range of historic spending, minus the peaks
- Adjusts annually for inflation
- Does not include:
  - Dividends
  - Debt obligations
  - Capital budgets
- Constitutional next year



# Solution – managing reserves

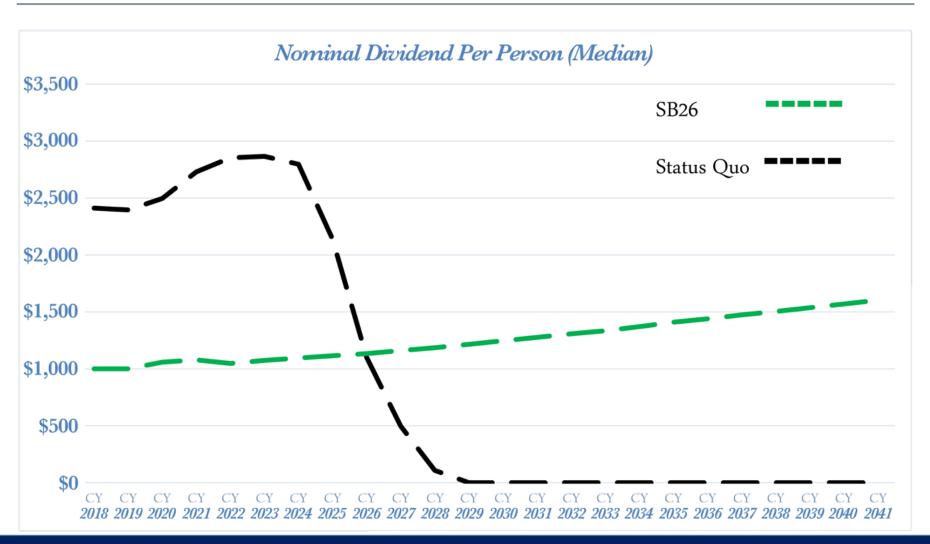
### Smart reserves management over generations

- ✓ Uses a percent of market value (POMV) approach to draw annually from 5-year average of Permanent Fund's value
- ✓ Of annual draw, some to government, some to dividends
- ✓ Dividend in line with historical average
- ✓ After oil revenue, POMV draw, strategic CBR draw fills in if needed but only up to state spending limit
- As oil revenue increases, government's share of POMV draw goes back to reserves

#### Structure matters



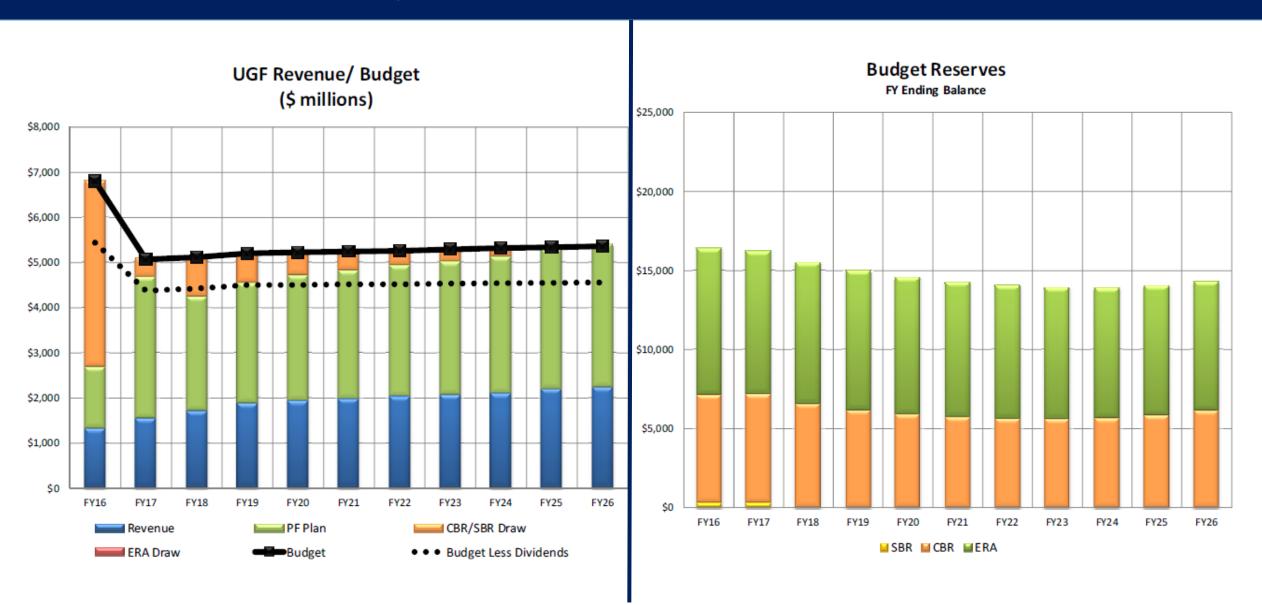
#### DIVIDEND SIZE COMPARISON



Source:
Department
of Revenue

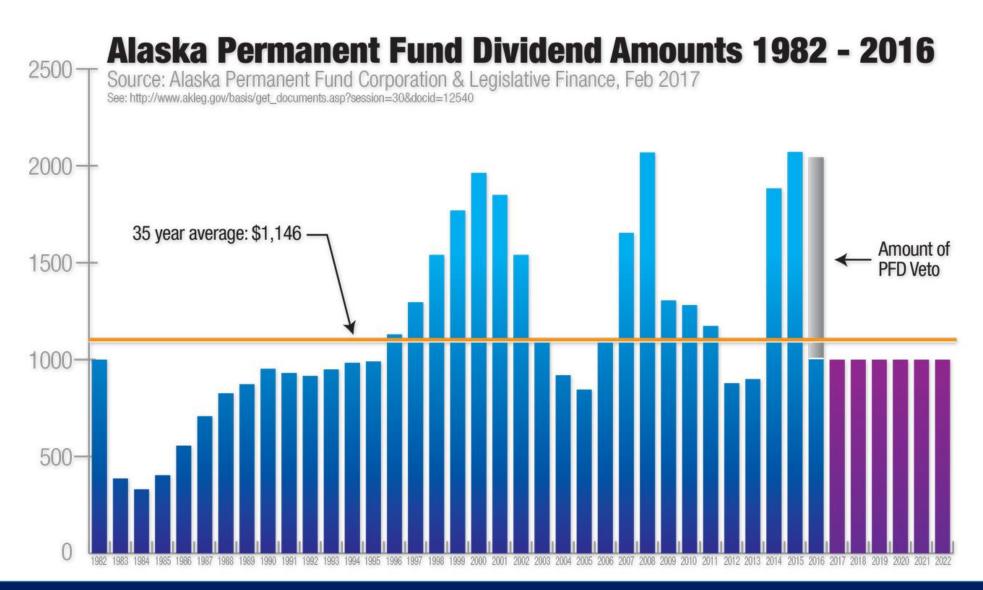


# Solution - analysis





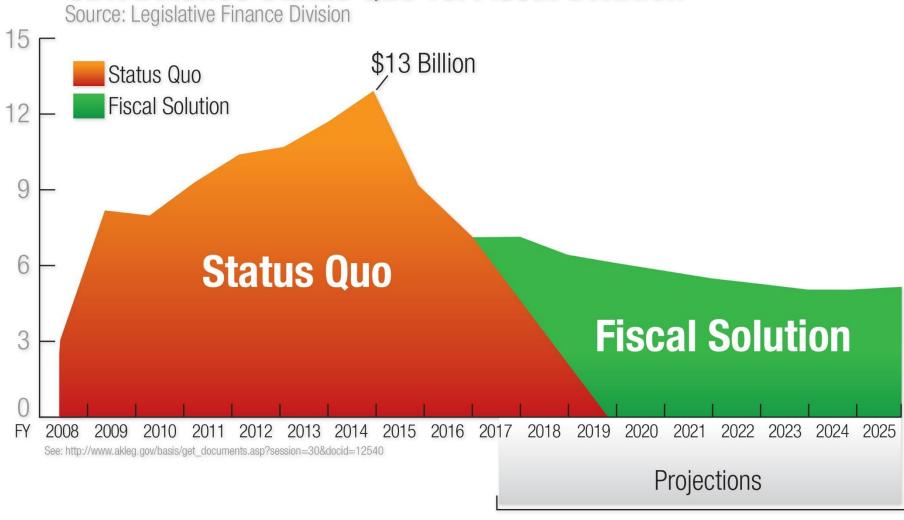






## Reserves stability

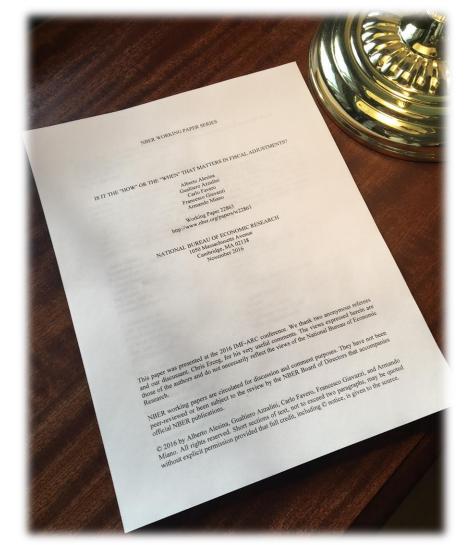
#### **CBR Balance Status Quo vs. Fiscal Solution**







"... tax-based adjustments have been followed by prolonged and deep recessions."



National Bureau of Economic Research 2016 report: "Is it the 'how' or the 'when' that matters in fiscal adjustments?"



# Thank you

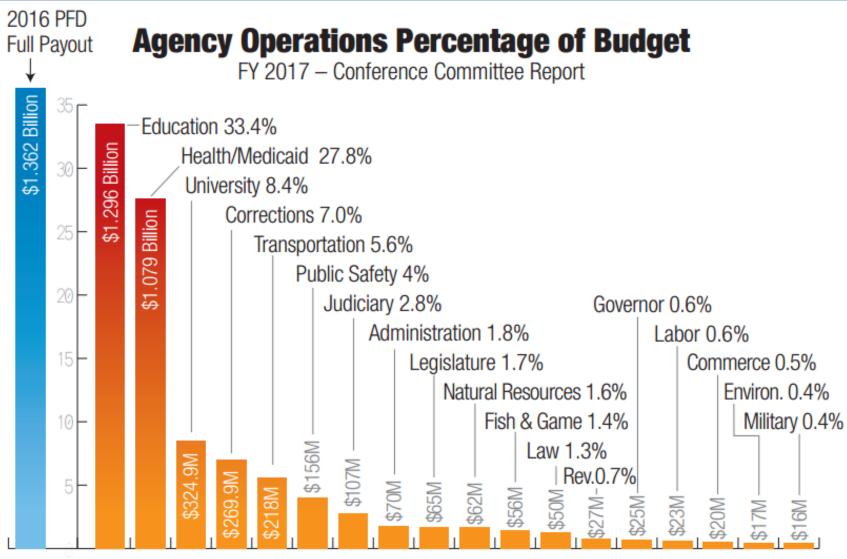
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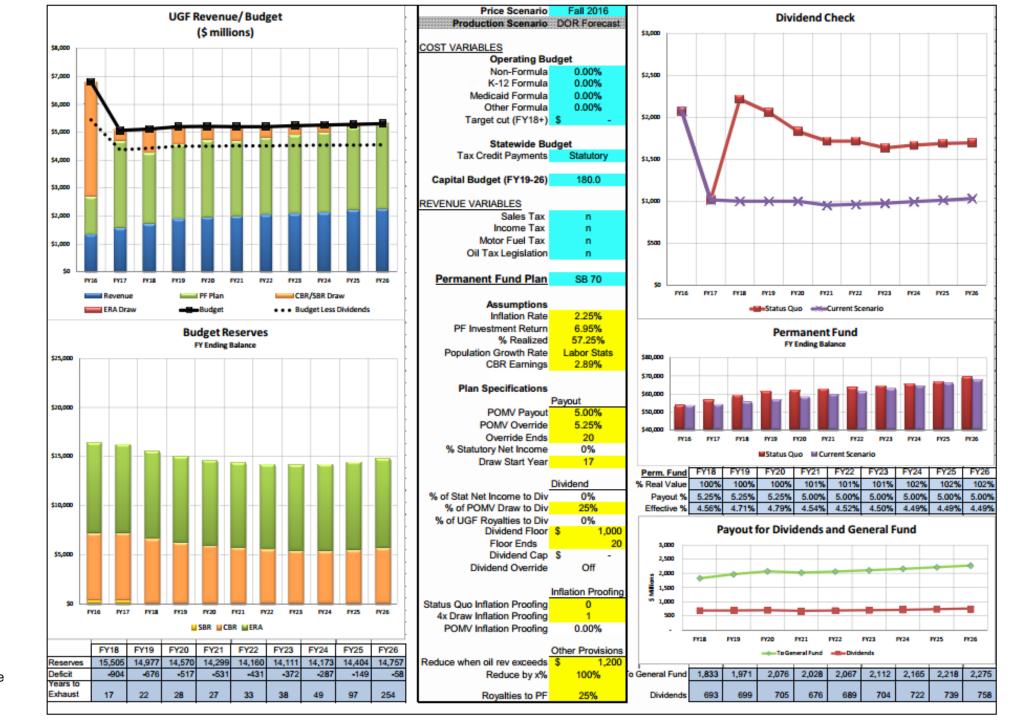
SenateMajority@akleg.gov



# Appendix – Budget reductions



Source: Legislative Finance Division, http://www.legfin.akleg.gov/BudgetReports/LY2016/Operating/ConfComm/2016-AgencySummaryUGF.pdf



Source: Legislative Finance Division