

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
JANUARY 31, 2025
8:30 AM

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

[8:33:02 AM](#)

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Conner Thomas called to order the full committee meeting at 8:33 AM.

Chair Thomas directed Administrator Kevin Reeve to conduct roll call.

Roll Call

Senator Robert Yundt
Representative Kevin McCabe
Representative Alyse Galvin
Public Member Skip Cook
Public Member Joyce Anderson
Public Member Connor Thomas
Senator Matt Claman (Alternate for Senator Gary Stevens)

Chair Thomas remarked that there were new legislative members in attendance and asked that each of the committee members introduce themselves for the record.

[8:39:14 AM](#)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas entertained approval of the agenda. Skip Cook so moved. There were no objections. The agenda was approved.

[8:39:25 AM](#)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. House Subcommittee February 16, 2024

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Chair Thomas entertained approval of the minutes.

Skip Cook so moved.

There were no objections. The minutes were approved.

b. House Subcommittee November 12, 2024

Chair Thomas entertained approval of the minutes.

Skip Cook so moved.

There were no objections. The minutes were approved.

[8:41:40 AM](#)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Thomas opened the meeting to public comment. There was no public comment, but Chair Thomas recognized and introduced Dan Wayne, Legislative Legal Attorney for the Ethics Committee.

[8:42:44 AM](#)

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2025-2026

a. Article 3 Ethics Committee Election Procedure

Chair Thomas opened the election of committee chairs for 34th Legislature, 2025-2026. To help orient the new committee members about the selection of chair and vice chair for the Full Committee, and the Senate and House subcommittees, he read AS 24.60.130(d):

The members of each subcommittee shall elect a chair and a vice-chair, who serve a term of two years. Neither a chair nor a vice-chair may be a member of the legislature. An officer may not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms. The vice-chair shall act as chair in the absence of the chair. The chair selected by the senate subcommittee shall chair the full committee beginning the first day of the regular session in odd-numbered years and the chair selected by the house subcommittee shall chair

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the full committee beginning the first day of the regular session in even-numbered years. ...

Skip Cook nominated Joyce Anderson as senate subcommittee chair. The senate subcommittee unanimously elected Joyce Anderson as chair.

Joyce Anderson nominated Skip Cook as senate subcommittee vice chair. The senate subcommittee unanimously elected Skip Cook as vice chair.

Skip Cook nominated Conner Thomas as house subcommittee chair. The house subcommittee unanimously elected Conner Thomas as chair.

Joyce Anderson nominated Deb Fancher as house subcommittee vice chair. The house subcommittee unanimously elected Deb Fancher as vice chair.

8:47:50 AM

Pursuant to AS 24.60.130(d), Joyce Anderson, chair of the senate subcommittee, assumed the position of full committee chair.

Chair Joyce Anderson reported that the committee only had four public members due to the loss of Jerry McBeath. There is currently no alternate public member on the committee. Three public members, along with two legislative members are required for a quorum of the full committee. There was a quorum to conduct business.

8:49:05 AM

6. CHAIR/STAFF REPORT (+)

a. Public Member Committee Appointment Update

Administrator Kevin Reeve informed the committee that Chief Justice Susan Carney had appointed three public members (two members and one alternate). The public members nominees are pending ratification in both the Senate and the House, with anticipated votes the week of February 3, 2025.

Representative Galvin asked how members were recruited and what assistance legislators provide.

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Chair Anderson replied that the Ethics Office publishes a vacancy notice with application information in the ethics newsletter and on the ethics website. The office also asks legislators to help publicize the vacancy.

Administrator Kevin Reeve added that two of the nominees under consideration were identified through legislator referrals.

8:54:34 AM

b. Management Log Review

Chair Anderson reported the purpose of the management log review is to make sure the committee agrees with the advice given by staff. The management log does not cover every question asked, only those of a unique nature. The inquirer's name is kept confidential.

Chair Anderson offered minor edits to the draft management log.

Senator Claman noted that pro bono legal services are not associated with a value. He asked if there was an advisory opinion that addresses whether the value of pro bono legal services that a legislator receives must be less than \$250.

Chair Anderson said the value of legal services is the fair market value. She said there was an advisory opinion that addresses a legal defense fund and she asked Administrator Kevin Reeve to forward that opinion to Senator Claman.

9:09:05 AM

c. Publications

Administrator Kevin Reeve said that statute requires annual production of three publications, all of which are included in the committee member handbook:

1. A 2025 Standards of Conduct Handbook, a copy of which is also distributed to all legislator's offices
2. A copy of the 2024 advisory opinions adopted by the committee
3. A copy of the 2024 public complaint decisions

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In addition, the committee member handbooks contain a copy of the Committee Rules of Procedure.

[9:12:12 AM](#)

7. Motion to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Anderson entertained a *motion to discuss matters which by law must remain confidential under AS 24.60.160, Uniform Rule 22(b) regarding executive sessions, and Rules of Procedure Section 5: Executive Sessions and discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a governmental unit, and discussion of subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person.*

Representative Alyse Galvin so moved. There was no discussion or objection.

Senator Matt Claman moved to allow Kevin Reeve to participate in executive session.

The committee approved the administrator's attendance and moved to executive session.

[9:13:40 AM](#)

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

[9:59:46 AM](#)

Chair Anderson entertained a motion to go back into public session.

Senator Matt Claman so moved. There were no objections.

[10:00:03 AM](#)

Chair Anderson reported the order of the next two items on the agenda would be reversed.

[10:00:15 AM](#)

9. BUDGET

Chair Anderson reported the overall budget looks good.

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Administrator Kevin Reeve added that expenses for committee outside counsel, Brent Cole, were higher than expected, but there was a surplus in salaries due to the vacancy in the administrator position.

Conner Thomas alerted the committee that there will be additional outside counsel costs. He explained there was an ongoing matter that outside counsel will be arguing before the Alaska Supreme Court on February 8, [2025].

Chair Anderson related that in executive session, the committee had discussed hiring an additional staff member.

Senator Claman moved that Administrator Kevin Reeve explore and to bring the results back to the committee the possibility of adding a part-time employee to the budget.

Representative Galvin requested a report of the scope of the work to be done by the additional staff member, and a FY 25-26 budget report that includes the costs for the additional help, and a proposal for next steps.

Skip Cook asked to include meeting minutes catch up to the scope of work.

Senator Claman amended his motion, and it was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Joyce Anderson stated the Ethics Office would report back to the committee the scope of work, the current 24-25 budget, and the projected 25-26 budget.

[10:08:14 AM](#)

10. 2025 ETHICS TRAINING REPORT

Administrator Kevin Reeve reported that ethics training was offered in person this year to close some perceived gaps in knowledge. To date, over 300 individuals have completed training, including 49 of the legislators. Trainings are scheduled for February 3 for legislators and February 6 for legislative employees.

Representative Galvin and Chair Anderson expressed appreciation for the training and work involved.

[10:10:44 AM](#)

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11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. ADJOURN

Skip Cook moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

[10:10:58 AM](#)

ADJOURN