

## Elections Recap and Policy Updates

Thursday, November 5, 2020, Session 5 – Deantha Skibinski, AMA, Chair

### 2020 General Election Recap

Ralph Samuels

While most of the people attending the AMA conference vote, unless they have been deeply involved with the nuances of an individual campaign, it is hard to keep track of the different issues that impact elections in various regions across the State.

Ralph Samuels is the former House Majority Leader in the Alaska Legislature, as well as a former candidate for Governor of Alaska. He will walk through the various Legislative districts and how the various issues impact different districts in different ways.

The Founding Fathers built a system of governance in America in which it is very difficult to actually pass laws. Numerous checks and balances combine with personalities, egos, and philosophies to generally steer things to compromise. Issues may take several years in order for them to take hold in the public, and in the Legislative arena. The obvious current issues in Alaska revolve around State financing. The role of the permanent fund, the permanent fund dividend, the size of government and taxes are all facets of this debate. Mix this with discussions on social issues such as school choice, abortion, crime/punishment, and many others makes it easy to see how it seems that nothing ever changes.

Elections are fundamental to our way of life as Americans. The more we understand the nuances of them, and understand that what may be important in my neighborhood or business may not be important in other neighborhoods or businesses, the more we are able to impact public policies that have a large influence on our businesses.