



# ALASKA CHAMBER

Working for Alaska Business

Curtis W. Thayer

President and CEO

# Chamber profile

## Why we exist



### Our history

Formed in 1953 before Alaska was a state for the purpose of promoting commerce in Alaska.

### Our vision

To be the leading voice advancing Alaska Business.

### Our mission

To promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.

### Our membership

650+ member companies with 100,000+ employees and 30+ Local Alaska Chambers

# Standing up for business

We protect your interests



Access  
to government  
officials

Influence  
on business critical  
to your success

Protection  
of your business  
interests



Alaska Chamber hosts U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke  
Tuesday, May 30, 2017

# Our leadership



## Board of Directors

Governed by a volunteer board of directors, the Chamber is a private organization funded primarily by membership dues. It is not a government agency and receives no tax dollars.

## Committees

The Chamber maintains the following committees to help achieve the its mission.

- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Legislative Affairs Committee
- Events Committee

# Business advocacy

We work for you



Pro-Business



Alaska Business  
Report Card



Alaska Business  
Political Action  
Committee

# Our priorities for 2017

## Issues affecting Alaska's business climate

### State Priorities

- Support reduction of spending to sustainable levels
- Support comprehensive workers' compensation reform

### Federal Priorities

- Support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas including; the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), Cook Inlet, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
- Support repeal or reform of the Affordable Care Act

# Workers' Compensation

It's been a long road



- Long-time Alaska Chamber priority
- Last major reform occurred in 2005
- Re-invigorated committee held several meetings over the year to identify priorities
- Recommendations approved by the Alaska Chamber at 2016 Fall Forum
- **Senate Bill 112 introduced by Senator Cathy Giessel**

# Workers' Compensation

## Improving the system



- Improve Administrative Efficiencies
- Reduce Medical Costs & Improve Medical Outcomes
- Revise the Dispute Resolution / Legal Process
- Replace the Reemployment Benefits System
- Address Legal Decisions and Precedent
- Restructure Indemnity Benefits

# Messaging



Alaskans know that an income tax will have a negative impact on the economy.



**Amber Brophy**  
Small Business Woman

**Just say 'no' to an income tax**

Contact the House Finance Committee and let them know no new taxes. We need a spending cap.

ALASKACHAMBER.COM

[Learn More](#)



According to a recent Dittman poll, Alaskans support a state sales tax by a margin of 53% to 46%. The survey, of 808 randomly chosen Alaska voters, has a margin of error of 3.4 percent. <http://bit.ly/2oQqtBs>



Money doesn't grow on trees. Contact the House Majority and let know them we need reductions before taxes. Find House Majority legislators here <http://akhouse.org>.



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# Upcoming Events

Opportunities to engage



Fall Forum  
October 10-12, 2017  
Sitka, AK



Legislative Fly-In  
January 31-  
February 1, 2018  
Juneau, AK



Pacific Northwest  
Outreach Trip  
June 2018  
Tacoma, WA

# Congressional Update Series



Members enjoy lunch with Congressman Don Young



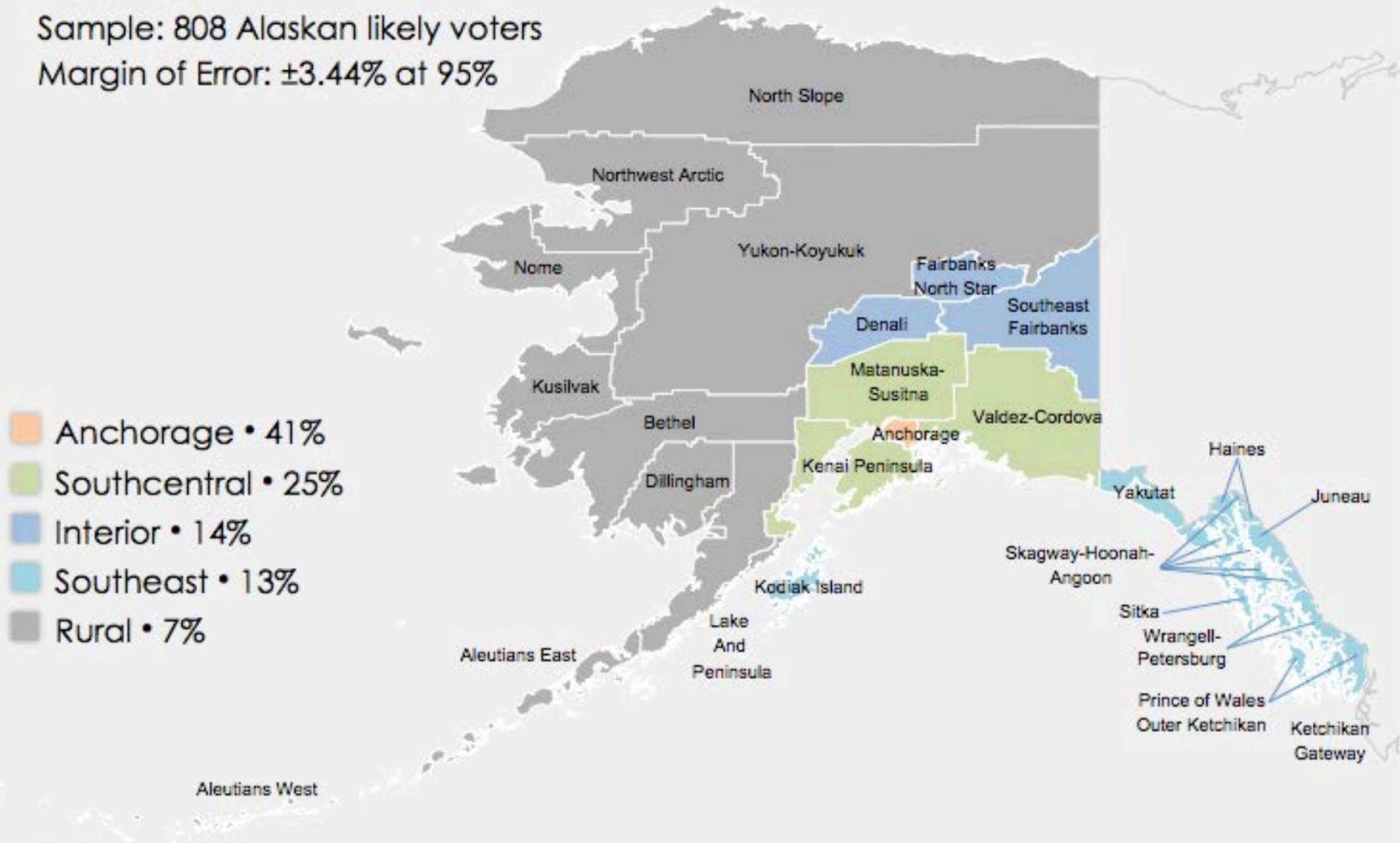
Members converse over coffee with Senator Dan Sullivan

# Alaska Public Opinion Survey

March 2017

Sample: 808 Alaskan likely voters

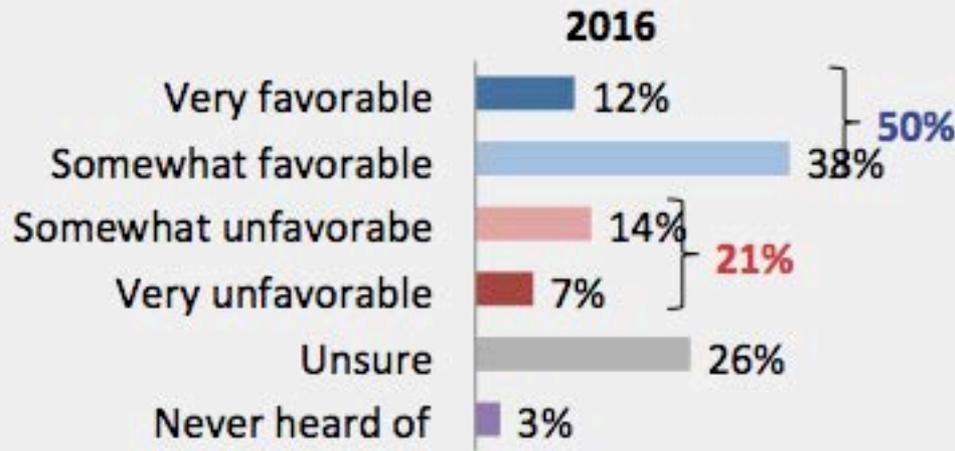
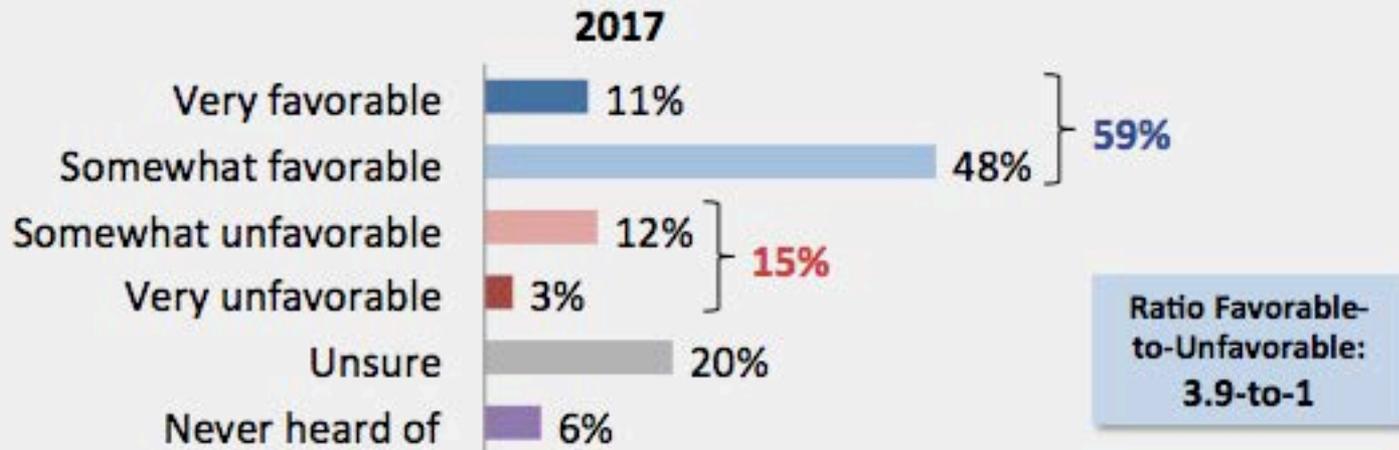
Margin of Error:  $\pm 3.44\%$  at 95%



# Alaska Chamber Favorability

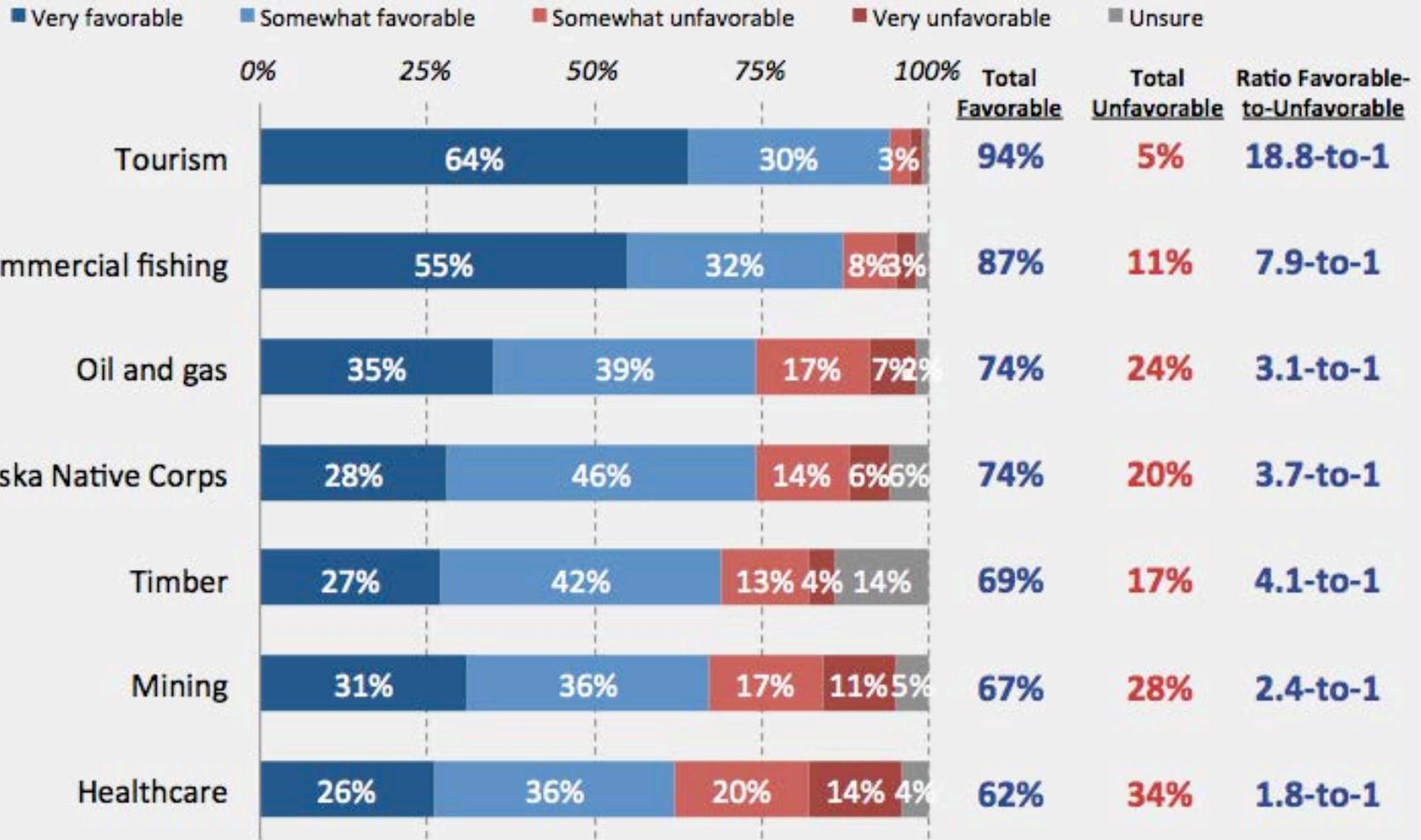
Please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Alaska Chamber of Commerce?

**+15% total change  
in support**



# Industry Favorability

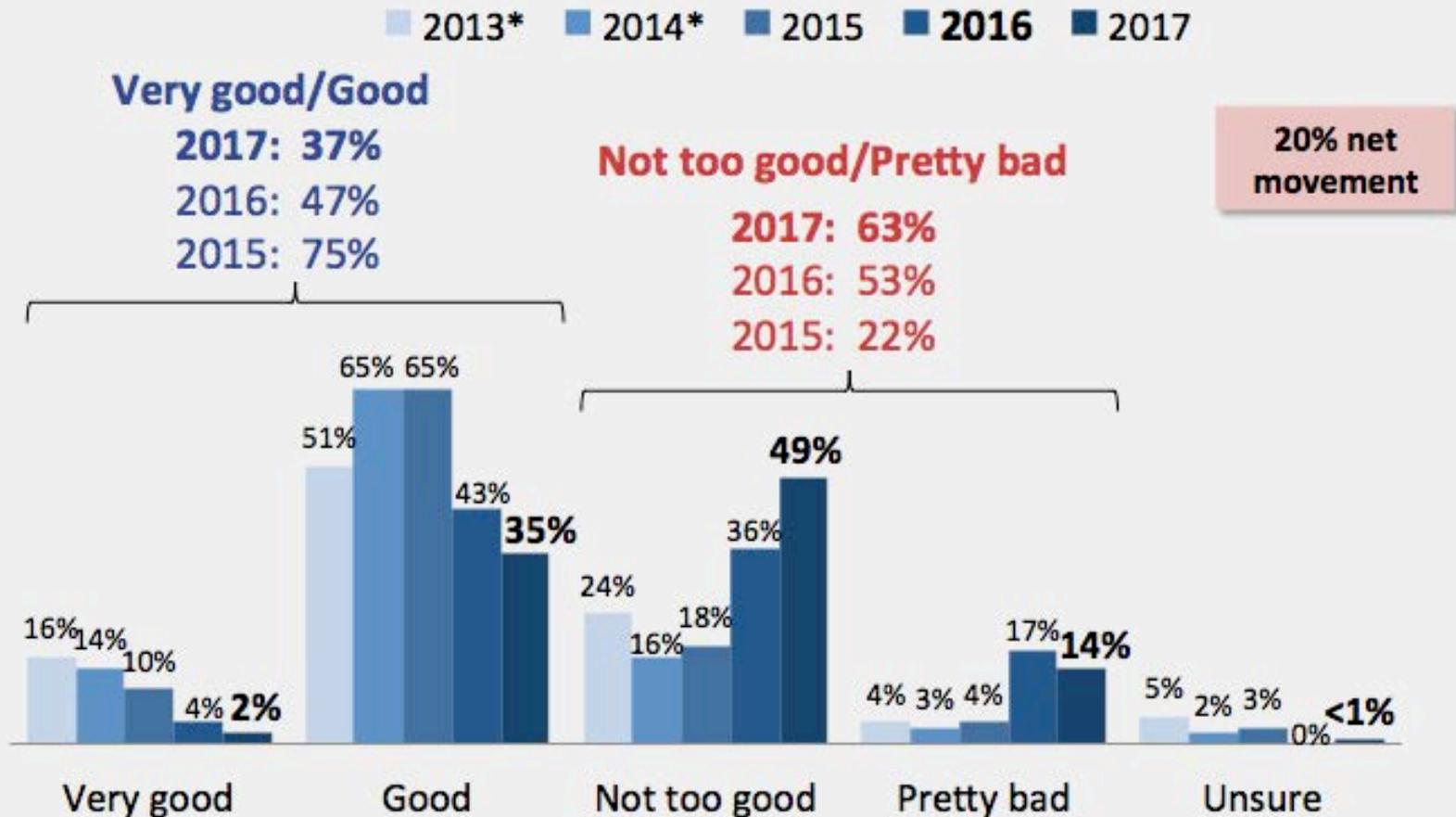
I'm going to read the names of some sectors in Alaska's economy. Please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each.



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# Alaska's Current Economy

Generally speaking, how would you rate Alaska's current economy?

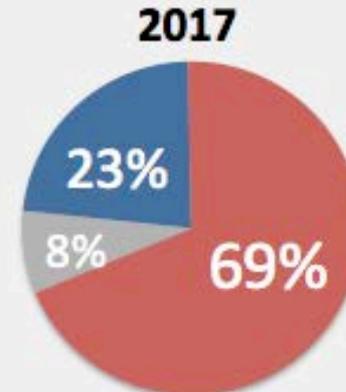
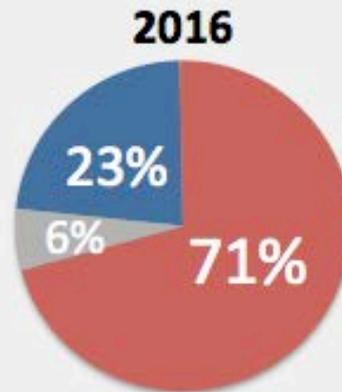
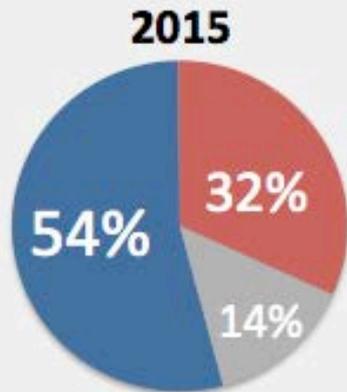


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# Direction of State

Thinking about Alaska right now, do you think things are headed in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

■ Right direction  
■ Wrong track  
■ Unsure



Location	Right direction	Wrong track
Anchorage	18%	76%
Southcentral	23%	67%
Interior	29%	59%
Southeast	30%	60%
Rural	27%	67%

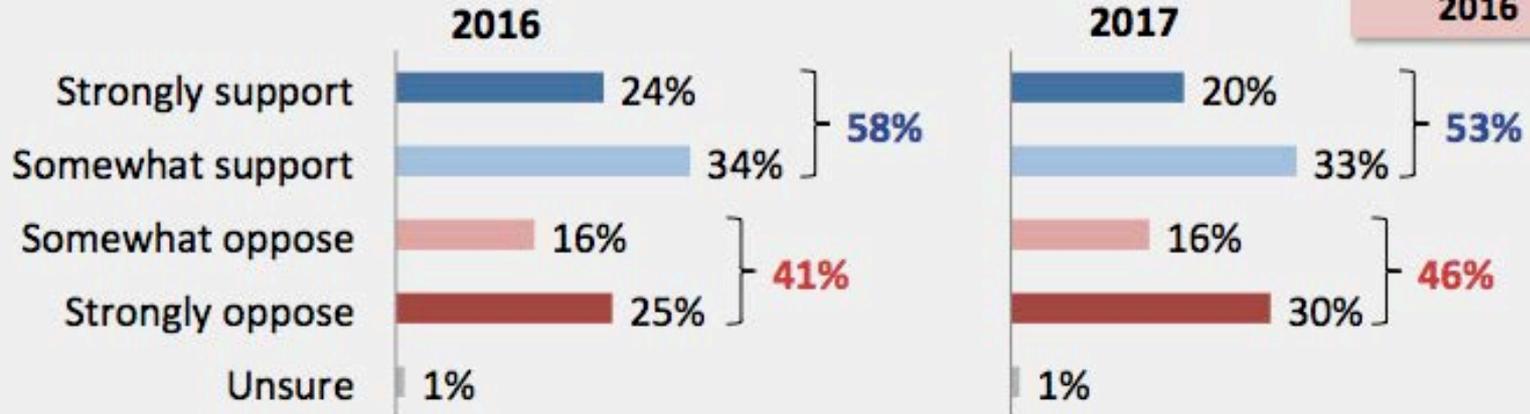
Gender	Right direction	Wrong track
Male	21%	70%
Female	24%	68%

Party	Right direction	Wrong track
Democrat	25%	67%
Republican	21%	73%
Non-Partisan	27%	64%
Undeclared	22%	68%

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# Introducing a state sales tax.

10% swing in support since 2016



Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	53%	46%
Southcentral	54%	45%
Interior	50%	50%
Southeast	55%	45%
Rural	50%	49%

Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	58%	41%
Republican	49%	51%
Non-Partisan	59%	41%
Undeclared	53%	46%

Union	Support	Oppose
Public employee	63%	36%
Other union	52%	48%
Non-union	51%	49%

Household income	Support	Oppose
<\$40K	49%	50%
\$40-60K	51%	48%
\$60-80K	52%	47%
\$80-100K	51%	49%
\$100K +	59%	41%

Employed	Support	Oppose
Full-time	55%	44%
Part-time	54%	45%
Homemaker	54%	46%
Student	59%	37%
Unemployed	52%	46%
Retired	47%	53%

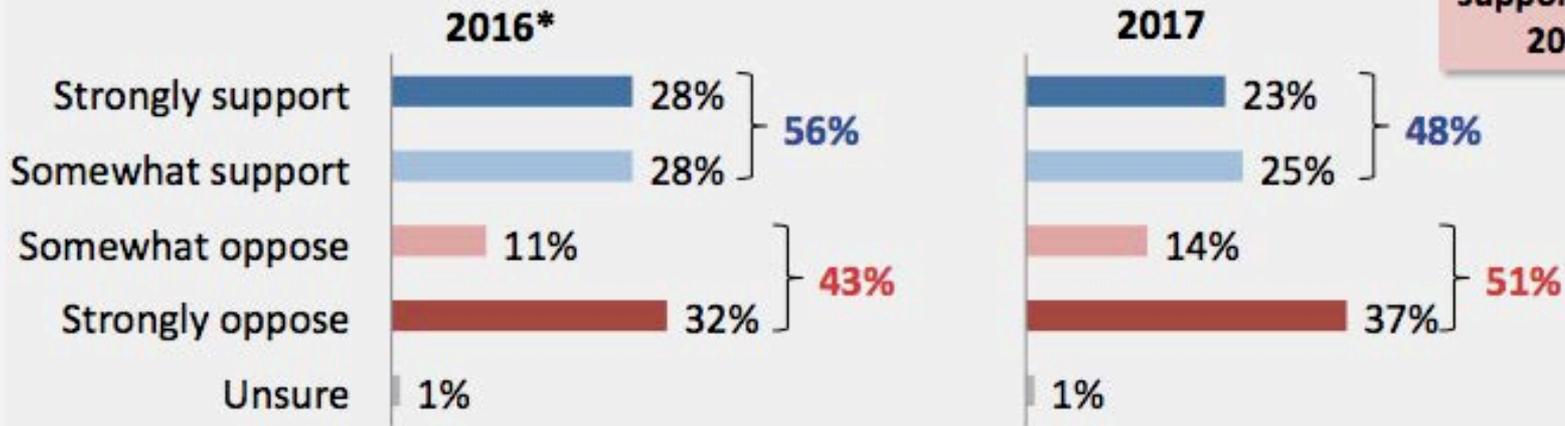
Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	52%	47%
Female	54%	46%



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# Use of some Permanent Fund earnings while guaranteeing a dividend equal to the historical average of \$1,000.

16% swing in support since 2016



Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	56%	44%
Southcentral	35%	62%
Interior	45%	55%
Southeast	54%	44%
Rural	50%	48%

Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	57%	41%
Republican	44%	56%
Non-Partisan	51%	48%
Undeclared	48%	51%
Other	31%	62%

Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	47%	53%
Female	50%	48%

Follow local news...	Support	Oppose
Very closely	55%	44%
Somewhat closely	46%	54%
Not closely	41%	54%

Age	Support	Oppose
18-34 years	40%	59%
35-44 years	45%	54%
45-59 years	51%	49%
60 years +	53%	46%

Household income	Support	Oppose
<\$40K	36%	62%
\$40-60K	39%	60%
\$60-80K	45%	55%
\$80-100K	53%	45%
\$100K +	56%	43%

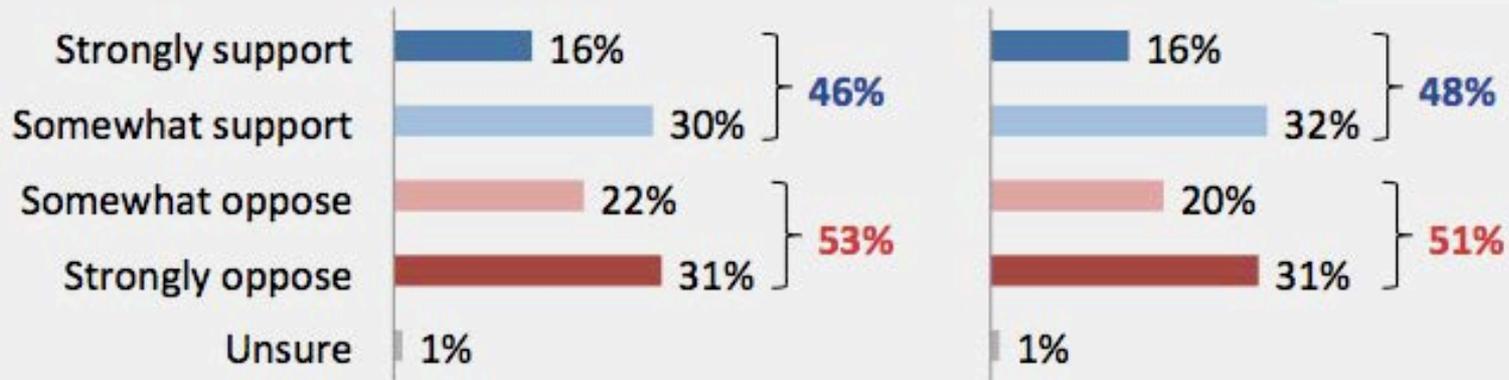


\*Previously read: Use of some Permanent Fund earnings with dividends capped to \$1,000 per year.

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# Increasing the gasoline tax, excluding home heating fuel.

4% swing in support since 2016



Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	51%	48%
Southcentral	38%	59%
Interior	44%	55%
Southeast	58%	41%
Rural	50%	50%

Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	51%	48%
Female	44%	54%

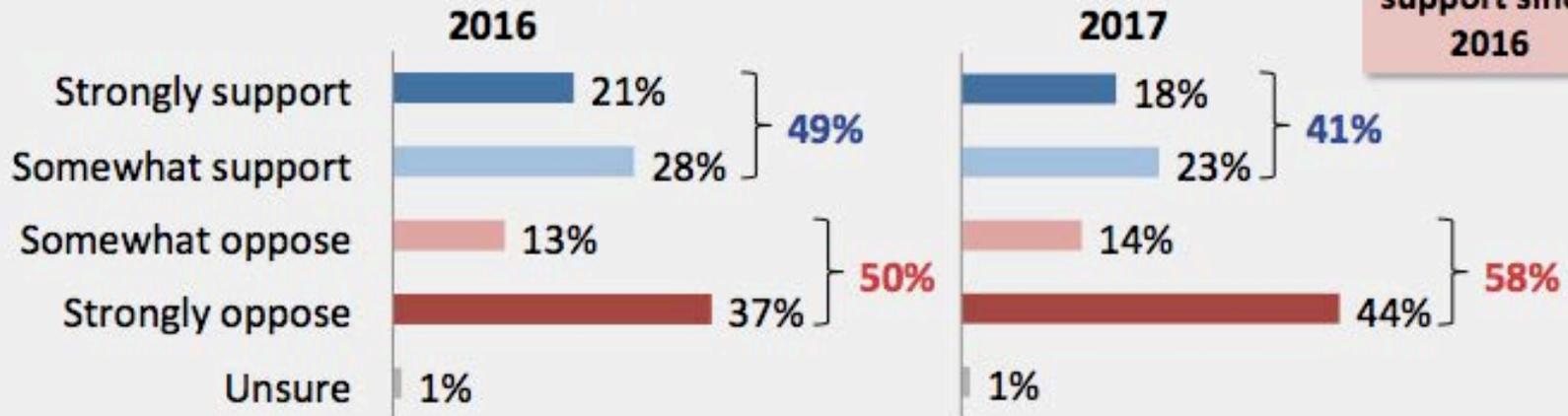
Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	55%	44%
Republican	39%	60%
Non-Partisan	56%	42%
Undeclared	49%	49%

Household income	Support	Oppose
<\$40K	45%	53%
\$40-60K	45%	54%
\$60-80K	42%	57%
\$80-100K	50%	50%
\$100K +	51%	47%

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# Introducing a state personal income tax.

16% swing in support since 2016



Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	42%	57%
Southcentral	34%	65%
Interior	40%	58%
Southeast	51%	47%
Rural	46%	52%

Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	62%	37%
Republican	23%	77%
Non-Partisan	50%	50%
Undeclared	45%	53%

Union	Support	Oppose
Public employee	53%	46%
Other union	43%	56%
Non-union	39%	61%

Age	Support	Oppose
18-34 years	36%	62%
35-44 years	39%	59%
45-59 years	38%	60%
60 years +	51%	49%

Household income	Support	Oppose
<\$40K	45%	54%
\$40-60K	39%	60%
\$60-80K	35%	65%
\$80-100K	44%	54%
\$100K +	43%	56%

Education	Support	Oppose
High school or less	28%	68%
Some college	40%	60%
Graduated college	42%	57%
Graduate school	55%	44%

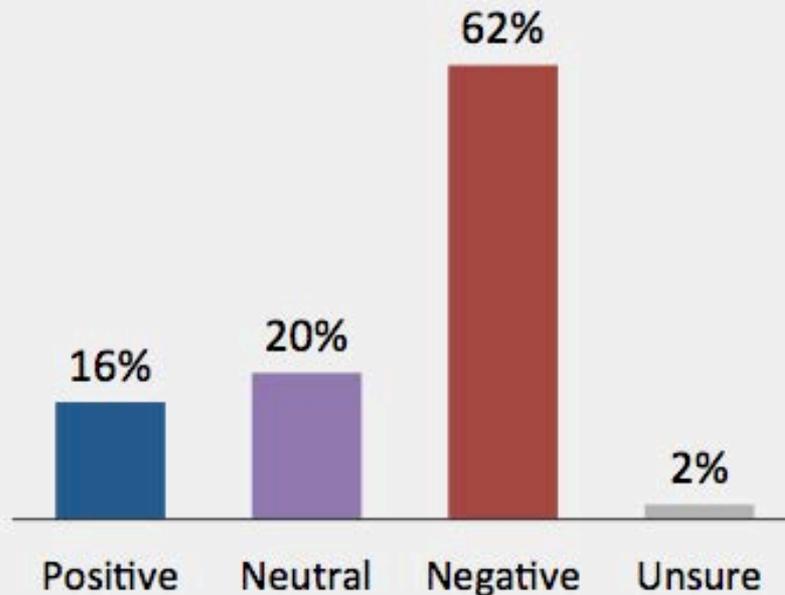
Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	40%	59%
Female	43%	56%



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# Impact to economy from taxes

Alaska is currently in a recession. In response, Alaska's private sector is investing less and laying off workers, and Alaska has the highest unemployment rate in the country. At the same time, there are proposals in the legislature to close the state's budget deficit through five hundred million to one billion dollars in new taxes on businesses and individuals. Do you think adding new taxes on the private sector will have a positive, negative, or neutral impact on Alaska's economy?



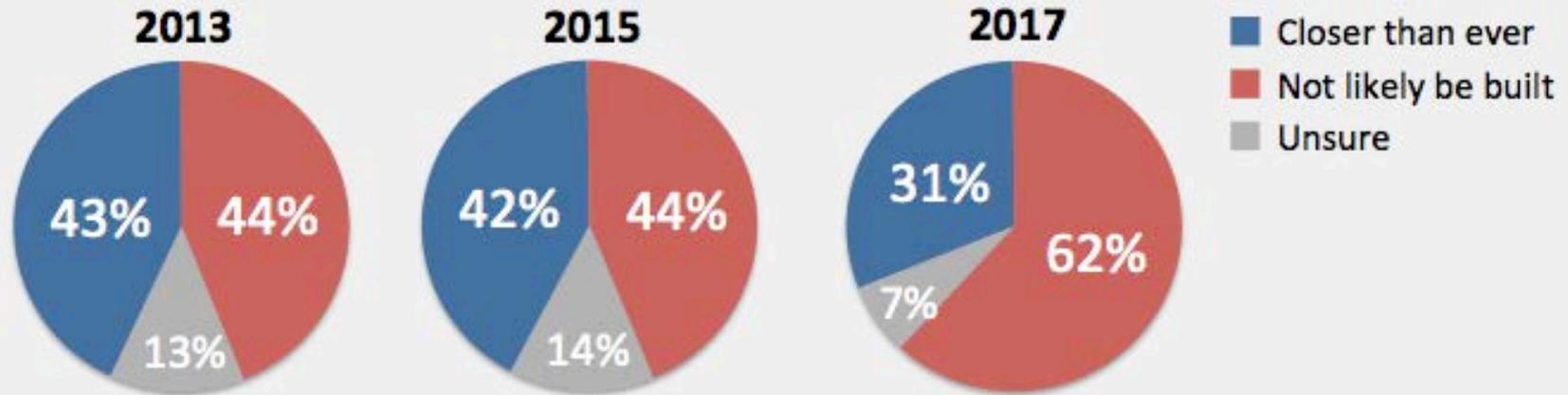
Location	% Negative
Anchorage	60%
Southcentral	69%
Interior	60%
Southeast	61%
Rural	49%
Gender	
Male	64%
Female	60%
Party	
Democrat	42%
Republican	78%
Non-Partisan	57%
Undeclared	59%
Follow local news...	
Very closely	61%
Somewhat closely	64%
Not closely	57%
Union	
Public employee	48%
Other union	62%
Non-union	64%

# Natural Gas Pipeline

Please tell me which of the following two statements comes closest to your view regarding a potential natural gas pipeline from the North Slope:

*Alaska is closer than ever to getting a natural gas pipeline built*  
 or  
*A natural gas pipeline will not likely be built in the foreseeable future*

**29% swing in confidence since 2015**



Location	Closer	Not likely built
Anchorage	28%	67%
Southcentral	34%	57%
Interior	22%	75%
Southeast	38%	51%
Rural	38%	51%

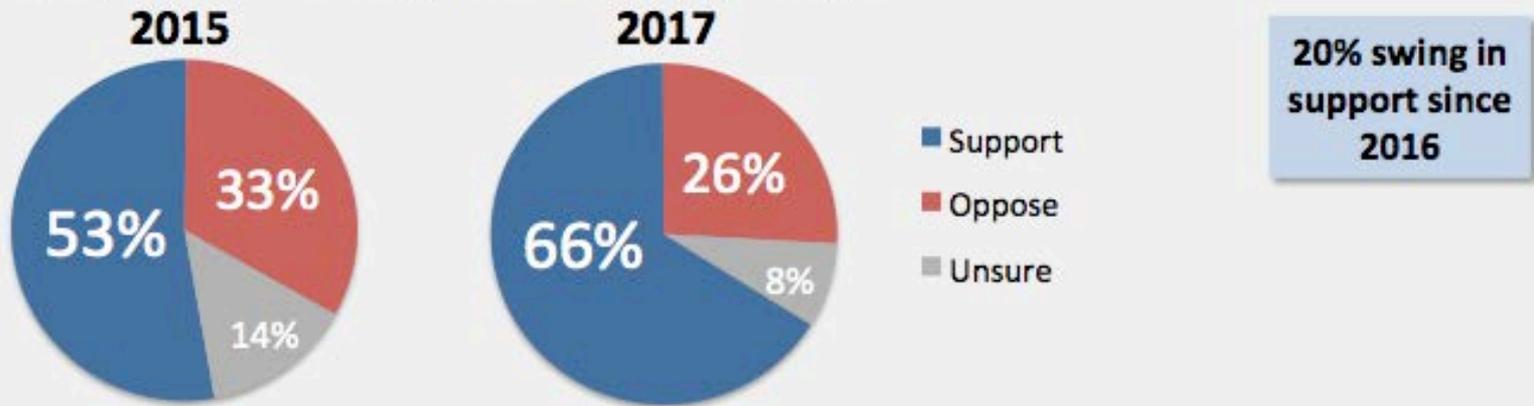
Follow local news...	Closer	Never likely built
Very closely	26%	69%
Somewhat closely	30%	63%
Not closely	41%	46%



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# Spending Cap

There is currently a proposal to get an initiative on the ballot before voters. The initiative would put in place a spending cap for state spending. The spending cap level would be tied to the consumer price index. If passed, state spending each year could not exceed the spending cap. Is this an initiative that you would most likely support or oppose?



Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	66%	28%
Southcentral	73%	19%
Interior	62%	29%
Southeast	58%	29%
Rural	63%	32%

Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	45%	40%
Republican	83%	12%
Non-Partisan	51%	37%
Undeclared	68%	28%

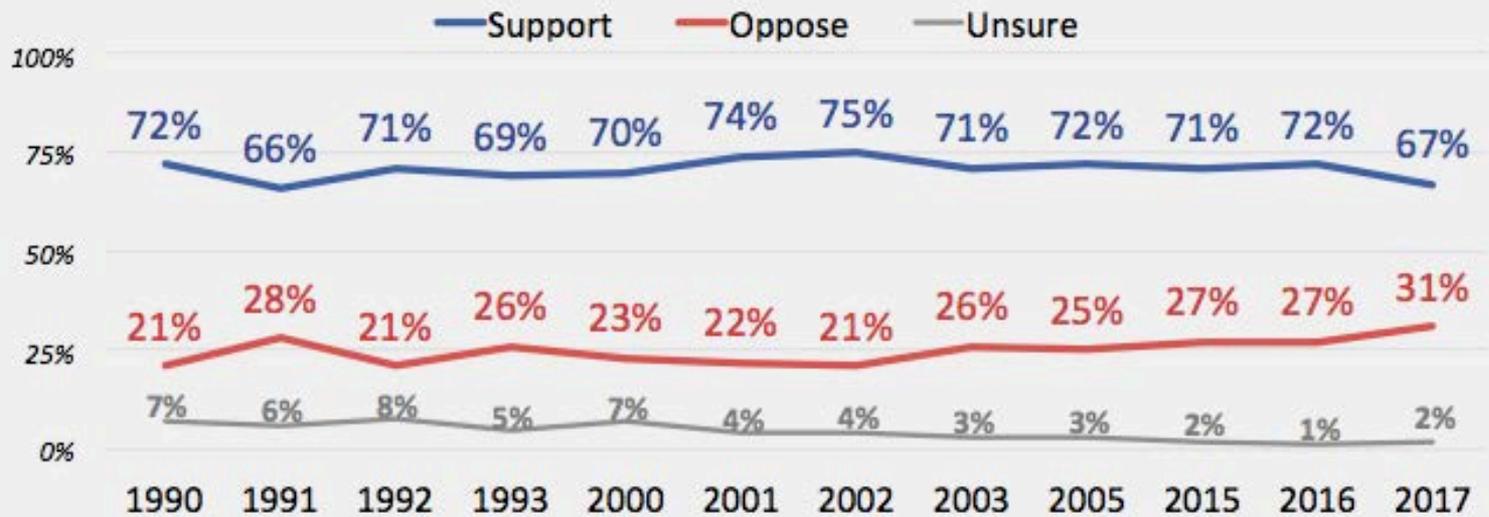
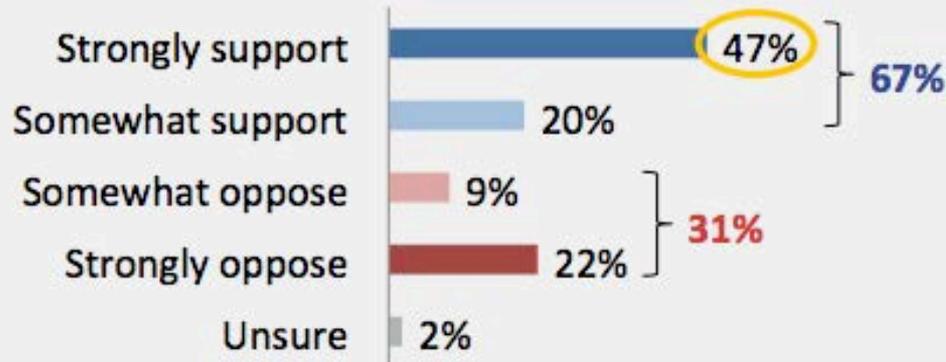
Union	Support	Oppose
Public employee	52%	40%
Other union	70%	21%
Non-union	68%	25%

Education	Support	Oppose
High school or less	75%	21%
Some college	75%	19%
Graduated college	62%	27%
Graduate school	50%	41%

# Federal Priorities

# ANWR Exploration & Production

Do you support or oppose exploration and production of oil and gas in a portion of ANWR, that is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?



Prior to 2015 question read: "What is your opinion of oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, usually referred to as ANWR? Do you feel oil and gas exploration should or should not be allowed in that area?"

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# ANWR Exploration & Production, cont'd

Do you support or oppose exploration and production of oil and gas in a portion of ANWR, that is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

Overall	Support	Oppose
Overall	67%	31%

Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	69%	29%
Southcentral	78%	21%
Interior	64%	35%
Southeast	46%	51%
Rural	62%	36%

Age	Support	Oppose
18-34 years	59%	39%
35-44 years	68%	30%
45-59 years	73%	25%
60 years +	66%	33%

Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	76%	23%
Female	58%	39%

Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	35%	64%
Republican	89%	10%
Non-Partisan	61%	37%
Undeclared	64%	34%

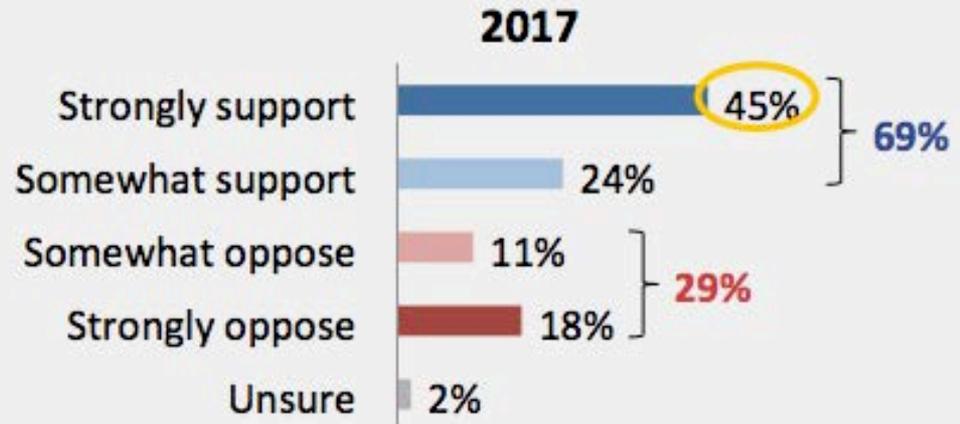
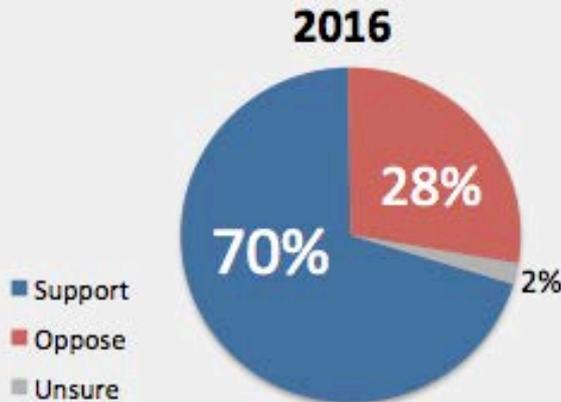
Time in Alaska	Support	Oppose
0-9 yrs	52%	46%
10-20 yrs	65%	34%
20+ yrs	70%	28%

Education	Support	Oppose
High school or less	74%	24%
Some college	75%	23%
Graduated college	64%	34%
Graduate school	54%	44%

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# Alaska Arctic Offshore Exploration & Production

Do you support or oppose exploration and production of oil and gas in Alaska's Arctic offshore?



Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	69%	29%
Southcentral	76%	22%
Interior	72%	27%
Southeast	55%	44%
Rural	66%	31%

Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	76%	23%
Female	63%	35%

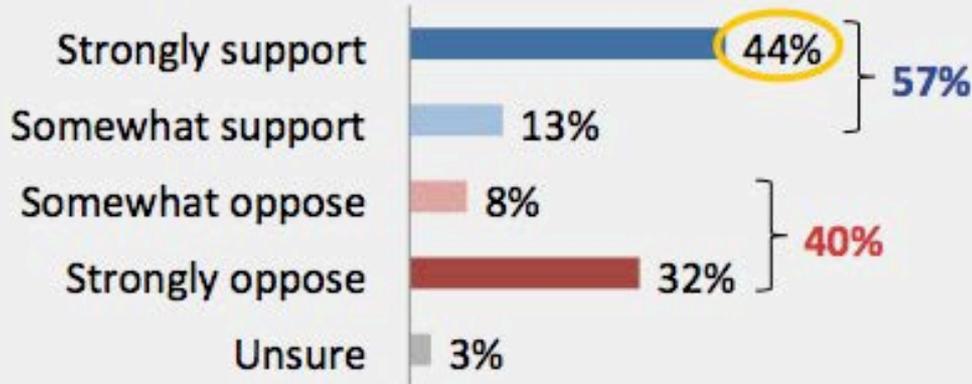
Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	40%	57%
Republican	92%	7%
Non-Partisan	63%	34%
Undeclared	64%	34%

Time in Alaska	Support	Oppose
0-9 yrs	65%	33%
10-20 yrs	73%	27%
20+ yrs	69%	29%

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# Repeal & Replace Obamacare

Do you support or oppose efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?



Gender	Support	Oppose
Male	67%	30%
Female	49%	48%

Union	Support	Oppose
Public employee	42%	55%
Other union	61%	39%
Non-union	60%	36%

Education	Support	Oppose
High school or less	68%	28%
Some college	67%	30%
Graduated college	56%	42%
Graduate school	39%	59%

Employed	Support	Oppose
Full-time	62%	36%
Part-time	53%	44%
Homemaker	69%	31%
Student	23%	68%
Unemployed	54%	39%
Retired	52%	46%

Location	Support	Oppose
Anchorage	55%	43%
Southcentral	72%	25%
Interior	61%	37%
Southeast	43%	55%
Rural	42%	48%

Party	Support	Oppose
Democrat	19%	80%
Republican	90%	8%
Non-Partisan	46%	52%
Undeclared	52%	44%



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# Alaska Business Week

A crash course in business



## Alaska Business Week (ABW)

ABW is a one-week program that teaches Alaskan high school students the basics of business, leadership and entrepreneurship. There are many ways to get involved:

- Register your high school student
- Sponsor
- Mentor
- Volunteer

For more information contact  
Nicole Schuh at (907) 278-2744 or  
[nschuh@alaskachamber.com](mailto:nschuh@alaskachamber.com)

# It's your Chamber

Get the most value out of membership



Business  
Networking



Information and  
Insight



Sponsorship  
Opportunities

# We're social

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube



## Social Media

The Alaska Chamber has a presence on a number of social networking sites. Join our Facebook and Twitter page to stay up to date with all the Chamber's news and events.

- [facebook.com/alaskachamber](https://facebook.com/alaskachamber)
- [twitter.com/alaskachamber](https://twitter.com/alaskachamber)
- [linkedin.com/company/alaska-state-chamber](https://linkedin.com/company/alaska-state-chamber)
- [youtube.com/user/alaskachamber](https://youtube.com/user/alaskachamber)

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## Our contact information

### E-mail

You can contact me at

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or call me directly at

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### Our address

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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