

"We don't have a resource problem in Alaska. We have a distribution problem. I am steadfastly committed to developing that distribution system, to bring Alaska's natural gas to Alaskans and to the lucrative world markets."

-Gov. Bill Walker at his Dec. 1, 2014, swearing-in ceremony

# Gov. Bill Walker (I)

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## commerce.alaska.com

Pop. (2014): 737,286 Pop. growth 2014–2019: 4.74% Median household income: \$76,422 Median age: 33.8 Right-to-work state: No

#### **Alaska** Workforce Education by Percentage Less than 8% Hiah School High School Diploma Some College Bachelor's 18% Degree Graduate 10% Degree 5 10 15 20 35 25 30

# **Rankings that Matter**

GDP43 (\$51,542*)
Business Tax Climate
Small Business Policy18
ACT Career Readiness Certificates2 (37,447)
High School Graduation
Incentives Transparency Index40

### \*Real GDP in US millions

### **Legislative Update**

• Voters decided to raise the state's minimum wage to \$9.75 an hour in the November 2014 election. More than 600,000 Alaskan workers will receive raises in 2016.

• The legal marijuana industry can now take root in Alaska. By a slim majority, the recreational use of marijuana was legalized in November. Marijuana growing and selling will be fully regulated and taxed beginning February 24, 2015.