



“I explained to Governor Inslee that the oil industry is to Alaska what Microsoft, Boeing and Amazon is to Washington.”

— Gov. Bill Walker, May 2015, after visiting Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, an offshore drilling opponent

Gov. Bill Walker (I)

**Alaska Dept. of Commerce
Community & Econ. Dev.**

550 W 7th Ave., Ste 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501
Brittney Cioni-Haywood, Director ED
907-269-8150

commerce.alaska.gov

Alaska

Pop. (2014): 741,123

Median household income: \$67,629

Credit Rating: AA/Negative

Pop. growth 2013–2018: 4.50%

Median age: 33.3

Right-to-work state: No

Legislative Update

- ConocoPhillips and BP provided written assurances they will commit to a process to make available their share of Alaska’s North Slope gas to a future gas pipeline project. Because of this commitment, Gov. Walker said he would not introduce a bill during the Oct. 2015 special session proposing a property tax on gas leases within the Prudhoe Bay and Point Thomson units.
- Because of falling oil revenues, the FY2016 budget signed into law in July included a 34.2-percent reduction (\$13.8 million) in funding to the state’s commerce and economic development agency.
- A bill signed in June ended the state’s film production incentive program.
- A new law creates a Marijuana Control Board tasked with developing regulations covering aspects of marijuana cultivation, processing, and commercial sale.

Rankings that Matter

Business Tax Climate	3
Legal Climate	12
Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure	44 (174,431)
ACT Career Readiness Certificates ...	2 (41,501)
Lowest Electric Power Cost	49 (18.34)
Fiscal Solvency	1
College Attainment	38 (36.5%)

