


Memorandum

Acting Borough Manager George Hays



DATE: December 4, 2020 (for Public Release on December 11, 2020)
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: George Hays, Acting Borough Manager 
SUBJECT: Manager's Notes to the Assembly

COVID-19 Coronavirus –

- Links to the most recent updates and information:
 - DHSS website: www.coronavirus.Alaska.gov
 - CDC website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
 - MSB website: <https://matanuska-susitna-borough-coronavirus-covid-19-msb.hub.arcgis.com/> and <https://msbcares.matsugov.us/>
- Emails from Karl Ohls dated October 6, October 20, and October 26, 2020 re status of federal relief programs
- MSB Directive #10 for COVID-19 requiring public required to wear cloth face coverings in borough facilities, dated November 5, 2020
- Governor's Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency, dated November 6, 2020, effective November 16, 2020 to December 15, 2020
- On Thursday, November 12, 2020 Acting Borough Manager George Hays met with KTNA to discuss Borough's position on the Governor's emergency declaration, and the status of the Borough's efforts to distribute CARES Act funds
- On November 19, 2020 the borough held a press conference featuring guest speakers Dr. Thomas Quimby, Dr. Randy Trani, and Ms. Elizabeth Ripley. A copy of the agenda is attached.

Government Finance Officers Association Awards – The Borough Finance Department has received two awards: Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for its Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019, and Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019. Copies of the awards are attached.

Tax and LID Foreclosure Sale TS41 Results – See attached memorandum from Lisa Gray dated November 5, 2020.

MEA Capital Credits – On November 13, 2020 the Borough received \$7,312.37 from Matanuska Electric Association in Capital Credits.

West Susitna Communication Plan Draft – To date, the West Susitna Access Road Study, Phase 2 team, made up of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), MSB and HDR staff, has established a website and an online open house that is available for viewing and comment submission from November 13 through December 20, 2020. A virtual on-line public meeting was held December 3 from 4pm-6pm. Meeting notification was carried out through an ad published in the Frontiersman, postcards were sent to residents in the project area, a series of emails, announcements through the

assembly, and posting of flyers in local places. The online open house has been extended through December 20th to allow more time for feedback to the project team.

The project team is working hard to make sure residents and property owners in the project area are aware of the project and have a way to communicate their concerns and comments. The team welcomes any advertising suggestions and appreciates advice as the folks in the area are crucial to this project and it is important to specifically hear from all project stakeholders. Several Assembly members have helped provide contact information and the project team welcomes any email addresses or phone numbers for residents or property owners in the area to which updates can be sent or they can make a personal call. The number of participants and comments received during the public meeting should be available soon.

After Borough Assembly and AIDEA Board approval, a Phase 2 contract with HDR was awarded in August for fieldwork that collected environmental and engineering data along the corridor. Between weather and COVID-19 there were challenges, but the work was accomplished before freeze-up. The team is just starting to analyze the data collected this past season and is busy putting it into a format that will be shared with the public. The team is currently working on a wetland mapping report and preliminary engineering report which will help further define a proposed corridor – all which will be published as soon as complete. We're anticipating having that information available to share sometime late winter.

US Postal Prices for 2021 effective January 24, 2021 – See attached flyer dated October 9, 2020.

Attachments:

- COVID-19 Coronavirus –
 - Emails from Karl Ohls dated October 6, and October 20, 2020 re status of federal relief programs
 - Senate Packs Up with Coronavirus Relief Bill on Ice Until After Elections, October 26, 2020
 - MSB Directive #10, November 5, 2020
 - State of Alaska Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency, November 6, 2020
 - Press Conference Agenda, November 19, 2020
- Government Finance Officers Association Awards for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019
- Memorandum re Tax and LID Foreclosure Sale TS41 Results, November 5, 2020
- US Postal Prices for 2021 effective January 24, 2021

From: Karl Ohls <kohls@northstargrp.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:31 PM

To: George Hays <George.Hays@matsugov.us>; Nicholas Spiropoulos <Nicholas.Spiropoulos@matsugov.us>; Vern Halter <vernhalter@mtaonline.net>

Subject: No deal on federal stimulus and aid legislation

George, Nick, and Mayor Halter,

Negotiations over a compromise economic stimulus & relief package have ceased abruptly, following a Twitter message from President Trump. Negotiations might resume post-election, though many difficult issues remain to be resolved. See below for news about today's announcement, followed by two items from this week's Eyes on Washington, a news story about the House passage last week of its preferred aid bill, and a news story about the administration's earlier proposed compromise bill.

Karl

Trump calls off coronavirus relief package talks until after elections

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were in near-daily talks, but progress has been slow

By [Lindsey McPherson](#) / Roll Call / Posted October 6, 2020

Republicans will stop negotiating a new COVID-19 aid bill with Speaker Nancy Pelosi amid a longstanding disagreement over funding for state and local governments, President Donald Trump announced on Twitter on Tuesday.

"I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small business," Trump said.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has led the talks for the White House.

Trump's Twitter Text: Nancy Pelosi is asking for \$2.4 Trillion Dollars to bailout poorly run, high crime, Democrat States, money that is in no way related to COVID-19. We made a very generous offer of \$1.6 Trillion Dollars and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith. I am rejecting their... ..request, and looking to the future of our Country. I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business. I have asked...

Two items from Eyes on Washington, Oct. 5, 2020

Coronavirus Economic Relief Negotiations Remain Uncertain

- Economic stimulus talks remain in limbo after the House Democrats passed their \$2.2 trillion COVID-19 aid package last week.
- House Democrats released the \$2.2 trillion bill to highlight their willingness to come down from their original \$3.4 trillion proposal, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act or H.R. 6800), which passed in May. The Trump Administration has offered House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) a maximum of \$1.6 trillion, which leaves a gulf between the Democratic and Republican top-line offers.
- Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin continue to try to negotiate a bipartisan deal that could clear both chambers. Speaker Pelosi on October 2, 2020, said that she anticipates striking a bipartisan economic relief deal with the Trump Administration, suggesting that President Donald Trump's coronavirus diagnosis could speed up an agreement.

- Several items have been agreed to in principal, including a new round of \$1,200 checks to individuals. Pelosi said they were nearing agreement on \$75 billion for coronavirus testing and tracing, with Democrats pushing for language that ensures a comprehensive testing strategy. The longstanding fight over how much aid to provide to state and local governments is a major sticking point, as well as unemployment insurance and a child tax credit.

- On October 2, 2020, White House officials called for striking a deal. On Fox Business, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow sounded optimistic about a stimulus package and suggested that it was essential to approve additional support for small businesses and the unemployed.
- Time is running short, however, with the presidential election and congressional elections 29 days away, and Congress expected to go on recess beforehand for the final leg of the campaign.

House Passes Revised HEROES Act

- The House on October 1, 2020, narrowly passed a Democrat-only \$2.2 trillion package (H.R. 925) on a party line vote of 214-207, with no GOP support following the most concerted talks between the top negotiators since early August. The measure was introduced by Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
- Democrats cut more than \$1 trillion from their original proposal not by slashing key priorities, but largely by shortening the timeline of proposed spending. That decision could make an eventual deal on fiscal 2021 appropriations more challenging, because House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said that Democrats will push for some coronavirus needs to be fulfilled through regular appropriations bills.
- The measure would provide the following amounts through the Treasury Department for state and local governments:
 - \$238 billion for states and Washington, D.C. That would include funds to compensate D.C. for the money that it would have received as a state under the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), which would result in an additional payment of \$755 million, according to a summary from House Democrats.
 - **\$179 billion for local governments, including \$89.5 billion for counties and \$26.9 billion for towns with less than 50,000 people.**
 - \$9.5 billion for U.S. territories.
 - \$9.5 billion for tribal governments.
 - \$100 million for multistate transportation agencies
- The package would restore unemployment benefits; authorize and provide \$5 billion for the Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Development Block Grant program; modify the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and offer additional loans; and provide aid to restaurants, and provide another round of \$1,200 direct payments to taxpayers.

House passes \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief bill amid faltering talks

Vote on sweeping measure gives rank-and-file Democrats something to tout back home if no bipartisan deal materializes

By [David Lerman](#) / Roll Call / Posted October 1, 2020

House Democrats passed their own revised version of a coronavirus aid package Thursday, in a largely symbolic expression of frustration with protracted talks on a bipartisan compromise.

On a party-line vote of 214-207, the House sent to the Senate a \$2.2 trillion package that Republicans have lambasted as a costly "liberal wish list." No House GOP lawmaker voted for it; 18 Democrats voted "no." There were 10 Republican no-shows on final passage who could have potentially flipped the outcome.

The Trump administration has offered about \$1.5 trillion. But the divide between the two plans jumps to roughly \$1 trillion once offsets are backed out of the equation, including what Speaker Nancy Pelosi said amounts to \$265 billion in tax increases on well-off business owners that Republicans have rejected.

Senate Republicans want to spend even less: They chafed even at a \$1 trillion package over the summer, before backing a bill with just \$650 billion in relief — more than half of it offset.

The House bill won't become law, but Democratic leaders said they wanted to outline their negotiating priorities and show how \$2.2 trillion could be put to effective use. The move also allows some politically vulnerable rank-and-file Democrats to register their support for a robust aid package before heading home to campaign.

"It's really important for people to see that we completely identify with the concerns that they have and how we have allocated the resources necessary to get the job done," Pelosi told reporters Thursday.

And by attaching the measure to an unrelated vehicle that has already passed both chambers, they removed House Republicans' ability to offer a "motion to recommit." That's a procedure that gives the minority one chance to amend the bill, often with cleverly-designed provisions intended to put vulnerable majority members on the spot. Additionally the move gives the Senate, which is sticking around next week, an opportunity to take up a faster-moving vehicle for a potential compromise bill by skipping a procedural hurdle that could eat up valuable floor time.

House leaders had delayed the vote by a day after talk turned hopeful Wednesday that a bipartisan deal could be within reach. While those talks continued Thursday, Pelosi sent signals to her caucus that a deal could take more time — if it happens at all.

Rejecting the notion that "something is better than nothing," Pelosi said: "We're not going to exploit the needs that people have in order to once again increase the national debt to help the high end."

The Democratic bill provides another round of \$1,200-per-adult tax rebates, expanded unemployment benefits, and more money for schools, health care and **state and local governments**, among many other things. But it chops roughly a third of the cost off of a \$3.4 trillion aid measure the House passed in May. **State and local aid, for example, would be cut roughly in half**, from \$916 billion to \$436 billion. Democrats said most of the savings would be achieved by shortening the time period that would be covered by new aid.

But Democrats also pumped some additional money into new priorities since their May legislation. Chief among them is a \$120 billion fund for the pandemic-battered restaurant industry, along with \$28 billion for the airline industry, which is now preparing for mass layoffs in the absence of any additional relief. The measure "seeks to meet Republicans halfway, while addressing needs that have grown since May," said House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey, D-N.Y., in floor debate. "A strong vote tonight will show our will to act and bring us closer to delivering much-needed relief to American families."

But Lowey's Republican counterpart, Kay Granger of Texas, said the bill is too costly and contains too many provisions that have little to do with the pandemic. Those include measures enabling undocumented immigrants to receive tax rebates, delays in the 2020 census and "sweeping changes" to how elections are conducted, she said. "It's time for our leaders to come together, rather than take a vote on this damaging, partisan bill," Granger said.

Exclusive: Mnuchin coronavirus relief plan includes more state, local funds

Proposal would renew federal unemployment benefit at \$400 a week; has more money for COVID-19 testing, schools

By [Lindsey McPherson](#) / Roll Call / Posted September 30, 2020

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin offered a \$1.62 trillion COVID-19 relief proposal in talks with Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday, offering more state and local assistance than GOP negotiators have to date in a sign of potential progress toward a deal.

A person briefed on Mnuchin's plan said it included **\$250 billion for state and local governments**, which is \$186 billion less than Democrats want in their latest \$2.2 trillion package, but \$100 billion more than the White House offered in talks that broke down over the summer.

On unemployment insurance, Mnuchin proposed a \$400 per week federal benefit, retroactive to Sept. 12 and lasting through Jan. 1, 2021, according to the source, who described the package on condition of anonymity. That's less than the \$600 a week Democrats want, but \$100 more than Senate Republicans have proposed.

Mnuchin presented his offer to Pelosi at the Capitol on Wednesday afternoon during a 90-minute meeting; the discussion broke up without a deal, but the two principals agreed to continue negotiations Thursday.

A few hours later Democratic leaders announced they would delay voting on their \$2.2 trillion bill until at least Thursday, pending the status of talks that day.

"The speaker thinks there's a possibility of getting a deal," House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer told CQ Roll Call after a lengthy meeting with Pelosi. "If we have a deal, yes, we may well do that," the Maryland Democrat said when asked if the House would be willing to wait several days to vote if there's a bipartisan agreement that needs fine tuning into legislative text. "But if we don't have a deal, then we're going to move the bill."

Mnuchin briefed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell after meeting with Pelosi Wednesday. According to the source who described Mnuchin's offer, McConnell signaled he could begrudgingly get enough votes to pass the plan Mnuchin laid out if Democrats sign off on it. A McConnell spokesman denied the source's characterization. It's unclear if McConnell could sell anything higher than what Mnuchin has offered to a GOP conference that's been reluctant to spend even \$1 trillion on a new aid package, or provide any additional funds for state and local governments.

"We're not going to do a \$2.2 trillion deal," Mnuchin said Wednesday night on Fox Business. "The president instructed us to come up significantly, so we have come up from the trillion-dollar deal that we were working on earlier."

Mnuchin described the latest White House offer as in the "neighborhood" of \$1.5 trillion; if a rescission of unused Paycheck Protection Program funds were included, that would bring the net cost of Mnuchin's plan down to that level.

There are no automatic boosters in the plan that would inject another round of aid into the economy early next year if more progress containing the virus hasn't been made, however. That was a key proposal in the Problem Solvers Caucus bipartisan \$1.5 trillion plan, which Mnuchin said earlier Wednesday he'd modeled his approach on.

Bridging the gap

If the parties can resolve the state and local and unemployment insurance divisions, the gaps in other areas will likely be easier to bridge. For example, Mnuchin increased the GOP offer on education funding to \$150 billion. Democrats are at \$225 billion. Both parties started with around \$100 billion for education earlier in the negotiations, but there's general agreement needs have increased as schools across the country at are different phases of reopening for in-person learning.

Pelosi has talked frequently about the need for more money to expand COVID-19 testing and tracing, saying Republicans' prior offer of \$16 billion was a significant underestimate of the demand. Mnuchin's offer matches Democrats' \$75 billion demand, a significant concession.

Mnuchin's total offer on health care is \$175 billion, which in addition to the testing money includes \$50 billion for vaccine production and distribution and \$50 billion for health care providers, including hospitals.

Democrats' bill would provide the Department of Health and Human Services with a total of \$249 billion for those and other needs.

Mnuchin also appears to match Democrats' latest offer on food assistance with \$15 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and nutrition aid for low-income women, infants and children.

The parties are also getting closer on direct aid for the U.S. Postal Service after a massive disagreement over the summer on the cause of operational delays. Democrats dropped their \$25 billion demand to \$15 billion in their latest bill, and Mnuchin is offering \$10 billion.

As in earlier negotiations, both parties are still interested in sending another round of direct payments to low-income Americans, with general agreement on \$1,200 for adults and \$500 for dependents. They also both agree generally on the terms of expanding the employee retention tax credit, which was part of the March coronavirus relief law.

Mnuchin pitched \$160 billion in new funding to revive the PPP for a second round of forgivable loans to hard-hit businesses, as well as \$10 billion in funds targeted for minority lending. Democrats have made clear that any future small-business relief would need to earmark funds for minority businesses that were shortchanged in the initial round of PPP loans. His offer also includes aid for businesses left out of the prior relief package, including restaurants, lodging and entertainment venues. Mnuchin's aid to those businesses, as well as more money for airlines, totals nearly \$120 billion. Democrats proposed \$120 billion just for restaurants, as well as \$10 billion for live entertainment and \$28 billion for the airline industry.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told reporters traveling on Air Force One late Wednesday night that the offer includes \$20 billion specifically for airlines, which he said would be enough to help them pay workers for another six months. Meadows characterized the overall offer as "extremely generous" and said he hopes an agreement can be reached quickly, according to a pool report.

Other highlights of Mnuchin's offer include:

- \$60 billion for rental and mortgage assistance.
- \$28 billion in student loan relief.
- \$25 billion for child care providers.
- \$20 billion for farmers and ranchers.
- \$15 billion for broadband connections in underserved communities.
- \$13 billion to expand paid leave for workers with children and adult dependents.
- \$5 billion for child welfare services.
- \$3 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

David Lerman contributed to this report.

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From: Karl Ohls <kohls@northstargrp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 9:54 AM
To: George Hays <George.Hays@matsugov.us>; Nicholas Spiropoulos <Nicholas.Spiropoulos@matsugov.us>; Vern Halter <vernhalter@mtaonline.net>
Subject: Coronavirus relief package down to the wire

George, Nick, and Mayor Halter,

Though President Trump announced a couple weeks ago that negotiations were called off, the administration and the Congress continued discussions and proposal exchanges on a possible compromise over a Covid aid relief & economic stimulus package. Major differences, however, remain between the White House, House majority and Senate majority over what they want the package to contain. Given the congressional schedule for the coming weeks, today has been set as a deadline to determine if a pre-election package acceptable to all sides can be voted on or not.

See below for a summary of the current situation from the Eyes on Washington newsletter, followed by a news story about the deadline and current state of negotiations. There may be more news sometime today if agreement is reached or not reached. If the latter, negotiations will likely resume in the post-election period.

Karl

[From Eyes on Washington, Oct. 19, 2020](#)

Coronavirus Economic Relief Package Uncertainty Persists

- Over the weekend, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) set a Tuesday, October 20, 2020, deadline for more progress with the White House on a fiscal stimulus deal before the November 3, 2020, election, while President Donald Trump renewed his offer to go beyond the dollar amounts now on the table.
- This week, the Senate will vote on Republican proposals for a narrower \$500 billion targeted economic relief bill and a separate standalone bill to help small businesses, according to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) A standalone vote on more funds for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will be held on October 20, 2020, followed by the main economic relief bill on October 21, 2020, he said in a statement.
- The vote underscores the continued deep differences after months of talks on another economic stimulus bill that have failed to bridge gaps.
- A flurry of weekend developments has raised optimism about progress on an aid package.
 - On October 18, 2020, President Donald Trump told reporters in Reno, Nevada, that he "wants a bigger number" than Speaker Pelosi.
 - Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke at length about efforts to finalize an economic stimulus package on October 17, 2020, especially as signs emerge of rising economic strain for millions of Americans.
- Last week, President Trump said that he was prepared to go higher than \$1.8 trillion, which his team has offered to Speaker Pelosi. However, Pelosi favors a \$2.2 trillion plan.

One more day for coronavirus relief talks, Pelosi says

No guarantee Senate Republicans will take up aid legislation, even if the speaker and Treasury secretary can agree

By David Lerman / Roll Call / Posted October 19, 2020

Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) plans to decide by Tuesday evening whether a bipartisan deal on COVID-19 relief can pass before the Nov. 3 elections, her spokesman said Monday.

The announcement, made in a tweet, came after a nearly hour-long phone call between the Democratic leader and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who have been struggling for days to narrow their differences on a new pandemic relief package. Another call is scheduled for Tuesday.

"The Speaker continues to hope that, by the end of the day Tuesday, we will have clarity on whether we will be able to pass a bill before the election," spokesman Drew Hammill tweeted. He said staff would work "around the clock" in hopes of finding common ground.

The latest effort at compromise came as Senate Republicans prepared to take up their own legislation, which amounts to a fraction of what Trump and Democratic leaders are proposing. GOP senators are still reluctant to take up anything approaching the numbers Pelosi and Mnuchin are considering, at least before the elections.

Senate Majority Whip [John Thune](#), R-S.D., told reporters "it would be hard" to find even 13 GOP votes for a bill that cost upwards of \$1.8 trillion. That's the number of Republicans needed to supplement the 47-member Senate Democratic Caucus to get over the 60-vote hurdle to final passage. "I suspect it would have to be something that would attract a significant amount of Republican support, both in the House and the Senate," Thune said.

"My guess is [Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#)] is going to want to see some evidence that whatever is agreed upon has Republican support to try to convince Republicans over here to be for it," Thune added, "when their natural instinct, depending on how big it is and what's in it, is probably to be against it."

Meanwhile the Senate on Tuesday planned a procedural vote on a bill that would provide fresh funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, which offers forgivable loans to small businesses, McConnell said. That bill would appropriate a new round of nearly \$258 billion for the program, of which \$137 billion would be redirected from unspent funds. FiscalNote, the parent company of CQ Roll Call, received a loan under the program.

On Wednesday, the Senate will consider a more expansive package that would provide bigger unemployment benefits, more than \$100 billion for schools, and more money for virus testing, tracing and vaccine development and distribution. That bill, released Monday, appeared nearly identical to a similar measure the Senate [declined to advance last month](#) that was estimated to provide \$650 billion in new aid. More than half the money, or \$350 billion, would be offset by rescissions of unspent funds.

“Nobody thinks this proposal would resolve every problem forever,” McConnell said on the floor Monday. “What it does contain is half a trillion dollars of good that Congress can do right now, through programs that Democrats do not even say they oppose.”

But with Democrats panning that effort as an “emaciated” response to the pandemic, neither GOP bill is likely to garner the 60 votes needed to advance this week. “It’s obvious he designed it to fail,” Senate Minority Leader [Charles E. Schumer](#) said of McConnell’s legislative effort. The House passed a Democrat-written bill Oct. 1, mostly along party lines, that would cost \$2.4 trillion over a decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

'A bigger number'

Trump sought to up the ante over the weekend, telling reporters that he would favor even more spending than what Pelosi has proposed. “I want to do it at a bigger number than she wants,” Trump said. “That doesn’t mean all the Republicans agree with me, but I think they will in the end if she would go along.”

McConnell, in a statement Saturday, said the Senate would “consider” any deal reached between Pelosi and the administration. But the disconnect between GOP lawmakers and their own party’s president promises to complicate any hopes of reaching a deal that can be passed before the Nov. 3 election. Lawmakers in both parties have rejected a White House proposal for \$1.88 trillion in relief, with Republicans saying it was too big and Democrats saying it was too small. The Democratic measure, by contrast, would provide a total of \$2.8 trillion in aid, although about \$400 billion would be offset by raising some business taxes and rescinding unused PPP money.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told reporters Monday he remained “hopeful” that a deal is still possible in the next day or so, as he welcomed a 48-hour deadline set by Pelosi over the weekend. But he heaped blame on the speaker for the weeks-long stalemate, saying she was “too rigid” in her negotiations with the administration. “If past is prologue, [Nancy Pelosi](#) is going to put out this 48-hour deadline, she’s not going to move anymore, and she’s not going to move at all,” Meadows said. “I haven’t seen any real movement on her part.”

Democrats have said they have already moved substantially off their earlier demands by slashing about \$1 trillion from the \$3.4 trillion aid package the House passed in May. They have called on Republicans to meet them “halfway,” which they said would mean about \$2.2 trillion.

Meadows said the Trump administration has already “made substantial modifications that come at the risk of jeopardizing Republican support in an effort to hopefully help the American people.” And he acknowledged that even if a deal with Pelosi can be reached, Senate Republicans may not be willing to support it. “There are some in the Senate that would support it,” Meadows said. “Whether there’s enough votes to get to the 60-vote threshold, that’s up to Leader McConnell.”

In a letter to her caucus Sunday night, Pelosi appeared doubtful that myriad disputes over funding and policy language could be resolved within the next few days — a deadline she set to get a relief bill passed before the election. “While there was some encouraging news, much work remains,” Pelosi wrote. She continued to cite administration resistance to Democratic proposals to expand child tax credits and earned income tax credits for low-income households.

And she said the White House has backtracked on a pledge to accept Democratic proposals on virus testing and tracing. “The White House has removed 55 percent of the [House bill's] language for testing, tracing, and treatment,” she wrote. “Especially disappointing was the elimination of measures to address the virus’s disproportionate and deadly impact on communities of color.”

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said Monday he was not particularly optimistic that a deal could be reached. “I’d put it at 50-50 at best frankly, and that is frustrating,” he told CNBC.

But for all the doubts, Pelosi has insisted she is eager to reach a bipartisan deal that could be passed before the new year. “We want it as soon as possible,” she said on ABC’s “This Week” program Sunday. “And I certainly want it because I don’t want to have to be sweeping up after this dumpings of this elephant as we go into a new presidency in a few short months.”

Niels Lesniewski, Jennifer Shutt and Doug Sword contributed to this report.

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Senate packs up with coronavirus relief bill on ice until after elections

Mnuchin, Pelosi still talking, but little sign of a breakthrough

By [David Lerman](#) / Roll Call / Posted October 26, 2020

Senators prepared to leave town Monday night for their October recess with virtually no prospect of passing new COVID-19 aid legislation before the Nov. 3 elections.

Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke by phone for 52 minutes on Monday in what has become a near-daily attempt to narrow differences on pandemic relief between Democrats and the Trump administration. But there was no indication of any major progress.

Democrats “continue to eagerly await the Administration’s acceptance of our health language, which includes a national strategic plan on testing and tracing,” Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill tweeted after the call. And Hammill suggested that Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#), R-Ky., who has resisted a large-scale aid deal, would need to show a greater willingness to compromise. “It is clear that our progress depends on Leader McConnell agreeing to bipartisan, comprehensive legislation to crush the virus, honor our heroes — our essential workers — and put money in the pockets of the American people,” Hammill said.

While Hammill said Pelosi “remains optimistic” about reaching a deal before the elections, the speaker made clear that her hopes had diminished over the weekend, when White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told CNN that “we’re not going to control the pandemic” but would await a vaccine. In a letter to her caucus Monday, Pelosi said “the Administration crossed another line in its arrogance in fighting the coronavirus.”

And before Monday’s phone call, the California Democrat said in her letter the administration still had not agreed to Democratic terms for virus testing and tracing, despite earlier promises. “In all of our legislation, we have stressed the importance of testing, but the Administration has never followed through,” she said. “The Republicans’ continued surrender to the virus — particularly amid the recent wave of cases — is official malfeasance.”

Republican senators, meanwhile, had no expectation of any pandemic relief deal this week as they focused on confirming Amy Coney Barrett to be the next Supreme Court justice Monday night before heading home until after the elections.

GOP senators have balked at any deal that could cost roughly \$2 trillion, as contemplated by Democrats and the Trump administration. As if to underscore their resistance, they pushed their own \$519 billion aid bill, which Democrats blocked last week.

“[Nancy Pelosi](#) refuses to move off the mark because she’s not interested in compromise right now,” Sen. [Rob Portman](#), R-Ohio, told Fox Business Network. “So after the election, I think we’re going to get together and figure this out. And we should, because there’s actually some things we can do to help — both to deal with the virus, but also to deal with the economic realities.”

The impasse continued as major stock market indexes saw steep declines amid reports of surging coronavirus cases across the country. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 650 points, or almost 2.3 percent, for its worst trading day in nearly two months; the broader S&P 500 declined by nearly 1.9 percent, its biggest drop in a month.

Talks have stumbled for weeks over both the size and shape of a new aid package, even as the U.S. death toll from COVID-19 now exceeds 225,000, according to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Initial unemployment

insurance claims have declined from the millions submitted every week this past spring, but at 787,000, last week's claims were still well above the pre-pandemic record of 695,000 set in 1982. Democrats have sought **more robust funding for state and local governments**, while Republicans oppose “bailouts” for poorly managed states. Republicans have pushed for liability protection for employers from pandemic-related lawsuits, while Democrats say workers’ rights must be preserved to ensure safe job sites.

“I wish that we could pass relief when we know it's most needed,” Sen. [Shelley Moore Capito](#), R-W.Va., told reporters Monday. “But the political calculations on the other side are preventing that.”

The Senate is scheduled to be in session the week of Nov. 9, except for Veterans Day which is that Wednesday. The House won't be back until the following week.

Timeline for coronavirus relief package vote slips despite progress in talks

Drafting, scoring the legislation will take too much time to get it ready for floor action before the election

By [David Lerman](#) / Roll Call / Posted October 22, 2020

Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) raised doubts Thursday about getting a coronavirus aid bill passed before the Nov. 3 elections, even if a bipartisan deal is reached in the coming days.

While talks continue, the California Democrat said it would take time to get a comprehensive bill written and reviewed by budget scorekeepers and legal counsel before a floor vote could be scheduled. And with only 12 days to go before the elections and no deal yet reached, there may be little time left, she said. “If we can resolve some of these things in the next few days, it will take a while to write the bill,” Pelosi said at her weekly news conference. While a deal could still pass before Election day, she said, “We wouldn’t take less of a bill to get it sooner.”

Pelosi said she remained hopeful of reaching a deal with the Trump administration that could end a months-long stalemate over a new relief package to combat the health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. After several daily talks with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, she told reporters late Thursday that she was waiting to hear from congressional committee leaders who were trying to resolve differences between Democrats and the administration.

But her hedging comments about the timing of potential votes injected a fresh dose of doubt that any new aid could get delivered before Election Day. And Pelosi said President Donald Trump would need to convince Senate Republicans to back any potential deal that they so far have panned as excessively costly. “I do believe that both sides want to reach an agreement,” Pelosi said. “I can’t answer for the disarray on the Senate side. It’s not up to me to psych out [Senate Majority Leader] [Mitch McConnell](#).”

McConnell has sought to limit the size of a new aid package. While Pelosi and the White House negotiate a roughly \$2 trillion measure, the Kentucky Republican pushed a \$519 billion aid package to the Senate floor Wednesday. Democrats decried the bill as an “emaciated” version of pandemic relief and blocked it from advancing.

“Getting the Republican votes is not my job,” Pelosi said. “That’s up to them.”

In a leadership call Thursday, Pelosi said Democratic lawmakers have told her they don't want to have a House vote on an aid package before the elections unless the Senate agrees to take it up by then as well, according to a

source familiar with the call. That sentiment, depending on how widely shared it is, could make pre-election votes on any aid compromise less likely. Even so, both sides pledged to continue talking. "We're going to stay engaged until Nancy Pelosi says no or walks away," White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told CNN.

Two of the biggest obstacles to a deal, liability protection for employers and **aid to state and local governments**, remain unresolved, Pelosi said. Democrats have pushed in their most recent bill for **\$436 billion in state and local aid**, saying the money is needed to avoid mass layoffs of firefighters, police, teachers and health care workers. **Mnuchin has countered with \$300 billion.**

The White House and GOP lawmakers have pushed back on the higher figure, saying many states have financial problems that were unrelated to the pandemic. "We're not here to bail out poorly run states, whether they're red, white or blue," National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow told reporters Thursday. "We're not here to bail out pensions from the state governments. We can do that another time."

Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala., said election pressures make it doubtful that a deal could be reached in coming days. "We could have done better, but I think the Democrats don't want anything," he told reporters Thursday. "The secretary, he's wanting a deal, but the speaker's looking down the road, maybe, until after the election."

Trump fueled doubts about a deal Wednesday evening in a tweet that **pointed to the dispute over state and local aid**, arguing that Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer are focused on "BAILING OUT poorly run (and high crime) Democrat cities and states."

Pelosi held her ground on the issue Thursday, saying **state and local governments are the prime funder of schools**. "You're hurting the kids if you're not doing state and local," she said.

Kudlow said before a deal can be reached, Democrats must give up on ideological provisions such as providing health care for undocumented immigrants. "We don't have to solve that now," he said of immigration disputes. "That has nothing to do with COVID."

Pelosi said "good progress" was made this week on funding and plans for virus testing and tracing, vaccine development and distribution. "I think we are just about there," she said. But she said more work is needed to ensure that schools have enough resources to open safely and conduct remote learning. "It only takes money, and really not much more money than they have in the bill," Pelosi said.

Despite narrowing differences on dollar amounts between Pelosi and Mnuchin, committee leaders charged with implementing any agreement still haven't gotten their marching orders. "It's about three or four minutes to midnight on the clock here," Shelby said. "There could always be a miracle, but there's not many around here."

Niels Lesniewski contributed to this report.



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Office of the Acting Borough Manager
350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 861-8405 • Fax (907) 861-8669
George.Hays@matsugov.us

MSB Directive #10 for COVID-19

DATE: November 5, 2020

TO: Members of the Public and All Borough Employees

FROM: George Hays, Acting Borough Manager *George Hays*

RE: **COVID-19 Directive #10 - Public Required to Wear Cloth Face Coverings (Masks) in All Borough Facilities**

1. This directive requires all members of the public to wear face coverings (masks) in Borough Facilities. As stated in MSB Directive #9, dated November, 3, 2020, all employees must wear masks in MSB facilities and it is reasonable and therefore now required that all public, with exceptions listed below, wear masks while in Borough buildings to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
2. In Borough facilities the public are required to follow the actions below to help slow the spread of COVID-19 virus:
 - a. Wear a cloth face covering (mask) over your nose and mouth while indoors in all Borough facilities, unless:
 - 1) You are not moving and you are more than six feet away from all other persons.
 - 2) You have a medical or mental health condition making wearing a face covering contrary to your health or safety.
 - b. Practice social distancing keeping six feet away from others where possible.
 - c. Practice good hygiene including washing hands and/or use of alcohol based hand sanitizer
 - d. Persons with symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 virus may not enter MSB facilities
 - 1) Most common symptoms include: Fever, Dry cough, and Tiredness
 - 2) Serious symptoms include: Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, Chest pain or pressure, Loss of speech or movement

All previous information in MSB Directive #9 remains in effect for Borough employees.

STATE OF ALASKA
DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, which is a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, as posing a significant public health risk;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the initial outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, I declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency due to the imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in Alaska;

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved a major disaster declaration for the State of Alaska to aid in COVID-19 recovery efforts;

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020 Alaska has over 17,000 confirmed cases, and 84 deaths from COVID-19, and these numbers are expected to increase;

WHEREAS, a statewide response under Alaska Statute 18.15.390, coordinated by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), is needed to fully address this condition of public health importance;

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020 the Commissioner of DHSS certified that an outbreak of COVID-19 is occurring in Alaska due to widespread community transmission, in accordance with Alaska Statute 26.23.900(2)(E);

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by Alaska Statute 26.23.020(c), I hereby declare that a condition of public health disaster emergency exists, and this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a public health disaster emergency declaration in order to provide assistance.

FURTHER, the Commissioners of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and DHSS are hereby authorized to use funds made available for these purposes that are considered necessary for public health disaster assistance and response.

FURTHER, Anticipated spending for this disaster: \$1,000,000 from the Disaster Relief Fund pursuant to Alaska Statute 26.23.020(i); CARES Act and other funding appropriated for this fiscal year to respond to, and mitigate the risk arising from, a COVID-19 outbreak.

FURTHER, The Commissioner of the DMVA is authorized to delegate tasks to other State departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Operations Plan. The

Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency

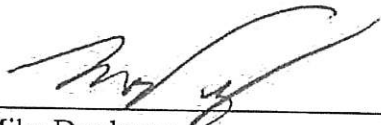
November 6, 2020

Page 2 of 2

Commissioner of DHSS is authorized to exercise the provisions provided under Alaska Statute 18.15.390(1)-(12).

This Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency is effective at 12:01 a.m. on November 16, 2020, and will expire on 11:59 p.m. on December 15, 2020, unless extended by further action of the Governor or the Legislature.

Dated: November 6, 2020

By: 

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Mat-Su Borough COVID-19 Press Conference
November 19, 2020



Mayor Vern Halter
Introduction

Ken Barkely
Director of Emergency Services

George Hays
Acting Borough Manager

Dr. Thomas Quimby
Mat-Su Regional Medical Center

Dr. Randy Trani
Mat-Su Borough School District Superintendent

Elizabeth Ripley
Mat-Su Health Foundation - CEO

George Hays
Q and A

Mayor Vern Halter
Closing



Government Finance Officers Association

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Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting

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**Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Alaska**

For its Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2019

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director/CEO



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of
Achievement
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June 30, 2019

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director/CEO



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Community Development

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-7869 • Fax (907) 861-8635

MEMORANDUM

TO: George Hays, Acting Borough Manager *GH*

THROUGH: Eric Phillips, Community Development Director *EP*

FROM: Lisa Gray, Land Disposal and Foreclosure Specialist

DATE: November 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Tax and LID Foreclosure Sale TS41 Results

The Tax and LID Foreclosure Sale TS41 was successfully concluded with the competitive sealed bid and outcry sales held on October 31, 2020 in the borough gym for those properties approved by the Assembly for sale. The sale was conducted according to Alaska State Statutes (AS 29.45.460-480) and Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code (23.10.220).

Of the forty-seven properties initially eligible for this sale forty-one were repurchased or sold totaling \$1,102,050 in tax assessed value (TAV) that was returned to the tax rolls. Fifteen former record owners repurchased parcels (six pre-brochure and nine sale brochure parcels). Thirty-nine parcels were included the TS41 sale brochure. Twenty-six parcels sold. Two parcels were retained for a public purpose. Four parcel received no bids and will be included in the next over-the-counter sale, if not repurchased.

Tax Assessed Value (TAV) of *all* repurchased and sold sale brochure parcels is \$1,102,050.00

Original parcels available for sale	47	Tax Assessed Value
Assembly Removed	0	n/a
Retained for a Public Purpose	2	n/a
*Repurchased	15	\$431,550
*Sold in Sealed bid sale	17	\$277,400
*Sold in Outcry bid sale	9	\$393,100
Unsold	4	n/a
*TAV total of repurchased and sold in sealed bid & outcry bid sale		\$1,102,050

Brochure sale parcels	39	Tax Assessed Value
*Repurchased	9	\$283,350
*Sealed bid	17	\$277,400
*Outcry bid	9	\$393,100
Unsold	4	n/a
*TAV repurchased, and sold sealed bid and outcry bid sale		\$953,850



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 9, 2020

Contact: Kim Frum
kimberly.a.frum@usps.gov
usps.com/news



U.S. Postal Service Announces New Prices for 2021 *No Increase in Forever Stamp*

WASHINGTON, DC — The United States Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) today of price changes to take effect Jan. 24, 2021.

The proposed prices, approved by the Postal Service Board of Governors, would raise Mailing Services product prices approximately 1.8 percent for First-Class Mail and 1.5 percent for other categories. Although Mailing Services price increases are based on the consumer price index, competitive International Shipping Services prices are primarily adjusted according to market conditions. The governors believe these new rates will keep the Postal Service competitive while providing the agency with needed revenue.

If favorably reviewed by the PRC, the new prices will include no increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, which would remain at 55 cents. The single-piece letter additional ounce price would increase to 20 cents, the metered mail 1-ounce price would increase to 51 cents and the prices of postcard stamps would increase to 36 cents. Single-piece 1-ounce flat prices will remain unchanged at \$1.

The proposed Mailing Services price changes include:

Product	Current Prices	Planned Prices
Letters additional ounce(s)	15 cents	20 cents
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	50 cents	51 cents
Domestic Postcards	35 cents	36 cents
Letters (1 oz.)	55 cents	55 cents (no change)
Flats (1 oz.)	\$1	\$1 (no change)

The Postal Service has some of the lowest letter-mail postage rates in the industrialized world and continues to offer a great value in shipping. Unlike some other shippers, the Postal Service does not add surcharges for fuel, residential delivery or regular Saturday delivery.

The PRC will review the prices before they are scheduled to take effect. The complete Postal Service price filings with prices for all products can be found on the PRC site under the Daily Listings section at prc.gov/dockets/daily. For the Mailing Services filing, see Docket No. R2021-1. For the International Shipping Services filing, see Docket No. CP2021-15. The price change tables are also available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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Please Note: For U.S. Postal Service media resources, including broadcast-quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the [USPS Newsroom](https://usps.com/newsroom). Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/usps), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/usps), [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/usps) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/usps). Subscribe