

# 1990 Issues in Brief

In this short but intense campaign for Governor, we have seen that Alaskans want substance, not a lot of fluff. Wally Hickel would not expect you to vote for him without a complete understanding of where he stands on the issues, and what he would do as your governor.

## ANWR

More than just rhetoric, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could hold an oil reservoir as big as or bigger than Prudhoe Bay. We don't know, because the Federal government has not allowed exploration of it. Wally Hickel was governor when Prudhoe Bay was discovered. He helped to bring it into production. As Secretary of the Interior, Wally pushed to get the oil pipeline built. More than any other candidate, he has the experience and knowledge needed to negotiate the opening of ANWR. He will open ANWR.

## CUTTING STATE SPENDING

Neither of the other two major candidates for governor is interested in cutting the operating budget, yet this must be done, or you will be asked to pay the bills. We can cut back carefully, and without a "meat-axe" approach. Wally Hickel proposes to reduce spending each year until a sustainable level of essential services is reached. And he doesn't plan to lay off workers, but will use natural attrition to reduce their numbers and cross-training to allow state employees to move up. He'll use good management, and he'll institute a hiring freeze. With the windfall generated by high oil prices he'll pay off state debt reducing annual debt service by millions.

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**“Quality of life starts with a job.”**

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## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Alaska is blessed by an abundance of natural resources that can and should be put to use. We must be careful in what we do. We cannot "rape, ruin and run", as man has so often done in the past. But the use of our resources is what drives our economy, the mining industry is a potential economic giant. The gas pipeline is another. West Sak. Fisheries enhancement. We must protect our environment, but we must also develop our resources.

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**“We should listen to the young. If we don't create opportunity, they will leave. We should export our oil not our children.”**

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## PERMANENT FUND

Alaska's savings account belongs to our children and grandchildren, and is to be left alone by the bureaucrats and politicians. The earnings of the Permanent Fund should be used only to inflation proof it and to pay dividends to the people. As governor, Wally Hickel would not accept the recent practice by the legislature of taking deductions from your Permanent Fund Dividend, as they have the past four years, to pay for government programs.

## DAY CARE

The cost of raising a family in today's world nearly dictate that both parents must work. Yet, the cost of day care can easily eat up a second income, but State regulation does not have to always raise day care costs. We need to promote good day care for our children and our elderly.

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**“I was a single parent widowed for two years myself. I had to look for day care in Anchorage, Alaska, before they invented the term, and I'll never forget it.”**

Walter J. Hickel

## COURT SYSTEM

Our family court system is in a shambles. We must restructure to be fair to our children, and the parents of those children. The court system must solve problems, not create them.

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**“I don't think we should be blackmailed. I won't, as Arliss told a group at a Washington, D.C. fundraiser last week, say the 90-10 issue is for Congress to decide.”**

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## EDUCATION

One of the most useful and logical changes we could make to our education system would be to provide early funding. Your School Board should know the State's funding by April 1.

Our student loan program is a system that works, using oil revenues to invest in a renewable resource — higher education. We must be careful to maintain the student loan program so that young Alaskans into the future will have the opportunity to better themselves. We will promote a better teacher to student ratio.

## STATE'S RIGHTS

The statehood act was a compact between the new State of Alaska and the Federal government. It has been a hallmark of Wally Hickel's approach to government that this compact should be honored. Time and again the Federal government has not lived up to its side of the bargain, and has often usurped Alaska's rights. It is time we had a governor who will draw a line in the sand for the Federal government, and bring the decision-making back to Alaska, where it belongs. That means we keep 90% of ANWR revenues or get something else in return.

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**“I support equal pay for equal work across the board.”**

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## SENIOR ISSUES

Alaska has been a leader among states in providing incentives for its senior citizens to stay in Alaska, their home. These include the longevity bonus, the pioneers homes and property tax exemptions that allow seniors to continue to reside at home. As governor, Wally Hickel will see that these programs continue, and that seniors are not used for political purposes, as they were when the legislature short-funded the longevity bonus in 1989.

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**“...Educating our children...Supporting the teacher...Fighting alcohol and drug abuse...Making and keeping health care affordable. And restructuring the family court system so that — in times of stress — the government doesn't add more stress to the lives of children.”**

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## SUBSISTENCE

By executive order from the governor, in compliance with both the state and federal constitutions, we will protect subsistence rights for rural Alaskans. We need only regulate the use of the resource, not the user. We do not need a constitutional amendment. He would also challenge the provisions of Federal law that have tried to divide Alaskans by where they live. He will go to court to protect our Constitution.

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**“We have many great leaders in this world—men and women—who stand for something. Cory Aquino stands for freedom. Margaret Thatcher stands for economic growth, and peace through strength.”**

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**What we need today is someone who will stand up for Alaska, and the promises of statehood.”**

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## TRANSPORTATION

Alaska's road system has suffered from a program of neglect for the past 16 years. We must provide better maintenance of the roads we do have, and begin a program of road construction.

Our Marine Highway system has suffered from the same deferred maintenance. We are faced with either huge costs to maintain the fleet we already have, or even greater costs of replacement. Our Marine Highway must be considered a legitimate function of state government the same as our regular highways — we should prudently take care of it the same as any other vessel.

The Alaska Railroad, as a quasi-governmental agency, should be used to the greatest benefit of the state and the people of Alaska. State government should look again at expansions of the railroad northward, westward and to connect with Canadian rail.

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**“While she was having breakfast in Washington, D.C., Washington was eating our lunch.”**

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## FAMILY VALUES MARIJUANA

Proposition No. 2, the recriminalization of marijuana, should pass on November 6. Both Wally and his wife Ermaalee, who carried a petition booklet and collected signatures for the initiative, will be voting YES.

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**“We must establish an environment of hope, so that those who do choose to have children will feel that they are loved and that the child is loved.”**

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