



Issue 18

*Respectfully acknowledging that we are on the
unceded ancestral and current homelands of the first peoples of Alaska*

May 2024

June 2023 - May 2024: Alaska Peace Center Activities and News

Ju 3 '23 10th Annual **Peace Feast**

Summer '23 **"Peace Presence to End War in Ukraine"**
at Geist Road and University Avenue

Jy 28 – Aug 6 '23 **Tanana Valley State Fair, APC Fair Booth**

Aug 13 '23 **Renewable Energy Fair**, Chena Hot Springs, **APC Table**

Sept 23 '23 **Memorial for Suzanne Rich Osborn** and honoring trees planted for her by UUFF

Oct 28 '23 Solidarity with Native Movement **movies of Palestine and Israel**: hearing local voices, finding action, including beginning Ceasefire Now

Winter '23-'24 **Rallies for Ceasefire and Palestine**

Nov 11 '23 **Armistice Day, Fairbanks Peace Choir and Ceasefire Rally**; photos featured on front page of Fairbanks News-Miner; reported in Nov 18 '23 Veterans For Peace (VFP) semi-weekly e-newsletter

Apr 20 '24 **Earth Day Fair and Market**, Barnett School, **APC Table**

Ongoing:

Borough Bus Sign "3% of U.S. military spending could end starvation on earth."

Coordinating with Juneau and Fairbanks VFP chapters regarding **Nuclear Weapon Free Alaska and Arctic**



APC Potlucks, Presentations and Discussions:

Sept 29 '23 Potluck & Movie: **"Strangest Dream"** a counterpoint to "Oppenheimer", scientist who steps away from U.S. nuclear weapons program when Germany ends their nuclear program

Oct 27 '23 Potluck & Documentary: **"Braver Angels"** holding peaceable discussions on divisive topics

Jan 26 '24 Presentation: movie **"1948: Creation and Catastrophe"** the formation of Israel, and the Nakba – the violent displacement and dispossession of Palestinians from lands newly designated as Israel

Feb 9 '24 Discernment of APC position on Gaza, decision to support call for **Ceasefire Now** in FNSB Assembly and VFP call for **Global Ceasefire Now**

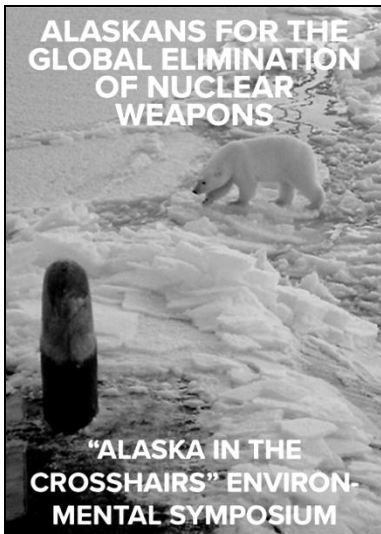
Feb 16, 17 '24 **"Alaska in the Crosshairs: Climate, Arctic Environment and the Resurgence of Nuclear Weapons"** see article pg 2

Feb 23 '24 Documentary: **"Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World"** 2023 voyage of VFP sailboat Golden Rule

Apr 27 '24 Potluck & Movie: **"Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts"** voices of Canadian First Nations people

Upcoming events

June 1, '24 **11th Annual Peace Feast**, Square Dance Pavilion, Pioneer Park, free BBQ, potluck & presentations
Jy 26-Aug 4, '24 **Tanana Valley State Fair, APC Booth**, volunteer, visit, give volunteers a break
Aug 11, '24 **Renewable Energy Fair, APC Table**, Chena Hot Springs
Sept 27, '24 **Resume APC Potluck, Presentation and Conversation** at APC office or announced location
Nov 11, '24 **Armistice Day**, ringing bells and singing songs of Peace, Veterans Memorial Park, 11am



Polar Bear investigates submarine USS Honolulu, 280 miles from the North Pole. Photo: Alphonso Braggs, USN.

Alaska in the Crosshairs: Climate, Arctic Environment & the Resurgence of Nuclear Weapons Feb 16, 17, 2024

By Heather Koponen

Close to 200 participants joined experts from across multiple disciplines to "explore Alaska's unique role as the sole U.S. Arctic state, one of only six U.S. states that have endured nuclear weapons testing, and home to a crucial and world-renowned environmental habitat."

This Symposium is part of an ongoing campaign led by Veterans For Peace (VFP) Chapter 100, Juneau, AK, to raise awareness about the overlap of the climate crisis and the dangers of nuclear weapons.

The campaign is named Point Hope Congress "to honor and recognize the role that the community of Tikigaaq (Point Hope) Alaska played in protesting and halting Project Chariot, a 1958 proposal to detonate up to six hydrogen bombs in Northwest Alaska. The people of Tikigaaq stood up against the then-all-powerful U.S. Atomic Energy Commission..."

Presenters were from across Alaska and the U.S., including Alzred Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope Culture Bearer; Jackie Qataliña Schaeffer, Director of Climate Initiatives, ANTHC; Shelby Nesheim, Point Hope Congress; Firecracker Boys author Dan O'Neill and UAF Dr. Philip Wight reviewing Alaska's nuclear history.

Co-sponsors included: VFP Juneau Ch 100, Point Hope Congress, Point Hope AK, Alaska Peace Center (APC), World Affairs Council. Thanks also go to Summit Day Media and KTOO for tech assistance. APC will continue to be involved in this campaign. See more and sign up for notification of new events at akhopecongress.org

Videos of the presentations will be made available over coming months.

***The Alaska Peace Center is very grateful to all participants, members and donors!
... Donations help fund APC events, partner scholarships, sign on Borough bus #75,
printing, mailing, advertising, office rent, internet and phone ...
Thank You! And we look forward to seeing you in person!***

Financial Support Opportunity

If you already shop at Fred Meyer, please consider their Community Rewards Program. 1% of your purchase cost can be donated to the Alaska Peace Center without increasing your cost or reducing your rewards. To participate, go to fredmeyer.com, log on to your account, click on "Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program" and search for "Alaska Peace Center" or enter our code YD172.

Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Update

By Carrie Farr, AVP facilitator

AVP greatly appreciates Alaska Peace Center support of giving scholarships to people that want to do AVP community workshops and do not have the means.

AVP has been busy in Wildwood Prison in Kenai this year and for many years in the past. Also, AVP started workshops in Hiland Mountain Prison in Eagle River for women last summer, and it has been well received by inmates there. AVP programs at Spring Creek Prison in Seward were discontinued because the short term rentals were extremely high. The need is still there however, and we hope to be able to return there someday soon.

What I like about the workshops I have helped with is: a community gets built after a few short hours (the workshops are 18 hours during Friday evening through Sunday); the facilitators are encouraged to learn from

the participants as well as share knowledge; and the exercises are experiential in nature. Also, the weekend is made up of both fun games that get people laughing (sometimes for the first time in a long while) and serious exercises that often get people sharing deeply in a supportive atmosphere.

We hope to have a series of community workshops in Fairbanks in the next year. There are three levels, basic, advanced, and training for facilitators. We hope to train more people so that we can do more of these workshops in prisons and in communities. We will share dates to the APC email list when we have workshops planned for interested community members. To be added to the APC email list, write to info@alaskapeace.org.

Arctic Encounter Symposium, Anchorage, April 2024

By Bruno Grunau

For anyone who has lived in Alaska long enough, the impacts of climate change are starkly evident—from the thawing permafrost that transforms our landscapes and ways of life, to the increasing frequency of wildfires that threaten our communities and our health. The future world our next generations inherit teeters on a precipice. Addressing these issues requires cooperation and coordination.

Initiatives like the **Arctic Encounter Symposium** are bringing together individuals from around the world to tackle these issues. 2024 was the 10th convening of this Symposium. I have attended the 3 recent gatherings.

Historically, it is rare to find organizations that prioritize Indigenous voices. The approach by Western countries is often to dominate discussions and dictate needs without genuinely listening to the affected communities. In early years of this Symposium, the messaging was a plea for scientific, government and industry leaders to collaborate with Indigenous communities, to co-develop solutions in fields like energy, housing, water and sanitation.

In my experience, one needs to ask, "You've been here for 10,000 years. How does this team merge traditional knowledge with 21st-century technology to solve this problem?" I have seen this lead to successful, innovative housing and energy solutions, which have been developed and built together with these communities. The best solutions come from those who have thrived in these landscapes for millennia.

At the 2024 gathering the change in tone was clear. We no longer needed to convince others of the importance of prioritizing Indigenous voices. This approach is now at the forefront of meaningful work in the Arctic and addressing climate issues in these communities. **Those not starting with Indigenous voices first are notably behind the curve.**

This shift in tone is a testament to the recognized value, power and presence of Indigenous voices in these conversations, currently expressed by Indigenous people as:

"Nothing About Us Without Us"

Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone – Update

By Alan Batten and Maia Genaux

Global events remind us that we are living continuously under the threat of a global nuclear holocaust. The Alaska Peace Center (APC) is continuing to work with Juneau VFP chapter 100 to support the movement to create an Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ).

Five multi-national NWFZs already exist throughout the world, plus the Antarctic, Seabed, Outer Space and Moon Treaties. These treaties ban development, manufacturing, control, possession, testing, stationing or transporting of nuclear weapons in the given area.

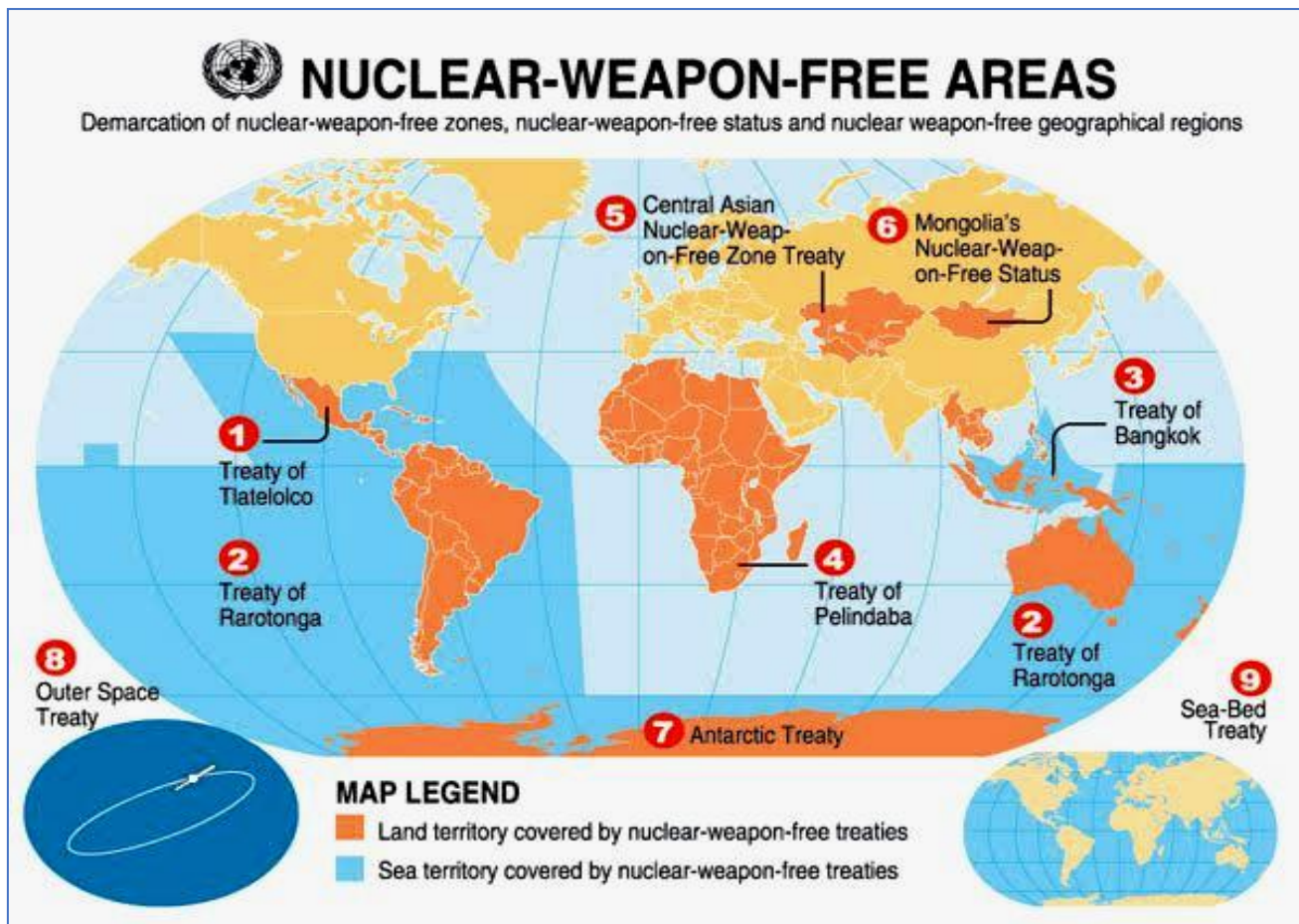
Supporters of an Arctic NWFZ include Canadian Pugwash, the InterAction Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Fairbanks and Juneau Veterans For Peace, and President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union.

Moving Alaska toward an Arctic NWFZ is already codified in Alaska law

APC recognizes the existing **1986 Alaska Statutes “Sec. 44.99.120 Declaration of nuclear freeze policy”,** and **“Sec. 44.99.125 Implementation of policy”,** defining the intended effect on State and regional management and governance, such as: .125 (a) *“The governor shall conduct the affairs of state and carry out state programs in conformity with this policy.”*

See < www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#44.99.115 >, scroll down to Sections 120 and 125.

2022 Nuclear Weapons Free Areas (source 11/27/22 [Sunday Times 2](#))



Gaza and Global Ceasefire Now

By Alan Batten and Maia Genaux

Gaza: In the last two newsletters we published articles examining our concerns about the Russia-Ukraine war. Our concerns persist. Very little has changed, except that now U.S. popular awareness has expanded to include the brutal armed conflict in Israel and Palestine.

As of this writing, over 34,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli military action, greater than the population of the City of Fairbanks. Despite strong words (but little action) from President Biden, these killings continue at a horrifying pace, thanks, in part, to the continuous stream of U.S. military aid. From the outset, the U.S. has been a co-belligerent in this war effort, providing diplomatic cover and military supplies at taxpayer expense. That makes us morally and legally responsible.

The violence committed by Hamas on October 7 is horrifying and must be condemned, but we must remember that Palestinians, especially those in Gaza, have been living under increasing levels of repression for 75 years. Jeremy Lyle Rubin wrote in *"The Nation"*: "It is not only that the Israelis or their patron, the Americans, determines which Palestinian lives or dies today or yesterday or tomorrow. It is that they—we—decide how they get to live or die. With or without shelter or food. With or without gainful employment or a loved one or the capacity to move across this or that otherwise invisible, arbitrary line. It is impossible to connote in a single paragraph the depths of this humiliation, of having one's bare existence leashed to the whims of an undeserving, self-satisfied master."

The region needs an immediate permanent ceasefire to provide space for a long-term solution that does not return people to pre-October 7 "business as usual" tensions, fears and abuses. The peoples and governments need safe space to heal from historical trauma, and then sit down with each other in good faith, sincerely seeking a way of living with each other, wherein all have equal rights and protection. A two-state solution no longer seems possible. The Israeli wall and the settlements on the West Bank have left almost no land to create a second state. Many Israeli and Palestinian peace activists have long worked for a single state solution, as explicated by Samer Elchahabi of arabcenterdc.org and others.

The region needs a permanent ceasefire starting immediately.

"Every war eventually ends with diplomacy. The question is how long the killing goes on before the diplomats stop it."

Phyllis Bennis, op-ed, Populist Progressive, 1 April 2022.

Global Ceasefire Now: The Alaska Peace Center consistently advocates for diplomacy instead of weaponry. We recognize that this stance is not supported by many individuals affected by ongoing conflicts. Nor by the many who profit from the machinery of war.

We support the right to peacefully protest. We oppose U.S. military, economic and political aggression against peoples and governments around the world. The \$800 Billion taxpayer's Pentagon funding would be better used to uphold the well-being of all peoples and lands, instead of the ongoing devastation of families, environment and infrastructure. The Alaska Peace Center stands with Veterans For Peace in calling for:

Global Ceasefire Now



Just Transition Summit, Juneau AK, March 2024.
Uplifting the message of U.S. militarism harm.



Fairbanks Open Radio – KWRK FM-LP

By Chris Friar and Anna Godduhn

2024 marks nine years broadcasting from KWRK-LP 90.9 FM in Fairbanks and seven years live streaming!

However: Our FM broadcast frequency has been overwhelmed by a high-power FM station moving in and drowning out our broadcast at 90.9FM. See updates at KWRK.org and Facebook as we shift to 101.7FM.

Affiliation with Pacifica Network plus local production has kept Fairbanks Open Radio truly independent, broadcasting justice-oriented perspectives on current events, with cultural and historical context, interspersed with great music. Our shoestring budget is completely listener funded, enabling the only station in the state that is un beholden to shameless monied interests.

Stalwart and new souls Anna Godduhn, Flyn Ludington, Sharon Alden, Tom Green, and Dale Woitas keep us on the air 24 hours per day, with some new programming described below. Birch Pavelsky continues to wrangle our finances and work the phones, and Chris Friar provides vital technical, secretarial, and generalist functions.

A new Leftist Literature Library is near the door. We just ask folks, please leave a note if you borrow materials.

Local Programs

- Birch Pavelsky continues to produce compelling **"Investigations"**, local interviews on issues such as ore hauling, mining, and air quality, and global issues as well, Tu 7am, Wed 3pm, Th 3:30am, and Su 2pm. If he hasn't produced a new show, we sometimes air other investigative stories.
- **"Fairbanks Open Mic"** Wed 9pm invites Fairbanks and Alaska; occasional features so far include kwrk.org/asymmetricmoose, kwrk.org/movetoamend, and kwrk.org/fairbanksprotectivewitness
- DJ Daniel provides an eclectic mix of music and chit-chat with **"Hammer Lane"** Th 8-10pm.
- DJ Kelly Green leads a chronological review of nine decades of popular music through **"Electric Avenue"**, live in-studio production, airing Fri 6pm.
- Via **"Radiodrome"**, Alex O'Blivion plays music from around the world with a healthy sprinkling of nerdy facts and trivia, produced live on Sa 12-2pm.
- As our resident NASA Solar System Ambassador, Hannah Hill produces **"QuantaRadio"** with space science updates set to a sweet soundtrack live from the studio, Sa 2-4pm.
- We continue to broadcast variably evergreen music and talk shows locally produced in the past, including **"Caffeine with Kunaan"** Su 11am, **"Chopped Liver"** Tu 10 pm and Su 4pm, **"Coffee and Quaq"** Wed 1pm and Sa 5pm, **"Encounters"** Tu 10:30am and Su 3:30pm, and **"Soulful Sunday Mix"** Su 7-10pm.

*** Fairbanks Open Radio needs labor and financial support *** Please leave us a message at (907) 374-0577 or admin@kwrk.org to volunteer. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we cheerfully accept tax-free contributions by cash, check, and the PayPal Giving Fund. Thank you!

Fairbanks Peace Choir

By Robyn

The Fairbanks Community Peace Choir held a spring concert April 27 '24, with 115 people in attendance.

The choir generally has between 30 and 40 people and it is open to singers of all levels. The group sings secular songs – folk songs and innovative, new music, invoking the themes of peace, civil rights, happiness, and joy.

The group was founded in 2008 by Suzanne Rich Osborn, her husband, Phil Osborn, and with

great influence and assistance from Susan Grace and Gianna Drogheo. Flynn Ludington has returned to conduct the choir after several years under the direction of Gianna Drogheo, who has moved out of state.

The choir will re-assemble in September, rehearsing in the building of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks on Pike's Landing Road. Watch for posters around town or check out the Facebook page.

Chapter 146 Veterans For Peace Revitalization and Active Duty Outreach

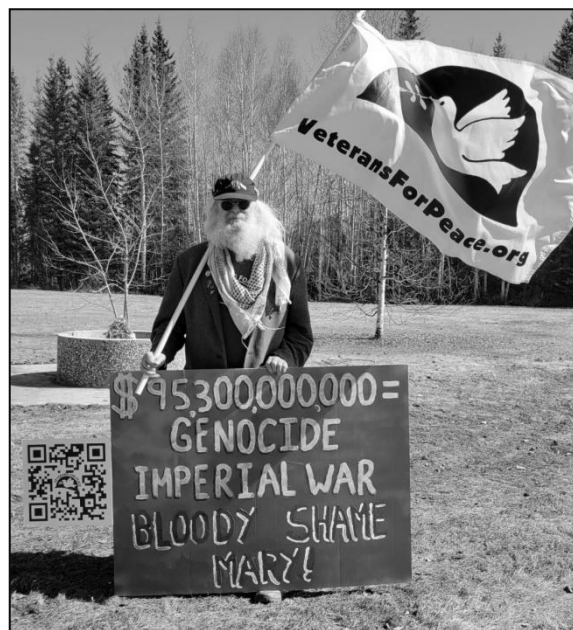
By Rob Mulford

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University reports: "The U.S. post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and Pakistan have taken a tremendous human toll on those countries. As of September 2021, an estimated 432,093 civilians in these countries have died violent deaths as a result of the wars. As of May 2023, an estimated 3.6-3.8 million people have died indirectly in post-9/11 war zones. Civilian deaths have also resulted from U.S. post-9/11 military operations in Somalia and other countries."

As I write, the death toll in Gaza stands at approximately thirty-five thousand with millions facing death by the weaponization of starvation.

The U.S. is more than complicit in this genocide. Advances in weapons technology including AI have made genocide more probable than possible.

Never has the need for veterans to stand up and say, "No", been more necessary.



I have decided to end my hiatus from activism and do my job as VFP Chapter 146's chapter contact, by actively seeking recruits with an emphasis on active duty service members. I will need help in this endeavor.

Rob Mulford 907-457-5578 robmulford-1979@runbox.com



2024 Update of BEAN POLL RESULTS

By Maia Genaux

The Bean Poll, created by Heather Koponen, is an opportunity to show how you would like your federal income tax dollars distributed, instead of as prescribed by the federal budget.

You get 20 beans, representing the federal taxes you pay, including income deductions for Social Security, etc. The question: How would you choose to distribute your 20 beans among the 6 categories we offered, listed below?

We offered this Bean Poll at the TVS Fair and the Renewable Energy Fair in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (2020 Covid). It is just an informal social poll, seeking public participation, opinions and conversation. Here we offer a moderately defensible effort to interpret the '22-'23 results, in the context of the US 2022 Federal Budget.

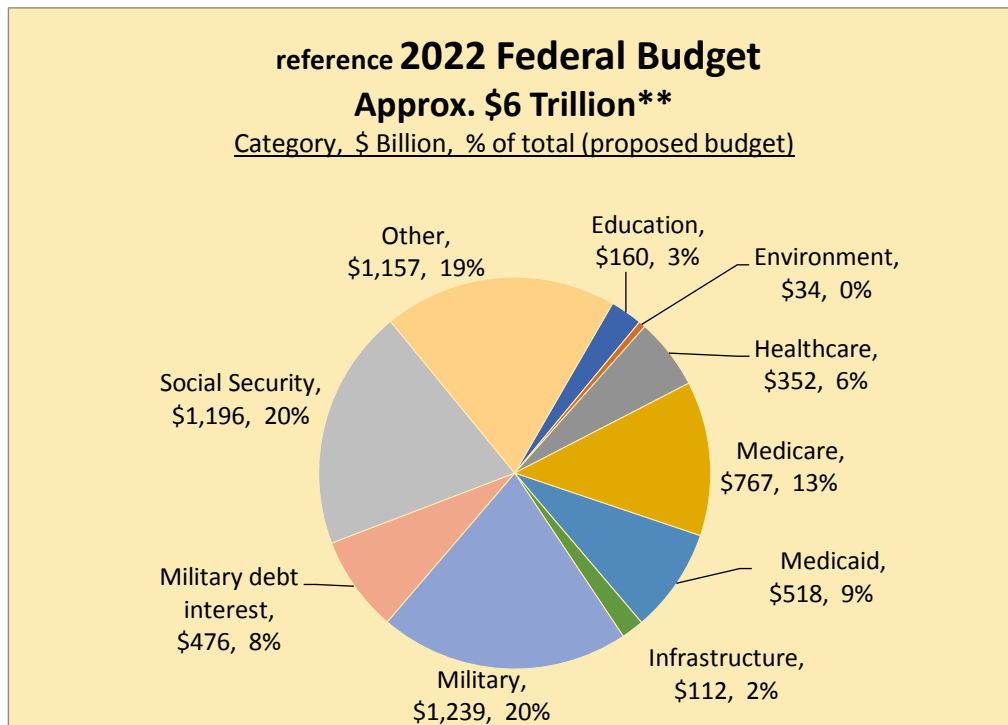
The results for 2019 2021 2022 2023 2024*

# of beans:	3,260	5,260	7,720	14,680	780
Environment	23%	23%	22%	21%	25%
Healthcare	24%	21%	20%	21%	21%
Education	27%	20%	24%	21%	28%
Infrastructure	15%	17%	14%	15%	14%
Military	6%	9%	12%	12%	4%
Other	5%	10%	8%	10%	7%

* 2024 partial, Earth Day only

A summary of the total 2022 federal spending, by our categories could look like:

- 1) Other 39% (w/ Social Security)
- 2) Military 28% (w/ interest on debt)
- 3) Healthcare 28% (w/ Medicare and Medicaid)
- 4) Education 3%
- 5) Infrastructure 2%
- 6) Environment 0-1%



** Proposed \$6.011T, details at "Bean Poll" at AlaskaPeace.org; Actual \$6.3T, details at [cbo.gov/publication/58888](https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58888)

The Alaska Peace Center is committed to nonviolent conflict resolution and to working for peace within ourselves, our communities and our world. APC opened in 2005. It is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Board members and officers:

Alan Batten, Carrie Farr, Ajaya Toney
 Violet Toney, Karl Franke, Maia Genaux



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