

# **Fireweed Collective**

## **Fairbanks Hub**

### **Young People's Policy Platform**

**Our demands for a livable Fairbanks**




**Sign on to show you're with us!**  
**Add your voice!**

# **FIREWEED COLLECTIVE**

**YOUNG ALASKANS ORGANIZING  
FOR A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

Contact Us: [fireweedcollectiveak@gmail.com](mailto:fireweedcollectiveak@gmail.com)

 **Fireweed Collective AK**



# Support the Young People's Policy Platform

## Fireweed Collective Fairbanks Hub

As young Alaskans, we see an *urgent need for local change* to address the issues facing our community. Many of the issues that make Fairbanks a challenging place to live fall most harshly on young adults. We believe that change is possible and when we band together, we can build the people power needed to achieve it. Below are summaries of some of the issues we have heard matter most to young people:

**Climate Action:** Climate change is already impacting the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), meanwhile, the majority conservative FNSB Assembly dismantled an effective climate action & adaptation plan to prepare our community for climate impacts. We believe that the FNSB must be proactive in creating climate solutions by passing & implementing an ambitious Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to reduce climate pollution and ensure we are resilient to climate changes.

**Housing:** Housing in the FNSB is under-available, overpriced, low quality, and out-of-date. The community also lacks low barrier shelters and cold shelters for houseless residents as well as accessible public spaces and community oriented infrastructure. We believe that the local government should work to support affordable, accessible, and adequate (climate-appropriate) housing for all.

**Transportation:** Transportation systems in the FNSB favor automobiles and do not support alternatives or accessibility, burdening individual residents and causing social fragmentation. We believe that the Borough should actively promote a more diverse transportation mix with safe, prevalent and reliable bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, and bus routes throughout the entire FNSB.

**2LGBTQIA+ Rights:** Queer Fairbanksans currently have no protections against housing, finance, public accommodation, or employment discrimination at the state or local level. We believe in a community where everyone has equal rights and protections and queer, trans, and gender-diverse joy is embraced and celebrated. We support housing and employment non-discrimination bills as well as efforts to ensure local schools are safe and welcoming to 2LGBTQIA+ youth.

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# Climate Change

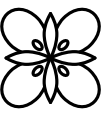
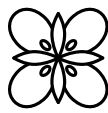
## Local Issues:

- Climate change is already impacting the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB)
- The majority conservative FNSB Assembly dismantled an effective climate action and adaptation plan to adapt and protect our community from climate impacts
- Conservative FNSB Assembly members refuse to engage young voters who will be most affected by climate change

## Vision:

- The FNSB must be proactive in creating climate solutions, not reactive when issues arise
- Immediate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of FNSB facilities and services
- Developing local resilience to climate change impacts

## Fireweed Supports:

- Passing and implementing an ambitious Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) including a greenhouse gas reduction goal
  - Decarbonizing and electrifying Borough facilities to help lead the energy transition in Fairbanks
  - Using tools such as Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning to improve transportation or local fossil fuel consumption
  - FNSB using climate conscious guidelines in new construction updates/renovations to existing Borough buildings
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# Transportation



## Local Issues:

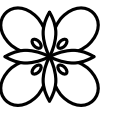
- Transportation systems in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) favor automobiles and do not support alternatives or accessibility
- This system burdens individual residents and causes social fragmentation
- Lack of adequate public transportation in the FNSB impedes access to food, work, and health care

## Vision:

- Safe, prevalent and reliable bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, and bus routes throughout the entire FNSB
- Maintain affordable or free public transit
- Public use areas and trails are maintained and cherished

## Fireweed supports:

- Expanding MACS hours of operation & route coverage, improving payment systems, and disseminating informational resources to community members to promote use
  - Fair compensation & training for MACS drivers
  - The proposed FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan with a focus on continued public trail accessibility to support meaningful time outdoors
  - Projects to improve pedestrian safety like sidewalk repairs, crosswalks, and winter snow and ice clearing for pedestrian, bus, and bicycle use with increased partnerships for bike repair stations
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# Housing

## Local Issues:

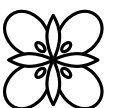
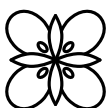
- Housing in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) is under-available, overpriced, and out-of-date
- The FNSB lacks low barrier shelters and cold shelters for houseless residents
- The FNSB has limited accessible public spaces and community oriented infrastructure (i.e. public restrooms, walkable neighborhoods)

## Vision:

- Affordable, accessible, and adequate (climate-appropriate) housing for all
- The FNSB helps provide resources so that everyone can safely and easily meet their basic needs
- The FNSB supports additional beautiful and intentional community gathering spaces

## Fireweed supports:

- Leveraging community assets such as the Cold Climate Housing Research Center
- Incentivizing new housing construction & replacement of outdated units by leveraging the Borough's land use powers, such as using cooperative development agreements in land sales
- Efforts to regulate market prices to accommodate all income levels
- Collaborating with the City of Fairbanks however possible to establish a low-barrier cold weather shelter, designated camp areas for people who are houseless, and providing public restrooms





# 2LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS


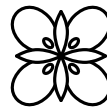
## **Local Issues:**

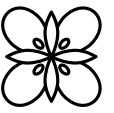
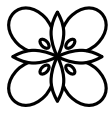
- No protections against housing, finance, public accommodation, or employment discrimination currently exist at the state or local levels
- Our community is not immune to the anti-trans and homophobic actions and rhetoric harming the rest of the United States
- High rates of violence and self-harm exist among our 2LGBTQIA+ neighbors

## **Vision:**

- A community where everyone has equal rights and protections
- The FNSB School District is a safe and nurturing space for queer, trans, and gender-diverse youth
- Queer, trans, and gender-diverse joy is embraced and celebrated in our community

## **Fireweed supports:**

- FNSB elected officials and candidates that support housing and employment non-discrimination bills and push to add this to the FNSB Legislative Priorities list for the state
  - FNSB elected officials and candidates - particularly those on the School Board - who support schools that are safe and welcoming to 2LGBTQIA+ youth
  - Updating the code of conduct for FNSB employees, assembly members, and commissioners
  - Expansion of the City of Fairbanks Diversity Council and support and implementation of their recommendations
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# Additional Priorities for Fairbanks Fireweed Collective

**Criminal/Restorative Justice** - Policing by both the Fairbanks Police Department and Alaska State Troopers is overly violent and discriminatory based on race and class. We believe in holding police accountable and investing in alternative systems for crisis response, mental and cultural health, community accountability, and rehabilitation.

**Education** - FNSB School District class sizes are increasing and teachers face challenging conditions and insufficient benefits. The FNSB Assembly has failed to prioritize a budget for the School Board that will even maintain the status quo. We believe the FNSB School Board (and Assembly) can better work to support and prioritize students and teachers, as well as advance true histories rooted deeply in decolonial Indigenous values.

**Food Security** - Cost of living increases and reliance on long supply chains greatly impact the FNSB. We believe that the FNSB can continue to work to encourage and support local food production, availability, and diversity by lowering barriers to production. Furthermore, we reject the unsustainable and anti-relational harvesting of wild foods, for instance by commercial fishing or trophy hunting, and we advance Lower Tanana Dene stewardship of these lands.

**Waste and Recycling** - The Central Recycling Facility is limited in its capacity (as are local landfills). We believe that the FNSB can prioritize supporting increased recycling capacity and explore waste reduction methods such as composting currently landfilled brush and trees.



**Sign on to show your support of the  
Young People's Policy Platform for Fairbanks!**

