Local Lawmakers Host Open House

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Diana Gish/KMXT

Kodiak's Legislative Information Office held a holiday open house this week. Senator Gary Stevens and Representative Allen Austerman were both on hand to great the public. The two state lawmakers are gearing up to start the next legislative session in January.

Austerman explained why he wanted to take part in Tuesday's event.

-- (LIO Open 1 "As public servants ... be doing this.")

Stevens agreed that it was important to be available to hear what people in Kodiak have to say.

(LIO Open 2 "Well we try ... issue they want.")

Stevens and Austerman each listened to some of those issues over cookies and hot cider during the informal gathering.

The LIO acts as an information conduit between state government and the local population. Stevens says that many Kodiak residents go there when they have a problem.

-- (LIO Open 3 "You'd be surprised ...what they think.")

Austerman, on the other hand, thinks more people should take advantage of the services available at the downtown office.

-- (LIO Open 4 "Not as much ... the administrations.")

Austerman mentionied the LIO's ability to deliver messages to anyone in State Government including blanket messages that reach all of the state legislators.

On their return to Juneau after the holidays, Kodiak's Republican Senator and Representative will start reviewing Governor Sean Parnell's new budget.