

2014



RESOLUTIONS

Approved by the AML Membership

November 2013

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Alaska Municipal League

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ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-01

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING INCREASES FOR STATEWIDE INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, due to changes in MAP-21, funding for non-National Highway System (NHS) roads (other than those within an MPO such as Anchorage) has been reduced by more than 50%; and

WHEREAS, communities are likely to experience a severe reduction in transportation funding and significant delays for projects that remain in the STP; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has continued to lobby for the passage of HB 122 – An Act making a special appropriation to the transportation infrastructure fund; and providing for an effective date; and

WHEREAS, to the repair, replacement and maintenance of all transportation modes throughout the state; to include roads, highways, bridges, trails, marine highway system, airports and airstrips.

WHEREAS, after 4 years, that bill has failed to gain support from the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, transportation infrastructure is crucial to the State and to each and every municipality, as failure to be able to get people, goods and services into or out of Alaska and its political subdivisions is the difference between success and failure; and

WHEREAS, any economic development we might encourage (gasline, oil, tourism, fishing, logging, etc.), will impair our efforts if we don't have the transportation modes of our state maintained in an acceptable manner; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are concerned with what appears to be a lack of resources directed to the repair, replacement and upgrades of all of our transportation modes; and

WHEREAS, ADOT must prioritize projects subject to declining revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Governor and the Legislature to include significant funding increases to the repair, replacement and upgrades of all transportation modes throughout the State; to include roads, highways, bridges, trails, marine highway system, airports and airstrips.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013 by the Alaska Municipal League.

Signed: Karen R. Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-02

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE UNFUNDED LIABILITY OF THE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, pursuant to the State's Constitution, established the Alaska Public Employees' Retirement System and the Alaska Teachers' Retirement System as set forth in Alaska Statutes 39.35, 14,25, and 39.30; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Retirement Management Board was established by Alaska Statute 37.10 to serve as trustee to the assets of the State's retirement systems; and

WHEREAS, the combined unfunded liabilities of these two retirement systems have grown from approximately \$6.9 billion in 2005, when the defined benefit systems were closed to entry by new participants, to approximately \$11.9 billion by June 2012; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the annual amount of state assistance required to manage and pay down the combined unfunded liabilities of the two retirement systems will soon exceed \$1 billion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League hereby supports the Alaska Retirement Management Boards' request that the Legislature appropriate funds to enable the systems to responsibly meet their retirement liability obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully requests the Legislature, with the support of the Governor, appropriate, in addition to state assistance, a minimum sum of \$2 billion dollars in this upcoming Legislative session, toward the retirement of the unfunded liabilities of the Alaska Public Employees' and Alaska Teachers' Retirement Systems.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013 by the Alaska Municipal League.

Signed: Karen R Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM CURRENTLY IN PLACE, WITH A \$25 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL TO ADDRESS ENERGY NEEDS

WHEREAS, the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Constitution contemplate strong and vibrant local government units, exercising maximum local control; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League commends the Governor and the Legislature for approving and funding the Municipal Revenue Sharing program, which established a \$60 million annual revenue sharing program; and

WHEREAS, local governments are experiencing significant financial pressure resulting from inflation, high energy costs and a faltering economy; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, annual Revenue Sharing was \$141 million, at a time when the price of oil was approximately \$20 per barrel; and

WHEREAS, maintaining \$60 million in annual Revenue Sharing is vital to the health of Alaskan communities in providing essential local services and/or keeping property taxes down.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to maintain the annual \$60 million Revenue Sharing payments for the fiscal years 2014 and beyond, as a vital component of the state Operating Budget, plus a supplemental of \$25 million to help with energy costs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-05

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT ANY EXISTING OR FUTURE STATE LEGISLATION OR RULE THAT REQUIRES AN IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATION COST, SHALL BE FULLY FUNDED BY THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY.

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates require the expenditure of funds without providing sufficient state resources to do so, and/or reduce the authority of cities and boroughs to raise revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes unfunded mandates have a detrimental impact on municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, every year, bills are introduced by the Alaska State Legislature that contain unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, one governmental entity should not be able to freely spend the money of another governmental entity without consequence or assessment of costs versus benefits; and

WHEREAS, in light of recent budget cuts and further fiscal uncertainties faced by cities and boroughs throughout the state, we feel this practice must stop; and

WHEREAS, the League is not passing judgment on the merits of these proposed unfunded mandates; we simply ask the Legislature to fund its own ideas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that any existing or future state legislation or rule that requires an implementation of operation cost, shall be fully funded by the implementing agency.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-06

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ADDRESS THE LONG-TERM ENERGY NEEDS OF ALL ALASKANS WITH A STATEWIDE ENERGY PLAN AND SUPPORT THE ENERGY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE IMMEDIATE AND NECESSARY RELIEF

WHEREAS, the high and volatile price of energy remains a pervasive and serious issue for families, small businesses and communities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the State benefits greatly from the high price of Alaska North Slope Crude oil, yet those prices negatively impact the majority of rural communities and what they pay for energy; and

WHEREAS, in June 2010, HB 306 was signed into law declaring a state energy policy, recognizing the state's economic prosperity is dependent on available, reliable and affordable residential, commercial and industrial energy; and

WHEREAS, the State is in need of a comprehensive statewide energy plan that addresses the long-term needs and provides affordable energy to all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, energy assistance, alternative energy and energy efficiency policies and programs can provide support and some relief while a long-term solution is being considered.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls upon the Governor and Legislature to take immediate steps to address the need for a statewide energy plan, and supports the policies and programs that provide the immediate and necessary assistance: The Power Cost Equalization Program; the Energy Assistance Programs; the Bulk Fuel and Power System Upgrade Programs; the Alternative Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs; and Weatherization, Rebate and Energy Loan Programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-06ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-07

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SECURE FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FROM ALASKA OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO SHARE THESE REVENUES WITH ALASKAN IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Alaska's Washington D.C. delegation is attempting to push through an amendment that would give Alaska and other coastal states a significant cut of any offshore oil and gas revenues; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates there is between 25 to 27 billion barrels of oil in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, in addition to deposits in other offshore areas of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently collects rent on leases in the Outer Continental Shelf whether they are producing or not and collects royalties in areas where oil and gas production is occurring; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is the only state that receives no money on oil produced offshore; and

WHEREAS, pending Congressional amendments, would request Alaska receiving 37.5% of royalties on offshore production; and

WHEREAS, if Alaska had the same 37.5% revenue sharing from offshore oil and gas development as it applies to the Gulf of Mexico, our state would have received \$900 million from the 2008 federal offshore lease sale for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's coastal communities, impacted by development in the Arctic, will realize impacts on their services, roads, hospitals, airports, etc., in addition to potential environmental and cultural impacts; and

WHEREAS, as the State is supportive of receiving money based on offshore oil and gas development within their jurisdiction, the municipalities of Alaska also are supportive of a portion of the lease money being shared with local governments impacted by oil and gas exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior will have a lease sale for the Chukchi Sea in 2016 and the Beaufort Sea in 2017 and other offshore lease sales could be imminent over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League strongly supports efforts of the Alaska Congressional Delegation to secure federal revenue sharing from Alaska offshore oil and gas development and urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass legislation to share these revenues with Alaskan impacted communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R. Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-08

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRY AND UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
COLLABORATION TO IDENTIFY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF
FISHERIES, SEAFOOD AND MARITIME SECTORS**

WHEREAS, future workforce needs will require continued training and education to stay competitive; and

WHEREAS, helping to identify career paths and ladders to secure rewarding, lifelong livelihoods, will strengthen and smooth economic fluctuations in coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the fisheries, seafood and maritime sectors are vital industries of Alaska's economy, and especially important to the viability of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, baseline workforce and industry data is required to develop an analysis of occupations to assess future needs and create a labor supply capable of meeting high-paying, high-demand occupations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Legislature to support the cooperative efforts of the industry and University of Alaska to understand the current and future workforce needs of Alaska's fisheries, seafood and maritime sectors.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R. Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-09

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA PURCHASE AND MAINTAIN BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION SOFTWARE AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO ALASKA COMMUNITIES AND REGIONS

WHEREAS, a strong and diversified business base provides the foundation for a healthy and prosperous economy; and

WHEREAS, the most effective means to improve a state's economic vitality is to help existing businesses grow and expand; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has limited and isolated sources of information about the attitudes, needs and challenges of businesses in their communities and regions, making it difficult to provide the technical assistance, finance, marketing and other needs businesses may have; and

WHEREAS, communities across the U.S. use Business Retention and Expansion programs that include software to interview, document and share information pertaining to local and regional businesses, thereby gaining an improved understanding about the health of the businesses, why they stay in their community, what might cause them to leave, and what obstacles they face for expansion; and

WHEREAS, many communities in Alaska, both large and small, would benefit from a coordinated Business Retention and Expansion Program; and

WHEREAS, coordinating this type of program is commonly a State economic development function; and

WHEREAS, there are commercial software programs that provide standardized core questions, as well as allow for customized local questions; and

WHEREAS, these software packages provide a proven platform for documenting and sharing information, as well as a means to gather and aggregate information from businesses across the state; and

WHEREAS, providing software for communities to use is commonly a state economic development function; and

WHEREAS, if the State of Alaska provided this software, small and large communities could more easily gather information about their business opportunities and obstacles; and

WHEREAS, this information can be used to resolve immediate challenges through targeted business support, resulting in more robust local, regional, and state business climates; and

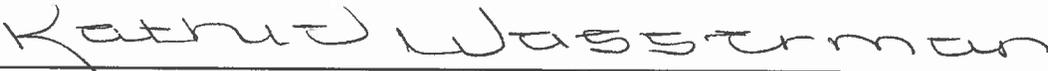
WHEREAS, this information can be used to inform local, regional and statewide strategies that support the retention, expansion and attraction of businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League asks the State to purchase and implement and maintain a Business Retention and Expansion Software package; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the State make this software available for all communities to use.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: 
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-10

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS (ARDORs) IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Governor saw value enough in the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program, to maintain the funding allocations in the FY14 budget; and

WHEREAS, HB 71, passed the House with unanimous support; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR program is widely seen as providing a unique set of economic development services that are not met by other institutions; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR program is the only body for coordinating cross border economic development research and projects for mutual beneficial opportunities on a regional and statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, the ARDORs promote a strong and diversified business base which provides the foundation for a healthy and prosperous economy, and the most effective means to improve a state's economic vitality is to help existing businesses grow and expand; and

WHEREAS, ARDORs are a conduit between communities and the State DCCED agency; and

WHEREAS, losing this program negatively impacts local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Legislature to pass a stand-alone ARDOR bill during the 2014 session.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-12

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ELIMINATION OF THE TERMINATION STUDY REQUIREMENT FOR THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS)

WHEREAS, the most Alaskan municipalities entered into a participation agreement with the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, the PERS system has evolved from being fully funded to being underfunded by billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed SB125 in 2008, which established that PERS is a consolidated system and that the combined defined benefit and defined contribution salary base would be required to pay down the unfunded obligation and sustain predictable, affordable and stable employer rates; and

WHEREAS, SB125 set a minimum contribution for employers to pay to ensure a reasonably growing, system-wide salary base upon which to pay off the unfunded obligation; and

WHEREAS, employers have contributed more into the PERS system since 2008 than even the actuaries had projected; and

WHEREAS, language added to SB125 relating to termination costs, removes equitable and consistent application of state law; and

WHEREAS, municipal employers desire operational flexibility to effectively manage and deliver programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Legislature to eliminate the termination study requirement.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: *Karen R Crane*
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: *Kathie Wasserman*
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

RESOLUTION #2014-13

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS) CONTRIBUTION RATE OF 22% FOR EMPLOYERS

WHEREAS, the PERS system has evolved from being fully funded to being underfunded by billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed SB125 in 2008, which modified AS 39.35.255 to establish an employer rate of 22% for PERS non-state employers to address the unfunded liability; and

WHEREAS, since that time, non-state employers have been paying the established rate on both defined benefit and defined contribution salaries; and

WHEREAS, an increase to this rate will have significant financial impacts on the municipalities and other non-state PERS employers; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the employer rate would create financial burden on local governments throughout the State which could result in reduction of public services and/or increase in local tax burden; and

WHEREAS, a rate increase would have a disproportionate financial impact on local government costs with minimal impacts on reducing the State PERS liability.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Legislature to continue the PERS contribution rate at 22%.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 22nd day of November, 2013.

Signed: *Karen R Crane*
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: *Kathie Wasserman*
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2014-14**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA STATE PARKS

WHEREAS, Alaska's state park system enables everyone, regardless of age, background, economic, or social circumstances to enjoy the state's natural beauty and experience a wide range of recreational experiences; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Park system manages over 120 sites that contain over 3.2 million acres and receive approximately 5.4 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 80% of these state park visitors are Alaskan residents; and

WHEREAS, the state's population increase and growth has led to an increase in state park visitation; and

WHEREAS, the state park system offers 60 public use cabins, 2500 camp sites, 128 trailheads, 37 boat launches, and 340 toilets; and

WHEREAS, the state park system contributes to Alaska's economy by providing opportunities for local businesses such as tour operators, fishing guides, hunting guides, aircraft charters, water taxis, lodges, bed and breakfasts, car rentals, nature guides and other tourism related companies; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2014 a shortfall in funding state park employee wages required 18 state park positions to not be filled including 4 permanent positions and 14 temporary seasonal positions; and

WHEREAS, the number of state park ranger positions has been reduced by 25% in the last 25 years; and

WHEREAS, some parks, such as Kachemak Bay State Park, Alaska's first State Park covering 400,000 acres with over 80 miles of trails, does not have even a dedicated park ranger assigned to manage this spectacular area; and

WHEREAS, there is no funding mechanism for replacing aging, worn out equipment that state park employees use to maintain facilities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Municipal League urges Governor Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature to restore the state park personal services funding shortfall, provide additional funding to address deferred maintenance of park facilities and replace equipment, and provide funding to restore ranger positions that have been eliminated throughout the state.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE 22nd DAY OF November, 2013.

Signed: Karen R Crane
Karen Crane, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: Kathie Wasserman
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

