

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-1**

**A resolution in support of the Alaska Municipal Leagues stated principles.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League was founded in 1950 to “secure general and municipal legislation at the state and federal levels which will be beneficial to the municipalities and inhabitants thereof, and to oppose legislation injurious thereto”; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has developed principles with which it evaluates State and federal action; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports the Alaska Constitution’s mandate to “provide for maximum local self-government”; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports policies that reduce tax burdens on local government and reimburse for State-mandated exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports State revenue-sharing as an investment in and support for municipal governance; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports adequate funding for basic public services and infrastructure, such as: education, public safety, health, emergency services, and transportation that is necessary for strong and vibrant municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League opposes unfunded and underfunded State or Federal legislative and administrative mandates; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League opposes any efforts to reduce local revenues and local revenue authorities; and


WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League opposes policies that shift State or Federal responsibilities to local governments without a negotiated agreement that includes adequate and full annual funding; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes the above describes a fair and equitable relationship between the State and political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes these principles are in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League is committed to applying the above-stated principles to all relevant State and federal legislation, and to agency actions, in support of or in opposition to.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-02**

**A resolution in support of the Alaska Municipal Leagues stated priorities.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is comprised of and responsive to the interests of 165 incorporated municipalities representing 97% of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has identified State and federal priorities for 2019 that reflect the value that members place on League action; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports the pursuit of additional revenue options, including broad based taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports PERS changes to include termination studies, periodic evaluation of and beneficial adjustment to the 2008 salary floor, and increased opportunity to leave PERS without penalty; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports additional investments into Community Assistance, including a long-term solution; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports full funding for and recalculation of small community population caps for PILT payments to Alaska municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports federal PILT payments, timber receipts tied to Safe and Secure Rural Schools, and infrastructure investments; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League opposes underfunding of Federal Assistance Programs including Medicaid, transportation, CDBG, SNAP, Medicare, Head Start, Title 1 Grants, WIC, CHIP, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes these priorities represent the highest-level attention to and response by State and Federal decision-makers; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes these priorities are in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League calls on State and Federal policymakers to respect and respond to these priorities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-03**

**A resolution in support of the development of a Community Dividend.**

WHEREAS, community revenue sharing began in 1969 to help ease fiscal problems facing local governments, stabilize or reduce local property taxes, encourage local provision of public services, and stabilize local budgets and planning; and

WHEREAS, revenue sharing has undergone significant and dramatic changes since 1969, leading to a situation in 2004 where all revenue sharing programs were proposed for elimination after years of reductions, which corresponded to increased property taxes, elimination of municipal services, and reduced capacity; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska exempts itself from local taxes even though it uses local services and approximately \$1.4 billion (2017) in property taxes are paid by local taxpayers to subsidize State operations; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has been firm in its advocacy for the absolute necessity of a form of and enough revenue sharing that strengthens the capacity of municipal governments, alleviates the need for higher local taxes, and bolsters the delivery of public services; and

WHEREAS, the recent fiscal crisis experienced by the State of Alaska made apparent the reality of cost-shifting to municipalities and the potential for State reductions to municipal budgets, particularly in the form of reduced or eliminated revenue sharing; and,

WHEREAS, uncertainty at the State level – due either to limits to annual appropriations or the mechanism by which current Community Assistance funding is currently secured – necessitates a new way to approach revenue sharing; and

WHEREAS a community dividend is a feasible method with which to reimburse local government for State tax exemptions, fund local contributions to education, replace revenue sharing or community assistance, and keep Alaska’s promises;

WHEREAS, the earnings from the Alaska Permanent Fund are a credible and sustainable vehicle for such funding; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature considered this question in 2006, with support from many stakeholders, including the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a community dividend meets the State’s obligation to municipal governments and provides a sustainable pathway for maximizing local government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Alaska State Legislature to consider the development of a Community Dividend.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-04**

**A resolution requesting that the Alaska State Legislature fund the Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's property tax exemption as required in AS 29.45.030(g).**

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, the State of Alaska imposed a mandate that required all municipalities that levy a property tax, to exempt the first \$150,000 value of primary homes belonging to seniors and disabled veterans, from that property tax; and

WHEREAS, property tax exemptions raise the property tax liability to those individuals who do not receive the benefits of those exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska also passed law in statute that requires the State to reimburse municipalities for those exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the State and Legislature have not funded this program and the municipal reimbursement since 1997; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has continued to require municipal exemptions; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary duties of a municipality is to levy taxes in support of its corresponding obligations to provide public services, and most importantly public education; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have the best understanding of citizen concerns and priorities, municipal budgets and should have sole authority to identify the need for and grant exemptions; and

WHEREAS, Community Assistance provided to 164 municipalities has decreased to \$30 million per year, the Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax exemption is now costing the 18 municipalities that levy a property tax a total of over \$77 million per year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Alaska State Legislature fund the Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax exemption as required in AS 29.45.030(g).

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-05**

**A resolution in support of full funding from the State of Alaska for school bond debt reimbursement and State aid for construction in Regional Education Attendance Areas**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility to “maintain a system of public schools” under Article 7, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, the State of Alaska has encouraged municipalities to bond for school major maintenance projects by reimbursing municipalities with bonding authority for a fixed portion of principal and interest payments; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has, for decades, provided major maintenance for rural Regional Educational Attendance Area schools through appropriations in the annual capital budget; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, the Legislature provided consistent funding parity for rural schools’ major maintenance needs by automatically funding major maintenance projects in areas without the ability to bond, with a percentage of the school bond debt reimbursement funding; and

WHEREAS, relying on these programs and the State of Alaska’s obligations, Alaskan municipalities and Regional Educational Attendance Areas have maintained schools and fulfilled municipal responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Legislature placed a five-year moratorium on any new projects being eligible for school bond debt reimbursement, and shifted the sole responsibility of repayment to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities, in an effort to mitigate deterioration of school facilities during the capital funding moratorium, began allocating local tax revenues to provide funding for major deferred maintenance school projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Legislature honored past project funding and appropriated funds to the municipalities for school debt reimbursement, as well as major maintenance funding for schools in Regional Educational Attendance Areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Governor line-item vetoed 25% of the funding for both municipal and rural schools from appropriation bills; and

WHEREAS, the potential for future vetoes places great uncertainty on this program and burden on municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League support full annual funding of school bond debt reimbursement and state aid for construction in Regional Educational Attendance Areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-06**

**A resolution supporting legislation adopting real property sales disclosure in Alaska.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports the goal to promote the fair and equitable distribution of the property tax burden which funds local governments; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans, municipalities and the State benefit from the assessment of fair and equitable values of real property within all taxing jurisdictions in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, an assessor is required, per AS 29.45.110, to assess all property at full and true value, as of January 1 of the assessment year. The full and true value is the estimated price that the property would bring in an open market and under the then prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer both conversant with the property and with prevailing general price levels; and

WHEREAS, while the legal mandate for assessment at full and true value exists, the sales data that is necessary to determine full and true value is not readily available due to the lack of sales disclosure in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Research Services Division reported in 2014, that Alaska is one of six states for which sales disclosure for property exchanges are not disclosed; and

WHEREAS, data is currently obtained from requests for voluntary sales information through questionnaires mailed in many jurisdictions, which result in incomplete, unreliable, and in some cases translated to inaccurate reflections of actual market value; and

WHEREAS, sales disclosure would assist in the fair distribution of the tax burden to all taxpayers and would enhance the accuracy and the timeliness of assessments; and

WHEREAS, sales disclosure would enhance the ability of assessment professionals to meet the full and true value mandate and would also aid the public in obtaining information in order to interact within local real estate markets; and

WHEREAS, the lack of sales data in some jurisdictions limits the ability to fairly distribute the tax burden and also to fund local services; and

WHEREAS, sales disclosure would enable property owners to gather data to provide support for legally entitled property tax appeals under AS 29.45.190.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Legislature to enact legislation requiring disclosures of all real property sales in the State of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-07**

**A resolution supporting increased investment in the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund, and continued support for existing State energy and energy efficiency programs.**

WHEREAS, Alaska's high cost of energy creates a burden for Alaskans and for local governments, school districts and public facilities; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and reliability of energy systems increases the security of Alaskan communities and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has been consistent in its advocacy for the strategic development of energy resources, State programs that help to lower power and heating costs, and adequate long-term funding for energy investment; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Energy Fund – established in 2008 by the Alaska State Legislature – is a good example of a program that, if funded, provides public investment in the development of qualifying and competitively selected renewable energy projects in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund provides benefits to Alaskans by assisting communities across the state to reduce and stabilize the cost of energy; and

WHEREAS, the program is designed to produce cost-effective renewable energy for heat and power to benefit Alaskans statewide, and ancillary benefits include job creation, leveraging local energy resources, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, from 2008 to 2015, appropriations totaling \$257 million were issued for Renewable Energy Fund projects, which was matched with hundreds of millions of dollars in funding from local sources to develop projects designed to reduce and stabilize the cost of energy; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 and 2017 there were no State REF appropriations and no new projects were initiated in those years; the new formula created in 2015 for applying excess earnings from the PCE endowment was only in 2018 applicable, and continued lack of funding is a threat to the success of the program; and

WHEREAS, new sources of funding should be applied to the Fund when PCE earnings do not meet the appropriate threshold for the effective development of and support for energy projects in Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to increase investment in the Renewable Energy Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League additionally supports continued investment in State energy and energy efficiency programs, including the Revolving Loan Fund Program, Weatherization, Home Energy Rebate Program, Bulk Fuel Construction Program, and Rural Power System Upgrades.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-08**

**A resolution supporting the State's implementation of a broad-based tax.**

WHEREAS, in response to a fiscal crisis caused by low oil prices and other circumstances, the State of Alaska has made significant headway in decreasing the overall size of government by reducing agency and programmatic spending; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Alaska State Legislature took a positive step toward addressing additional revenue by allowing access to excess earnings of the Permanent Fund; and

WHEREAS, there remains a gap between revenues and current expenses, and an even more significant gap between revenues and the ability of the State to address fundamental challenges facing Alaska, including but not limited to public safety, education, infrastructure, and energy; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League in 2016 submitted a Sustainability Plan to the Legislature, some of which has been addressed;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has supported the implementation of a broad-based tax as part of a sustainable fiscal plan; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League understands an income tax as being able to 1) capture revenue from out-of-state employees, which is 20% of Alaska's total payroll, 2) be deducted from federal income taxes, with a net neutral cost to Alaskans, and 3) give Alaskans a direct interest in state governance; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League believes that a statewide sales tax would 1) be feasible where no current sales tax exists, but 2) may erode the municipal tax base, thereby shifting revenue from one level of government to another, while undercutting the ability of local governments to deliver essential services; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across Alaska have identified continued challenges related to increased expenses and community needs; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across Alaska are concerned that lack of revenue at the State level will result in the inability to address essential public services that are important to Alaskans and to Alaskan businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the State's consideration of a broad-based tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League stands ready to work with the Alaska State Legislature to mitigate potential negative impacts, as necessary.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-09**

**A resolution requesting that Title 29 be amended to remove the audit requirement for Community Assistance, and provide a one-time waiver of past audit requirements, thereby releasing all outstanding Community Revenue Sharing/Assistance funds.**

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipal governments consider community revenue sharing, now known as Community Assistance, an essential and fundamental component of their annual budget; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are diverse and wide-ranging in their population size, budget composition, and state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.180.020 outlines the requirements necessary to receive Community Assistance funding, including, "if the municipality is a borough, unified municipality, or first class city, a copy of the annual audit reviewed by a certified public accountant"; and

WHEREAS, the cost of completing an audit consistent with this requirement may represent 30-50% of the annual funding received by a municipality from Community Assistance; and

WHEREAS, the bulk of these municipalities are already required to complete an audit based on other state and federal funding requirements, and submission to DCRA can be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, for the remainder, the audit requirement presents an additional bureaucratic burden that requires municipal governments to allocate funding to its fulfillment and away from delivery of services in the public benefit; and

WHEREAS, there are more effective and cost-efficient ways in which to assure DCRA of a community's overall health and compliance capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the State has withheld and currently withholds payment of Community Revenue Sharing and now Community Assistance when the audit requirement, among others, is not met; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities are desperately in need of access to those funds, which assist in general operations, strengthening administrative capacity, and contributing to education, energy and public safety needs; and

WHEREAS, alleviating the costs of compliance for municipal governments increases overall the economic health of the state, decreases the need for increased local taxes, and reduces programmatic costs within the State.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Alaska State Legislature amend Title 29 to remove the audit requirement for Community Assistance, and provide a one-time waiver of past audit requirements, thereby releasing all outstanding Community Revenue Sharing/Assistance funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-10**

**A resolution encouraging the Governor and Legislature to increase capacity within the Office of Management and Budget to evaluate costs to communities of State and Legislative budget and legislative actions, and to include a municipal impact fiscal note in all relevant legislation.**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's Office of Management and Budget is an incredible resource for assessing current and potential budget action, including the impact of legislative actions; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget currently includes a director, three policy analysts, and seven budget analysts; and

WHEREAS, each Office of Management and Budget analyst is responsible for different areas within the budget, mainly by Department, but also around a variety of State priorities and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget does not currently have a dedicated analyst focused on municipal policy or budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has in the past called for a fiscal note to be included in all legislation, which would describe municipal impacts; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the Office of Management and Budget strengthen its capacity to be able to address this, and it is the position of the Alaska Municipal League that this not be added to the current workload of existing staff; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget is encouraged to coordinate its municipal analysis with the Division of Community and Regional Affairs and the Legislative Finance Division, including to potentially cost-share this position between agencies; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the State's capacity in this regard will improve the efficacy of all legislation, provide policymakers with the critical information they need to weigh costs and benefits of legislation and provide clarity to municipal governments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Governor and Alaska State Legislature increase capacity within the Office of Management and Budget to evaluate costs to communities of State and Legislative budget and legislative actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourage consideration of a municipal impact fiscal note to be included in all relevant legislation prior to submission.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-11**

**A resolution requesting that the Governor and Alaska State Legislature provide a one-time payoff of PERS arrearages.**

WHEREAS, many of Alaska's villages and smaller communities are under stress stemming from the State's fiscal problems, lack of an underlying economy, and a range of other factors; and

WHEREAS, these stresses manifest themselves as PERS arrearages, IRS liens, deficits, late payments, audit findings, grant reporting issues and other fiscal difficulties; and

WHEREAS, debt presents barriers to accessing Community Revenue Sharing/Community Assistance, PILT payments, federal and state grant opportunities, bulk fuel loans, and other opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the lack of access to those funds makes it even more difficult to fund payroll, including being able to pay into PERS and for past liability; and

WHEREAS, more than forty (40) municipal governments and school districts are delinquent on PERS payments, with the ten (10) highest accounting for over \$3 million collectively; and

WHEREAS, this delinquency and debt is then distributed to other PERS pool participants, and felt not just by municipalities but by the State as well, resulting in greater on behalf payments; and

WHEREAS, recognizing these communities as currently "stressed" and working to move them toward sustainability is an important goal of the Alaska Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, a stressed community should be thought of in terms of the degree to which it may be out of compliance with State and/or federal financial, legal or statutory requirements; and

WHEREAS, the State can play a significant role in assisting in the health of its communities; and

WHEREAS, there are clear need to establish a level playing field by paying off those arrearages now, justified not only by ensuring community health but as long-term investments that save the State in its ongoing expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature fund a one-time payoff of PERS arrearages.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-12**

**A resolution in support of Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) reform.**

WHEREAS, most members of the Alaska Municipal League contribute to the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, included in Senate Bill 125 in 2008 was language requiring municipalities to pay termination costs and “below the floor costs” on the termination of a department, group, or classification of employees; and

WHEREAS, those lay-offs that are made up of a department, group, or classification will result in a charge to local governments for the actual study, followed by charges for each of those employee’s past service cost for approximately 30 years; and

WHEREAS, if the total base salary of any municipality falls below what it was in 2008 (the year of SB 125), then charges will be assessed on that drop, as well; and

WHEREAS, these rules severely limit the ability of municipalities, , from being agile in the workplace, including eliminating no longer needed departments, groups, or classifications; and

WHEREAS, these rules severely limit the ability of municipalities, , from creating new needed departments, groups, or classifications for fear of future termination studies and termination costs extending up to 30 years in the future; and

WHEREAS, municipalities require agility and adaptability in the workforce to meet our changing needs.

WHEREAS, with our current state fiscal crisis, municipalities may need to make reductions or increasing in the workforce; including entire departments, groups, or classifications of employees; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is not subject to these rules as an employer; and the State of Alaska is making serious considerations to reducing its workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports reform in the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), including the elimination of termination studies and all costs for reducing or eliminating departments, groups, or classifications of employees, as well as not inhibiting future additions of departments, groups, or classifications of employees.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution #2019-13**

**A resolution in support of changing the transferability of limited entry salmon permits by allowing an additional name on the permit.**

WHEREAS, the number of limited entry salmon permits are leaving Alaska's rural communities at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, this trend is resulting in fewer economic opportunities and causing communities to shrink; and

WHEREAS, the out-migration of permits has escalated mainly due to the "graying of the fleet;" and

WHEREAS, the average age of a state fishing permit holder is 50 years; and

WHEREAS, some limited entry permit holders may be reluctant to permanently transfer a permit to any heirs currently dealing with addiction; and

WHEREAS, allowing an additional name of a person to be listed on limited entry salmon permits could help curb out-migration of permits from rural communities; and

WHEREAS, one of the biggest obstacles new entrants wanting to pursue a career in fishing face is lack of capital and an established credit history to get started; and

WHEREAS, allowing an additional name to be listed would allow permit holders to mentor up-and-coming fishermen in the community and transition them into the fisheries; and

WHEREAS, allowing an additional name to be listed would eliminate the permit holder's fear of losing the permit; and

WHEREAS, allowing an additional name to be listed would allow the surviving spouse or beneficiary of a permit holder to maintain that permit in the spouse's or beneficiary's name and provide the individual the opportunity to sell salmon with no other ownership; and

WHEREAS, given Alaska's current fiscal crisis, it's more important than ever to maintain and increase economic opportunities for individuals and families who are dependent on the fisheries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation redefining the transferability of limited entry salmon permits by allowing an additional name to be listed on permits to keep permits in rural communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League  
Resolution 2019-14**

**A resolution in support of full funding (\$7,409,439) for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2020 State capital budget.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska transferred ownership of most of these facilities – many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer – to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though these harbor facilities were in poor condition due to the state’s failure to complete deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, consequently, local municipal harbormasters inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

WHEREAS, in response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation in 2006, supported by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage, the City and Borough of Juneau, City of Ketchikan, City and Borough of Sitka, and the City of Angoon have offered to contribute \$7,409,439 in local match funding for FY2020 as required 50% match by the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, during the last ten years the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace these former State-owned harbors has increased to over \$100,000,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges full funding in the amount of \$7,409,439 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska’s Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2020 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2018.

Signed:   
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:   
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League