



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2021 Resolutions

**Passed by AML Membership on
November 20, 2020**

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2019-01**

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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 \$93 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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 2020, the Legislature honored past project funding and appropriated funds to the municipalities for school debt reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the Governor vetoed 100% of the funding for school bond debt reimbursement; 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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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

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 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-01**

Encouraging the Legislature to meet as the Assembly of the Unorganized Borough, and to take up its governance as required by the Constitution.

WHEREAS, Article 10 of the State Constitution describes one purpose of the State as to provide for maximum local self-government with a minimum of local government units, and to prevent duplication of tax-levying jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, Article 10 requires that the entire state be divided into organized and unorganized boroughs; and

WHEREAS, Article 10 dictates the responsibility of the Legislature to function as the assembly of unorganized boroughs, including to allow maximum local participation and responsibility, and to exercise any power or function of an organized borough; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental responsibilities of an organized borough are to provide for planning and platting, education, and taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has not operated in its history as an assembly of the unorganized borough, nor fully taken up those responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, it can be argued that while the Legislature has delegated responsibility for planning to various state agencies and education to the Department of Education, there remains the issue of taxation; and

WHEREAS, it is a principle of the Alaska Municipal League that the state should not compel organization; and

WHEREAS, it is clearly the responsibility of the Legislature to address 1) the number of unorganized boroughs, consistent with common interests, and 2) education, planning and taxation within the unorganized boroughs; and

WHEREAS, acting in this capacity provides a meaningful and transparent process to maximize local participation and responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Legislature to meet as the Assembly of the Unorganized Borough, and to take up its governance as required by the Constitution.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-02**

Opposing decisions by DOT&PF to increase their indirect rates; supporting increased funding for the Community Transportation Program; and encouraging policy to enable local-delivered projects and locally managed federal funds.

WHEREAS, cities and boroughs recognize the important role of the DOT&PF; and

WHEREAS, that role extends to ensuring that statewide public transportation infrastructure be sustainable, safe, and efficient; and

WHEREAS, local governments – who similarly have local infrastructure responsibilities – have worked in partnership with DOT&PF to see that this occurs; and

WHEREAS, local governments maintain a nearly equal number of road miles (5,500), the majority of the state's ports and harbors, and numerous airports; and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF recently announced a decision to nearly double their indirect rate on projects funded by the federal government, which has called into question multiple project budgets and increased the necessary local match; and

WHEREAS, this change has been unjustified beyond filling in Department budgets while the State has otherwise restricted spending, is considered drastic in the scale of the increase, and impacts current projects that have budgeted and planned for an agreed-upon rate; and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF has a policy to require that all federal funding be directed to projects through that agency, and that a DOT&PF engineer be assigned to all projects; and

WHEREAS, where there is capacity within a local government to oversee and manage a project, they should have the opportunity to do so, and that denying that opportunity increases costs to the State and decreases efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, funding for programs such as the Community Transportation Program have decreased in recent years and are currently at risk of expiring in the next few years; and

WHEREAS, local governments depend on those programs and funding therein to leverage local funds available for local projects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes decisions by DOT&PF to increase their indirect rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports increased funding for the Community Transportation Program; and encourages changes to DOT&PF policy to enable local-delivered projects and acceptance by local governments of federal transportation project funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-03**

Expressing support for rural law enforcement efforts such as the VPO and VPSO program, while recognizing the need for increased investment and the potential for reform to ensure both public safety and the sustainability of law enforcement efforts in rural Alaska.

WHEREAS, local governments play an important role in delivering public safety in Alaska, with 70 local governments in Alaska having police powers; and

WHEREAS, the combined budgets of 40 municipal police departments amount to \$75 million more than the entire budget of the State's Department of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, public safety is a shared responsibility between the State and local governments; and

WHEREAS, public safety has been a priority of this administration, even as the nation's Attorney General has declared a public safety crisis in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, there exist important programs in the form of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) and Village Police Officer (VPO), which perform essential public safety functions in communities without municipal law enforcement or a permanent State Trooper presence; and

WHEREAS, these programs face the same challenges as all law enforcement in Alaska, especially in terms of recruitment and retention of qualified officers; and

WHEREAS, vetting of VPOs is constrained by the capacity of local governments, even as recruitment of candidates is constrained by local options and by lack of visibility of potential candidates from across the state, among other reasons; and

WHEREAS, training opportunities for VPOs are limited and may be unaffordable for many local governments; and VPSO training costs have increased at the State Trooper academy; and

WHEREAS, the VPSO program has struggled to maintain full staffing, even as funding is reduced to reflect reduced numbers of VPSOs, and numerous challenges have been identified by program grantees and the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, multiple and intersecting challenges affect the efficacy of both the VPO and VPSO programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports rural law enforcement efforts such as the VPO and VPSO programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League recognizes the need to match spending to needs identified by both programs, and for any necessary reform to ensure both public safety and the sustainability of law enforcement efforts in rural Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-04**

Opposing any increase to the required minimum local contribution or decreases to State funding levels; removing the maximum local contribution allowable; and considering Impact Aid as part of the local contribution.

WHEREAS, public education is a State obligation included in Article 7 of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the State delegates some of its responsibility to local governments, including education powers – and funding roles – to all boroughs, and home rule and first-class cities; and

WHEREAS, education is one of the largest State budget items, and is by far the largest budget item for those local governments with education powers; and

WHEREAS, as part of the funding formula designed by the State, a minimum local contribution of 2.65 mils (or equivalent) is required; and

WHEREAS, many local governments contribute beyond what is required, but at least nine contribute below 4 mils; and

WHEREAS, increases to the local contribution will mean trade-offs for each local government, who must choose between increasing taxes and decreased spending on other essential programs, including public safety and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, five local governments currently fund their schools to the cap, and should be given the opportunity to contribute as they wish, consistent with local control; and

WHEREAS, federal Impact Aid is distributed to school districts by the U.S. Dept. of Education to make up for the loss of property tax revenue due to tax-exempt federal property, and to compensate them for continued provision of education for federally connected children; and

WHEREAS, the State considers Impact Aid part of its contribution to education, and if it were counted as part of the local contribution, local spending on education would increase from 40.31% to 52.71% of what the State spends overall; and

WHEREAS, instead of shifting the cost of education – and the State's responsibilities – to local governments, the State should give greater flexibility to local governments to give as they are able, even as the State ensures adequate levels of funding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes any increase to the required local contribution for education funding or reductions to the adequacy of State funding of education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports removing the cap on local government contributions and counting Federal Impact Aid as part of the local government contribution.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-05**

Expressing support for reform to PERS that includes a complete pay-down of the unfunded liability; conditionally, requesting that the State also conduct termination studies, small or struggling employers be allowed to opt out of the system, and that the high interest rate on non-payment be eliminated.

WHEREAS, PERS has been a priority policy issue for AML and its members for decades; and

WHEREAS, not only does PERS represent a significant portion of a member's budget but also it places constraints on local governments and other employers that lessen their ability to successfully recruit and retain staff; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities consider themselves a prisoner of PERS, such that they cannot afford to stay and can't afford to get out, and when non-payment occurs a 15% interest rate is charged, which compounds the challenge for those employers; and

WHEREAS, the State does not currently pay for termination studies or costs, and reductions in its workforce shift costs to the additional state contribution and onto the balance sheets of all employers; and

WHEREAS, PERS presents significant costs to the State's payroll and budget; and

WHEREAS, the current unfunded liability is more than \$5 billion, and the plan itself is less than 70% funded, with its sustainability in doubt; and

WHEREAS, a new solution is needed to reset the program, save the State in its expenditures, and provide greater flexibility for employers; and

WHEREAS, a transfer of the amount of the unfunded liability from the Earnings Reserve to the PERS pension assets would maintain those assets overall on the State's books, and assure credit agencies; and

WHEREAS, the value of the savings to the State would be \$475 million, which would offset the reduced POMV draw by more than \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, the savings to municipal employers would be found in the removal of the past service rate, which in FY21 will be 17%, or roughly \$45 million, and additionally the net pension liability would be removed from those employers' balance sheets.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports reform to PERS that includes a complete pay-down of the unfunded liability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League conditionally requests that the State also conduct termination studies, small or struggling employers be allowed to opt out of the system, and that the high interest rate on non-payment be eliminated.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-06**

In support of economic, resource and infrastructure development that benefits local governments, the State of Alaska, and Alaska residents.

WHEREAS, the Act of Statehood was only granted to Alaska in 1959, after the commercial discovery of oil led Congress to finally vote in favor of Alaska's statehood, believing that the State could have a healthy economy through development of its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Alaska depends on responsible development of its natural resources to expand and support its economy, and the right to taxation of the reserved value and production of those resources is reserved to the State; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII of our State constitution mandates that Alaska develop its resources to the maximum benefit of all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, those benefits include thousands of family wage jobs in Alaska, contributions to two-thirds of the Alaskan economy, as much as ninety percent of State general fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, State revenue contributes to State responsibilities, including public education, the university, public welfare and public health; and

WHEREAS, in some communities, resource development is the sole or major contributor to local government, providing needed government services to area residents; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure development enables effective resource production and reduces the transaction costs of development; and

WHEREAS, investments by and collaboration between the State, local and federal governments, alongside industry, contribute to infrastructure development, and economic development more broadly; and

WHEREAS, that partnership enables not only continued and new responsible resource development to occur, but makes possible new and different economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's local governments are committed to strengthening the relationships they have with oil and gas, mining, fishing, timber and tourism industries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports economic, resource and infrastructure development that benefits local governments, the State of Alaska, and Alaska residents.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-07**

Supporting full payment of currently obligated school bond debt reimbursement; opposing an extension to the school bond debt reimbursement moratorium; and supporting a careful and deliberate reform of State support of school construction and maintenance.

WHEREAS, 34 local governments have education powers and corresponding funding responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these own and maintain school buildings and have participated in the school bond debt reimbursement program over its history; and

WHEREAS, the school bond debt reimbursement program provides a useful way in which municipal school districts can avoid competing with REAA school districts for limited State funding; and

WHEREAS, while in the issuance of the bond by a local government the State maintains the option to reimburse only upon appropriation, the history of the program has provided no indication to local governments that the State would not appropriate its share; and

WHEREAS, the veto by 50% of the FY20 reimbursement has and will directly result in higher property taxes, spending down of reserves, and additional cost-cutting at the local level; and

WHEREAS, there remains nearly \$900 million in bond debt remaining, with that debt to be retired over between one and nineteen years; and

WHEREAS, it is unacceptable to pass those State debts back to local governments and to additionally burden local residents with the costs of the State's obligation; and

WHEREAS, even as past school bond debt must be reimbursed, a moratorium on the program is increasingly pushing the costs of school construction to future years; and

WHEREAS, local governments have few options but to try and bond for projects where they can, or to apply to the State's school construction grant program, where they may displace the needs of REAAs; and

WHEREAS, the State's six year plan accounts for \$1.6 billion in maintenance needs, does not account for new school construction costs, and local governments will need to be part of the structural changes necessary in how the State fulfills its Constitutional obligation to maintain a system of public education, including how to fund school construction and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports full payment of currently obligated school bond debt reimbursement; opposes an extension to the school bond debt reimbursement moratorium; and supports a careful and deliberate reform of State support of school construction and maintenance.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-08**

Encouraging the State of Alaska to develop a plan to transfer authority to accept federal funds from the State directly to local governments or their designee.

WHEREAS, approximately \$60 million is transferred annually from the Federal government to the State for distribution to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the State collects about \$80 million annually in taxes on local economic activity that have revenue sharing statutes attached to them; and

WHEREAS, the nearly \$150 million in funds held by the State for distribution to local governments accrues interest earnings that are not added to the amounts available for distribution; and

WHEREAS, PILT funding of nearly \$30 million and Secure Rural Schools funding (within the Unorganized Borough) represents examples of federal funding for local governments that unnecessarily goes to the State for distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Community Assistance funding is formula-driven, similar to calculations made for PCE distribution; and

WHEREAS, Shared Fish Taxes, Aviation Motor Fuels Tax, and the Commercial Vessel Passenger Tax all represent examples of taxes collected by the State but with Statutes that direct some portion to be shared with local governments; and

WHEREAS, depending on which funds you include, a total of \$642 million of funding that will ultimately be distributed to local governments rests with the State for anywhere between three and six months; and

WHEREAS, in an environment of fiscal austerity, fund and grant management should be considered an area where the State can reduce its footprint; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the capacity, individually or collectively, to effectively manage these funds and their reporting; and

WHEREAS, reducing the State's role as middle-man is one way in which to rightsize state government even as the State strengthens local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the State of Alaska to develop a plan to transfer authority to accept federal funds from the State directly to local governments or their designee.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-09**

Supporting the effort to maximize local self-government, respect local control, and encourage the State to provide funding for the adoption of powers and incorporation, including borough formation where feasible.

WHEREAS, Alaska's Article 10 on local government requires the State to provide for maximum local self-government (with a minimum of local government units and to prevent duplication of tax-levying jurisdictions); and

WHEREAS, the context within which this was written included examples from other states of multiple tax-levying entities with overlapping authority, from school districts to cities and utilities; and

WHEREAS, the State has kept its framework for local government fairly straightforward, with classes of cities and boroughs that have non-duplicative responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, there remain numerous communities that have not incorporated, including within the Unorganized Borough, which itself remains unincorporated; and

WHEREAS, AML has prioritized over its history a principle of local control, which should be understood as the belief that State government should not direct or restrict municipal decision-making; and

WHEREAS, local control is different than a community's interest in incorporating as a city or a region as a borough; and

WHEREAS, in fact, an unincorporated city or borough is ceding local control for State management, and depriving residents of maximum local self-government; and

WHEREAS, one role of the State may be to incentivize incorporation or organization of the city and borough, including to encourage and provide resources for the adoption of additional powers; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments in Alaska provide important services to residents, including public safety, education, public infrastructure, and quality of life programs; and

WHEREAS, during periods of fiscal uncertainty, active and healthy local governments can provide the backstop on loss of services and continue to maintain community and economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the effort to maximize local self-government, respect local control, and encourage the State to provide additional resources for the adoption of powers and incorporation, including borough formation where feasible.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: _____
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-10**

Supporting reform of the USDA Forest Service Secure Rural Schools program to include long-term certainty and sustainability of funding.

WHEREAS, A March 2017 Report by the Congressional Research Service confirmed 61% of all land (224.2 Million Acres) in Alaska is owned by the federal government; 57% (129 Million Acres) of which is managed by agencies with preservation and conservation of land as core mission components, and will likely never be available for development; and

WHEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) was enacted in 2000 to financially assist counties with public, tax-exempt forestlands; and

WHEREAS, critical services at the county level have historically been funded in part with a 25 percent share of timber receipts from federal U.S. Forest Service lands and a 50 percent share of timber receipts from federal Oregon and California Grant Lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management; and

WHEREAS, as those revenues have fallen or fluctuated due to reduced timber harvest and market forces, SRS payments helped bridge the gap to keep rural schools open, provide road maintenance, support search and rescue efforts and other essential county services; and

WHEREAS, since enacted in 2000, SRS has provided a total of \$7 billion in payments to more than 700 counties and 4,400 school districts in more than 40 states to fund schools and essential services like roads and public safety; and

WHEREAS, local governments in Alaska use the SRS funding to supplement transportation funding, and school operations and capital project needs; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of SRS would have an immediate and detrimental effect on the school system and on local transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local governments who experienced the loss of these funds would be faced with choices of increased taxes or the loss of jobs, including at schools; and

WHEREAS, a short-term solution for SRS should result in continued funding over the next two years, and a long-term fix must account for the sustainability of the program; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable program may include funding features such as a forest visitor fee, or consolidation within the PILT formula, as an additional factor, or may require a large set-aside that produces a return of sustainable revenue over time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the USDA Forest Service Secure Rural Schools program to include long-term certainty and sustainability of funding.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-11**

In support of reform of the PILT funding formula to extend multipliers to smaller population counties (boroughs), and permanently authorizing the program.

WHEREAS, through the federal PILT payment, the Department of Interior provides revenue to counties and county equivalents, such as boroughs, to compensate for non-taxable federal acreage within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in Alaska, PILT funding is distributed not only to boroughs but also to cities within the unorganized borough, and in 2018 was valued at \$32,308,994; and

WHEREAS, many Alaska boroughs and cities fund the provision of fire and emergency medical response services to the federal lands and infrastructure as well as providing other services, such as solid waste, public safety, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the numerous nightly camping and lodging offerings located on federal lands are exempt from local taxation; and

WHEREAS, while the annual number of visitors to these federal lands number over 2,920,250, according to the National Park Service, PILT payments are calculated on the local government's year round population, which in many cases can be fewer than 2,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has found that the current PILT formula places counties and boroughs with populations under 5,000 in an unfavorable position in relation to counties with populations greater than 5,000; and

WHEREAS, at their Annual Conference in July 2018, NACo adopted a resolution titled "Resolution on Amendments to PILT Population Caps"; and

WHEREAS, this resolution "supports amending the PILT formula to extend the population multipliers to include additional multipliers for local governments with populations in the range 4,000, 3,000, 2,000 and 1,000"; and

WHEREAS, this amendment increases total PILT funding for numerous Alaska local governments; and

WHEREAS, changes to the PILT formula will strengthen the capacity for partnerships that develop at the local level, it will improve the local government's ability to support tourism and access within federal lands, and it will increase community and economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the PILT funding formula to extend multipliers to smaller population counties (boroughs), including through federal legislation as that addressed within the Small County PILT Parity Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML supports permanent reauthorization of the PILT program, including through such legislation as HR 3043.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-12**

Supporting the Legislature's efforts toward consensus on the Permanent Fund Dividend.

WHEREAS, Alaska's resources are owned by the State of Alaska to be managed on behalf of the people of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Permanent Fund and its inclusion in the state Constitution effectively creates a sustainable vehicle for resource wealth to be held in trust for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Permanent Fund Dividend was created in State law to be able to share that resource wealth with current generations, and many Alaskans have come to rely on the Dividend; and

WHEREAS, the Permanent Fund Dividend is important, then, both in principle and practice; and

WHEREAS, the structure of the PFD formula, the current and structured draw on the Earnings Reserve, and the State's fiscal picture combine to create a challenging political and policy environment; and

WHEREAS, this challenge creates delays in decision-making, as well as places undue pressure on the State's budget, which results in cost-shifting and cuts that negatively impact local governments; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty and delays at the State level cause uncertainty and delays at the local level; and

WHEREAS, local governments cannot replace nor sustain the cuts and cost-shifting that may occur during this period, and the options that remain – including tax increases, layoffs and cuts to public safety, education and infrastructure – are not viable; and

WHEREAS, local governments, school districts and other State partners require a State fiscal plan that allows for timely and efficient decision-making; and

WHEREAS, by coming to consensus on the Dividend at the State level, those partners can work with the Legislature on solutions for so many other challenges facing the State.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the Legislature's efforts toward consensus on the Permanent Fund Dividend.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: _____
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-13**

Supporting the sustainability of the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) and increased investment in rural infrastructure and affordability.

WHEREAS, telecommunications infrastructure development in Alaska is challenging and expensive; and

WHEREAS, telecommunications companies in Alaska must have access to the funding necessary to invest in, build, operate, maintain and upgrade rural Alaska's local telecommunications networks; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) has a decades long history of providing that critical funding; and

WHEREAS, rural Alaska telecommunication networks provide the wired infrastructure for voice, broadband and wireless services; and

WHEREAS, in turn, the AUSF ensures local telecommunications service rates remain affordable, and that local broadband and telecommunication networks (and the companies that provide the networks) remain viable; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's economic future is directly dependent upon the development and statewide availability of affordable local and long-distance telephone services; and

WHEREAS, the concentrated and collective efforts of a strong statewide telephone association ensure government attention to and corporate investment in Alaska's network infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Telecommunications Association provides a platform for such collaboration; and

WHEREAS, working with and through ATA to develop an updated AUSF funding mechanism will support the ongoing development, operation, and maintenance of rural Alaska telecommunication networks.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the sustainability of the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) and increased investment in rural infrastructure and affordability.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: _____
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-14**

Opposing any State action that would diminish the ability of local governments to tax or receive a share of State tax on local economic activity.

WHEREAS, actions by the State to eliminate or reduce the sharing of taxes on local economic activity threatens the sustainability of cities and boroughs in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Petroleum Property Tax recognizes the value of oil and gas property, the benefits to industry of offering this tax credit, and that the State already collects royalty and production taxes on oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, local governments should benefit from that taxable property, avoid duplicate taxes on the oil and gas industry, and invest in public infrastructure that supports continued development; and

WHEREAS, the revenue from the Petroleum Property Tax is a fundamental component of the budgets of those who receive it, including more than 80% of some; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Fish Tax, similarly, works to avoid duplicate taxes on industry and provides revenue that local governments can use to improve local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the Statutes providing for the Shared Fish Tax actually allow for 100% to be shared, beyond the 50%, indicating full recognition of the value this revenue has for local governments; and

WHEREAS, there are many other arrangements whereby the State collects a tax on local economic activity and shares it with local governments; and

WHEREAS, sharing of that revenue reflects a partnership between the State and local government that predates Statehood; and

WHEREAS, local governments object to the scale and scope of the State's actions, the time available in which to respond, and the lack of negotiation; and

WHEREAS, local governments understand the fiscal challenges facing the State, but that State sustainability cannot come at the expense of local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes any State action that would diminish the ability of local governments to tax or receive a share of State tax on local economic activity.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: _____
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-15**

Considering unacceptable the reductions to funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System in FY20 and the changes to the winter schedule; opposing any further reduction to the System's budget and supporting reform that is sustainable and responsive to the needs of coastal communities.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System is a fundamental and critical method of transportation for Alaska's coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, State investment in the AMHS produces a return on State funding almost two to one, facilitating both economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, State government does not experience that return without a broad-based tax, but local tax bases rely on an active and fully functioning ferry system; and

WHEREAS, the reductions in FY20 revenue and the corresponding winter schedule, which eliminated service in some communities for as much as six to eight months, creates a health, safety and economic crises in those communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments have little say in the structure of the ferry system, and are not in a position to act in the State's stead; and

WHEREAS, it remains the fact the local governments feel incredible responsibility for the lives and livelihoods of residents, for whom the winter schedule is untenable; and

WHEREAS, while the State works toward long-term solutions, local governments have demanded that funds be appropriated such that communities see continued service; and

WHEREAS, until the State has finalized a negotiated, long-term solution that includes local governments, further reductions to the system are clearly detrimental to the well-being of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, local governments recognize the challenges facing the ferry system, but dismantling it further will not result in a viable future; and

WHEREAS, there is not a scenario in the future economy and communities of coastal Alaska that the ferry system does not play an integral part.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League considers unacceptable the reductions to funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System in FY21 and the changes to the winter schedule for many ferry-dependent communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes any further reduction to the System's budget and supports reform that is sustainable and responsive to the needs of coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-16**

Opposing any further reductions to Community Assistance and in support of an appropriation to the Community Assistance Fund that would bring the Fund total back up to \$90 million.

WHEREAS, the veto of \$30 million to recapitalizing the Community Assistance Fund directly affects the operations of local governments by reducing the formula-driven distribution in FY21 by a third; and

WHEREAS, Community Assistance (known formerly as Community Revenue Sharing) represents a decades-long partnership between local governments and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, that partnership is a recognition of the State's retention of royalty and production rights on resource development, that local tax bases would not be able otherwise to ensure operations, and the need to deliver essential public services outside of State government; and

WHEREAS, Community Assistance has seen continued degradation over the years, including in the least five by 50%, or if measured from FY20 to FY85 and adjusting for inflation, the value of Community Assistance should be 984% greater than it currently is; and

WHEREAS, Community Assistance represents as much as 80% of some local government budgets, and for 100 communities greater than 20%; and

WHEREAS, when Community Assistance was zeroed out in the early 2000s, 14 local governments ceased day-to-day operations; and

WHEREAS, the formula of the Community Assistance Fund determines the annual payment to communities, with a payout of a third of available funds; and

WHEREAS, by not recapitalizing the fund, the payment to local governments was reduced from \$30 million in FY20 to \$20 million in FY21; and

WHEREAS, it is possible for \$30 million to be restored in a supplemental budget during this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, barring that option, the State will need to add this additional \$30 million to the Community Assistance Fund in the FY21 budget, plus the newly anticipated addition of \$20 million (replacing the FY21 formula distribution), in addition to a \$10 million direct appropriation for distribution (to avoid reducing that payment by a third).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes any further reductions to Community Assistance and supports an appropriation to the Community Assistance Fund that would bring the Fund total back up to \$90 million.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-17**

**Supporting Amendments to AS 29.45.500 to Require Municipalities to Pay Reasonable
Interest on Tax Refunds.**

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 29.45.500 requires municipalities to pay interest on certain taxes it refunds to taxpayers, including taxes refunded after “a remittance by a taxpayer through error”; and

WHEREAS, the statute presently requires municipalities to pay interest fixed at 8%; and

WHEREAS, 8% is not presently a market interest rate, and is grossly excessive to fairly compensate taxpayers for the lost time-value of money; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the fact that market interest rates fluctuate, the Alaska State Legislature has in other circumstances, such as for pre-judgment interest awarded in lawsuits under AS 09.30.070, tied interest rates to the “12th Federal Reserve District discount rate in effect on January 2 of the year”; and

WHEREAS, interest required to be paid by municipalities to taxpayers should likewise be tied to a market index; and

WHEREAS, municipalities should not be required to pay non-market interest rates when refunding taxes it receives from taxpayers due to an error of the taxpayer (and not of the municipality).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports an amendment to AS 29.45.500 to require municipalities to pay interest at a reasonable, market-based rate in circumstances where it is required to pay interest on tax refunds.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY
OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: _____
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2020-18**

Requesting the Alaska State Legislature approve an infrastructure general obligation bond.

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for coastal infrastructure repair and maintenance in Alaska and the *Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure 2017* by the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, awarded a grade of "D" to Alaska's ports and harbors; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has 72 ports and harbors facilities across the state with critical needs; and

WHEREAS, many ports, harbors, and docks need replacement or repair and have little financial ability to do so; and

WHEREAS, coastal infrastructure throughout the state plays a key role in local, state, and national economies; and

WHEREAS, many states in the Lower 48 take responsibility for maintaining coastal infrastructure, including the Maryland Port Administration which invested \$105.5 million in a new 50-foot berth for the Port of Baltimore, and the Florida State Transportation Trust Fund which allocates \$100 million annually to various seaport programs, among others; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study on Alaska's ports and harbors recommended the State of Alaska create a Transportation Infrastructure Development Program to create a comprehensive baseline assessment of coastal infrastructure and state funding of such infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has supported infrastructure projects across the state through voter-approved general obligation bonds, with a total of 51 bond packages being approved since statehood totaling \$2.2 billion, including a 2010 bond package for education infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature must approve a general obligation bond package during the 2020 Legislative Session for a bond package to appear on the November 3, 2020 ballot; and

WHEREAS, Ports through the State of Alaska are in immediate need of maintenance and repair and cannot wait until the November 2022 election to undergo such repairs.


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports funding critical coastal infrastructure throughout the state with general obligation bonds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League requests the State Legislature approve a coastal infrastructure general obligation bond.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2021-01**

In support of a legislative process that recognizes local governments as inherent partners in the delivery of State objectives.

Whereas, there are 165 incorporated city and borough governments in Alaska, acting as political subdivisions of the State; and

Whereas, through Constitutional and statutory authority, local governments have the State's powers and responsibility to tax and deliver services in the public interest; and

Whereas, there is no formal mechanism for local governments to contribute to the development of the Governor's budget, wherein agencies, OMB, and the Governor develop budgets that directly impact local governments but without their input; and

Whereas, throughout a legislative session, local government officials are directed to provide input as part of the "public" comment process; and

Whereas, the Legislature has committees in the Senate and House that are dedicated to Community and Regional Affairs, but are potentially underutilized in developing an agenda that helps the Legislature understand the condition of communities; and

Whereas, the Governor's office often has a dedicated staff member acting as their lead for local governments relations, but the equivalent does not exist within the Legislature; and

Whereas, local government leaders are in a good position to contribute meaningfully to policy development and budget decisions, understanding both impact and local variation.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML recommends that:

- Legislative leadership name Committee members or staff that will serve as local government liaisons, assisting in sharing local government information with legislators as appropriate; and
- A joint session of the Legislature be called to have addressed each year the Condition of Communities; and
- In cooperation with AML, the House and Senate Community and Regional Affairs committee chairs, and other Committee chairs as appropriate, establish a session and/or interim agenda that provides legislators, agencies, and the public with greater awareness of local government issues; and
- The Legislature establish a dedicated opportunity for local government contributions as part of all committee processes, prior to and outside the public comment process, including as a more formal component of invited testimony.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2021-03**

In support for State policy and budget development that reflects a sustainable draw from the Permanent Fund's Earnings Reserve.

Whereas, the State has undergone significant and continuing fiscal challenges for at least the last five years; and

Whereas, deficit spending has contributed to loss of emergency reserves once found within the Constitutional Budget Reserve and Statutory Budget Reserve, both of which are at this point depleted; and

Whereas, of general fund revenues, competing priorities result in increased potential for the State to incur reductions to core programs that local governments and residents depend on; and

Whereas, those same budgetary pressures increase the likelihood the State may choose to shift costs to local governments, hoping that they will pick up the State's obligations; and

Whereas, lawmakers have a range of appropriation powers and tools at their disposal to meet this fiscal challenge; and

Whereas, one of the available options to lawmakers are the funds held within the Earning Reserve Account (ERA), estimated to be approximately \$6 billion (realized, vs. \$12 billion unrealized); and

Whereas, the funds are accessible to lawmakers through a simple majority vote, though we understand that for every \$1 billion in funds drawn down today, the result is \$50 million less available in future years; and

Whereas, it may be tempting to utilize these funds for short-term needs, outside the current structure of a 5% POMV draw that makes available sustainable revenue to fund the State's obligations; and

Whereas, an unstructured draw has the potential to destabilize future budgets, pushes challenges to and impacts future generations, and leaves unresolved the many critical needs related to public health and welfare, public safety and education, and infrastructure; and

Whereas, while conditions have continued to deteriorate such that the State's fiscal situation is increasingly dire and additional solutions need to be presented as viable options, it remains critical that the State identify the means by which it addresses these issues; and

Whereas, a sustainable draw is a component of a sustainable State fiscal policy that includes revenues and expenditures that have been balanced, emergency reserves replenished, and a fund balance established.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML commends to the Governor and Legislature support for State policy and budget development that reflects a sustainable draw from the Permanent Fund's Earnings Reserve.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-04**

**Recommending the transfer of PCE endowment assets and distribution responsibilities
outside the State's management and the Legislature's appropriating authority.**

Whereas, the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) fund and program is a recognition that the State has made significant investment in Railbelt and urban energy infrastructure, including the subsidy of Cook Inlet natural gas prices; and

Whereas, similar and equitable investments have not been made to address high energy costs across much of the rest of Alaska, even as State programs have made uneven attempts to produce solutions; and

Whereas, high energy costs are one of the most significant features of high transaction costs, which compound business development and the cost of living; lower energy costs spur development and investment, and require less in the form of State subsidies for other types of programs or offsets; and

Whereas, the State's fiscal condition is now in its sixth year facing a budget deficit, and the State has not significantly adjusted revenues to expenditures; and

Whereas, the result is increasing pressure to utilize existing assets and to renegotiate or renege on past commitments; and the PCE Endowment Fund may be facing its greatest threat ever, as the State is left with just a few options; and

Whereas, traditionally it has been left to political compromise to hold the line on use of the PCE; and

Whereas, even in just the last few years, PCE's earnings have been tied to Community Assistance and renewable energy, in the hopes that these priorities may be preserved; and

Whereas, it is time to remove the temptation from legislative appropriation and ensure that the State can achieve its support of lower cost energy across Alaska; and

Whereas, reform of the PCE program should also be considered, such that if any community make an investment in, or incur debt as it relates to, energy infrastructure that achieves lower cost energy, that PCE provides for debt relief or investment match; and

Whereas, the relationship with Community Assistance should remain, with a level amount of funding available to provide needs-based support for local governments in their delivery of essential State services.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML first and foremost expects that the State respect and preserve the integrity of the PCE endowment, avoiding its diminishment to meet short-term budgetary demands; but that the State also begin a process to evaluate the process for an appropriate steward to assume management of the endowment and distribution based on statutory investment policy and formula; and

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.


Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League


Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-04**

Further, be it resolved that as part of this process PCE funds become available to reimburse communities for making investments in lower cost energy infrastructure, and a set aside and distribution occur each year for distribution to the local governments that demonstrate relevant need as part of the Community Assistance program.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-05**

Encouraging collaboration that fosters new approaches to public education, and sufficient and consistent funding.

Whereas, it is the State's constitutional obligation to establish and maintain a system of public education; and

Whereas, the State currently provides more than half of overall education funding, local government contributions and local impact aid makes up the remainder; and

Whereas, school districts are challenged to recruit and retain teachers, and meet the needs of students, without strong and stable budgets; and

Whereas, the State appropriates funds for school construction and major maintenance as available, and school construction and major maintenance funding has diminished over the years, and generally not fully funded the entirety of the need; and

Whereas, school bond debt reimbursement has increasingly been unfunded and that cost shifted to local governments; and

Whereas, 39 of 56 school districts are municipal, corresponding to home rule or first class boroughs or cities responsibilities, and the remainder are Regional Educational Attainment Areas (REAAs); and

Whereas, the boundaries of REAAs are inconsistent with current statute, 2nd class cities within the unorganized borough do not contribute directly to education funding, and without taxing authority those school districts are reliant on the State; and

Whereas, the State's fiscal challenges increases the potential for additional costs to fall on boroughs, and home rule or first class cities in the unorganized borough; and

Whereas, the total contribution made by the State, federal and local governments is insufficient to meet the needs of Alaska's public education system; and

Whereas, new approaches may be necessary to consider as part of addressing these issues.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML communicates its interest in working with AASB, ACSA, ALASBO and others to address the following issues, and others, and in support of negotiated solutions:

1. Review of potential statewide revenue development to meet public education funding needs, including removing mandatory, dedicated taxation at the local level to allow for maximum local control.
2. Evaluation of the equalization formula as it relates to district costs, local contributions, mandated expenses, and the needs of public education.
3. Processes that reflect the State's commitment to school construction and major maintenance, including to meet current obligations and the needs of maintaining a public education system

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

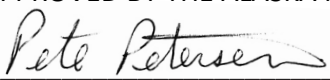
Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League


Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-05**

4. District boundaries consistent with statute and regional needs, as well as the effective and efficient delivery of public education

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-06**

Supporting a statewide comprehensive Alaska health initiative

Whereas, the State of Alaska is facing a billion-dollar budget deficit and is examining ways to balance the State's budget and reduce state spending; and

Whereas, the State of Alaska faces a public health crisis, which is requiring extensive scaling up of the public health infrastructure in response; and

Whereas, there is the potential for leveraging increased public health capacity to meet additional needs of Alaskans, which may contribute as well to addressing State and local government costs; and

Whereas, the State of Alaska currently has some of the highest per capita rates of substance abuse and tobacco use in the nation; and

Whereas, the State of Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, suicide, child abuse and neglect, accidental death rates, obesity and sexually transmitted diseases in the nation; and

Whereas, data from the 2019 Alaska Kids Count Report ranks Alaska 45th in the nation for children's well-being based on 16 benchmarks related to quality of life, 50th in the nation for health, 49th in the nation for education, and 33rd in the nation for economic well-being; and

Whereas, children who experience abuse or neglect are approximately nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activity, thus burdening the legal and prison systems than children who do not experience child abuse or neglect; and

Whereas, Alaska's public health crisis impacts almost all state department operations and budgets, costs the State of Alaska millions of dollars every year, and damages the state's economy by limiting productive contributions that healthier citizens could have made; and

Whereas, the State of Alaska has made attempts to combat some of these public health challenges but success may depend on a more coordinated and intensive approach; and

Whereas, the State of Alaska should identify ways in which a comprehensive state-wide public health initiative could be paid for, with an appropriate return on that investment; and

Whereas, substantially reducing the State of Alaska's public health issues will reduce the need for programs and services and result in significant cost savings to the State.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Municipal League supports a comprehensive statewide healthy Alaska initiative that aims to leverage current investments in the public health infrastructure to substantially reduce our public health issues and reduce the state's operating budget as programs and services are no longer needed to address preventable problems.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-07**

Requesting renewed State support and increased funding for local emergency planning committees and preparedness.

Whereas, the State has a long history of providing support for local emergency preparedness; and

Whereas, local preparedness contributes to the ability of the State to respond effectively in the case of a crisis; and

Whereas, State support has come in the form of technical resources, as well as financial aid that helps local governments form and sustain local emergency planning committees; and

Whereas, the State had conducted some of this collaboration through DMVA's Local Emergency Planning Committees; and

Whereas, in FY19 the State funded LEPCs at \$298,500, in FY20 all of the LEPC funding of \$225,000 was vetoed from the State's budget, and in FY20 eliminated from the budget entirely; and

Whereas, the justification for those reductions note that "communities can apply for grants through other sources including DCCED and the federal government" and that "the State's fiscal reality dictates a reduction in expenditures;" and

Whereas, many local governments were unable to sustain LEPCs on their own, and were not able to identify grants corresponding to this need, while others saw their preparedness reduced dramatically; and

Whereas, the current COVID-19 public health emergency highlighted challenges related to these gaps, wherein lack of funding has resulted in a less effective response than could otherwise have been in place; and

Whereas, Alaska's public safety and health are dependent on strong public institutions that are able to 1) communicate local, on the ground information to state and federal decision makers, 2) engage with and partner at the State and federal level; and 3) assist in implementing state and federal guidance; and

Whereas, an FY21 supplemental appropriation would ensure that local governments have the ability to sustain the systems that were developed in response to COVID-19, especially if no further federal funding is available and CARES Act funding remains restricted; and

Whereas, while recognizing the State's fiscal reality, the public health emergency and economic crisis, 2019 earthquakes and fire season, and future emergencies necessitate capacity at the local level that assists in the State response; and

Whereas, the State investment in local planning efforts saves the State time and funding later during an actual emergency, as systems are in place to coordinate response.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML requests renewed State support and increasing funding for local emergency planning committees and preparedness.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-08**

In support of a balanced approach to addressing the State of Alaska's deficit and continuing fiscal challenges.

Whereas, in 2016 AML presented a Sustainability Plan as the result of a year's worth of Committee work, and carefully evaluating the options at the time; and

Whereas, the Plan included creation of the POMV, changes to the PFD formula, broad based taxes, and additional revenue measures; and since then, the POMV has been implemented and some small reductions have been made to expenditures; and

Whereas, while the level of State spending on State government has remained about the same, much of its savings have been achieved by cost-shifting to local governments; and

Whereas, since 2016 the State has spent down almost the entirety of its savings accounts and there are few options remaining that don't include broad based revenue measures, use of the remaining funds that have been held within the Earnings Reserve account, additional cost-shifting, or dramatic reductions to spending; and

Whereas, as local government officials who similarly have to make hard choices in balancing local budgets, our members recognize the inherent challenges, fraught politics, and social and economic impacts; and

Whereas, Alaska's cities and boroughs – as political subdivisions of the State – depend on a State government that has the resources available to deliver its Constitutional and statutory obligations, including in partnership with local governments; and

Whereas, the deterioration of the State's fiscal condition materially threatens the sustainability of local governments in Alaska; and

Whereas, Alaska's residents, businesses, and local governments expect action by the Governor and Legislature that balance the State's budget using the myriad tools of government – right-sizing programs, broad-based taxation, and strategic spending; and a balanced approach is crucial and will require reexamination of current approaches.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML supports a balanced approach to addressing the State of Alaska's deficit and continuing fiscal challenges, including by addressing the following:

- Broad-based taxation (personal and corporate income, sales, and property)
- Additional revenue measures tied to use (motor fuel, marijuana, tobacco, alcohol) or resource
- A stable PFD formula consistent with a sustainable draw from the Earnings Reserve.
- Potential reductions to the State budget irrespective of fund source
- Negotiating solutions to devolve responsibilities, and foster public-private partnerships

Be it further resolved that AML suggests the following criteria be used in evaluating the efficacy of these options:

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-08**

- The effective date of broad-based taxation should be consistent with economic recovery, including to phase in over time – these programs take time to implement
- Social and economic modeling should accompany individual options and the combination of options, with consideration given to the impact on the tax base, equity, and distribution
- Local governments are diverse in their ability to sustain cost-shifting or cuts, and that variability will need to be taken into account
- Negotiated solutions are different than unfunded mandates, and must include a level of funding that can be leveraged at the local level

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-09**

In support of increased funding for community and regional jails, and a base level of funding for Village Police Officers.

Whereas, Alaska has a unified court system and the criminal justice system is the obligation of the State; and

Whereas, local governments have the option to adopt police powers, with more than 70 having done so; and local law enforcement enforces State and municipal law; and

Whereas, the State has separated local law enforcement into two classes, one of which is Village Police Officers (VPOs), who have different training requirements than other public safety professionals in the state, but very similar responsibilities to other local law enforcement, and more responsibility than Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) who received more training; and

Whereas, the State invests \$10 million in the VPSO program, a necessary component of the overall public safety system in Alaska, for about the same number of officers as VPOs, which it contributes nothing to; and

Whereas, increasing public attention on public safety, including recruitment and retention, hiring practices and training, performance and outcomes, and operations, necessitates an increased level of commitment to and investment in these systems; and

Whereas, at the same time, 15 local governments provide community and regional jails on behalf of the State's criminal justice system; and these jails are an integral part of local and state law enforcement; and

Whereas, State funding for community and regional jails has been static for the last three years, and if adjusted for inflation represents pre-2002 levels of State investment; and in many cases, State funding is only 50% of the full cost of managing the jail on the State's behalf, and in all cases deficient; and

Whereas, if local governments are to effectively deliver public safety in Alaska then the State must better contribute to their ability to do so; and

Whereas, additional State investment is needed to improve and adjust to the demands of these roles, to attract and retain qualified officers, and to expand training and preparedness.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML calls on the Governor and Legislature to fully fund community and regional jails, requiring at least an additional \$5 million more than the \$7 million currently budgeted; and

Be it further resolved that funding should be appropriated in support of Village Police Officers, to include at least coverage of police professional liability insurance, travel for training and training expenses, and a base level of pay, the estimated total of which will represent half of what the State invests in the VPSO program.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-10**

In appreciation for the State's response to COVID-19, the public health emergency and economic crisis.

Whereas, COVID-19 threatened the health and well-being of Alaskans, even as it dramatically affected the same across the world; and

Whereas, the State's early and robust action early resulted in effectively managing the spread, flattening the curve, and giving the public health and medical community the time necessary to prepare; and

Whereas, Alaska continues to have some of the most testing, and the lowest number of deaths per capita and total deaths in the nation; and

Whereas, Governor Mike Dunleavy, Commissioner Adam Crum, and Dr. Anne Zink are to be commended for their high level of leadership throughout this crisis; and

Whereas, local government officials actively worked with State officials throughout, with emergency operations centers established, incident commanders and public information officers named; and

Whereas, together we learned that there needs to be better systems for communication and coordination between the State and local governments; and

Whereas, together we learned that for local officials to effectively implement State mandates, a certain level of information must be shared and the earlier local officials are brought into and kept apprised within the process, the better; and

Whereas, together we learned that additional work will need to be done to clarify the existing and necessary powers of local governments to act in a public health emergency; and

Whereas, together we learned that the capacity of local governments varies significantly across the State, such that the demands of response are met differently and need different levels of State support; and

Whereas, together we learned that collaboration with tribal governments and the tribal health system are essential for the overall implementation of public health mitigations measures and the needs of local governments and the State; and

Whether, together we have learned that second class boroughs do not have health powers and are at a disadvantage in terms of implementing mitigation strategies; and

Whereas, the Governor's and Legislature's distribution of a sufficient level of CARES Act funding was critical to ensuring that local governments were able to manage through this process, to respond both to public health and economic crisis; and

Whereas, our approach to CARES Act funding must continue to be done in partnership, such that as we near the deadline for expenditure, and then through the reporting period, the State and

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League


Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League


**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-10**

local governments are able to fully justify and account for the costs associated with the pandemic.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML appreciates the State's response to the public health emergency and continued collaboration in support of economic recovery.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021.11**

**In support of full funding (\$14,049,988) for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility
Grant Program in the FY22 State Capital Budget.**

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

Whereas, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the 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 Alaskan communities; and

Whereas, the State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

Whereas, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and

Whereas, consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they 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 municipalities of the City of Cordova, City and Borough of Sitka, City and Borough of Juneau, City of Seward, and City of Sand Point have offered to contribute \$14,049,988 in local match funding for FY2022 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

Whereas, completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021.11**

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; and

Whereas, over the past five years, municipal harbors have submitted \$58 million in capital project match requests, representing over \$116 million in shovel-ready capital projects that have received only \$16.6 million in funding through the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program with zero funding in FY21.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Municipal League urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2022 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-12**

In support of an Alaska Multi-Modal Transportation System

Whereas, the Alaska Municipal League supports adequate State funding for basic public services and infrastructure including transportation projects that can be used to match or supplement federal funding; and

Whereas, an Alaska Multi-Modal Transportation Program would be a single over-arching program to facilitate the funding of all transportation-related projects in the State of Alaska with the objective of ensuring that all transportation related projects were vetted in one program which would reduce redundancies and enhance modal coordination through a transparent and objective process; and

Whereas, the modes addressed would include highways, marine, rail and aviation and would include all federal and non-federal funding; and

Whereas, the program would be established under the Department of Transportation with a structure akin to that of a metropolitan planning organization with a Policy Board and a Technical Committee; and

Whereas, the make-up of the Policy Board and Technical Committee would be representative of all regions and modes and technical modal experts and planners, with representation from state employees, non-state workers, and expert citizens of the state encouraged to participate; and

Whereas, the Program would establish long-term and short-term multi-modal transportation plans at least every four years through an objective nomination and evaluation process and create transparency and stability over the current planning process to ensure that the best mode is funded to satisfy an identified transportation deficiency.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Municipal League supports the creation of the Alaska Multi-Modal Transportation Program.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution 2021-13**

In support for establishing standards and regulations for unorganized boroughs.

Whereas, the Alaska Municipal League supports the idea of “maximum local self-government”; and

Whereas, Article 10, Section 3 of the Alaska Constitution requires the Legislature set policy for the establishment, alteration and nature of Boroughs; and


Whereas, The legislature has not yet enacted standards and procedures for the establishment of unorganized boroughs and the lack of such standards and procedures precludes a meaningful determination of whether an unorganized area has attained the fiscal and administrative capacity to support areawide functions; and

Whereas, if such standards existed, an unorganized area could be signaled to form an organized borough when it achieved the administrative and fiscal capacity to support areawide functions.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Alaska Municipal League supports establishing standards and regulations for unorganized boroughs.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: 
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2021-21**

Requesting that the Legislature review and make optional exemptions that are more appropriately decided at the local level.

Whereas, increasingly, local governments are expected to fulfill State responsibilities that the State can no longer afford; and

Whereas, in order to meet these obligations, local governments must have the tools at their disposal necessary to deliver essential services and ensure that the corresponding tax burden does not fall disproportionately on the rest of the tax base; and

Whereas, the State's exemptions of certain types of property affect the ability of local governments to deliver essential services; and

Whereas, mandatory exemptions result in a more limited tax base, and the tax rate more heavily burdening only certain portions of a city or borough's residents; and

Whereas, in particular, an exemption of household furniture and personal effects (29.45.030(a)(2)) is better determined at the local level; and

Whereas, in particular, the undeveloped value of natural resources in place is reserved to taxation by the State, even as the impact and benefit may be managed also at the local level, and local control of taxation may increase the viability of a project; and

Whereas, in particular, the exemption (29.45.030(a)) of AIDEA land and the Alaska Railroad (42.40.910) – two public corporations that maintain a business model similar to that of any private corporation – are inconsistent with a public purpose; and

Whereas, broad age-based exemptions do not take into account the need or lack thereof of those residents, which runs counter to best practices, and in the development of mandatory age-based exemptions the State committed to reimbursement and has not since 1985, now valued at more than \$90 million.

Now, therefore be it resolved that AML requests that the Governor and Legislature review all mandatory exemptions affecting local governments and where found to be beneficial pass legislation that makes optional, needs-based, and/or locally determined those accounted for above.

APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Signed: Pete Petersen
President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: [Signature]
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League