

## Principles

- Support the Alaska Constitution's mandate "to provide for maximum local self-government"
- Support policies that reduce tax burdens and reimburse for State-mandated exemptions
- Support State revenue assistance as an investment in and support for municipal governance
- Support adequate State funding for basic public services and infrastructure
- Oppose unfunded and underfunded State or Federal legislative and administrative mandates
- Oppose any efforts to reduce local revenues and local revenue authorities
- Oppose State or Federal policies that shift responsibilities to local governments without a negotiated agreement that includes adequate and full annual funding

## Policy Statements

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE (TITLE 29)

- Support increased capacity within and professionalization of State tax assessment.
- Support improvements to records retention, public records access, and public notice.
- Support issuance of a municipal impact fiscal note within proposed legislation.

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND REVENUE SHARING

- Support a baseline floor of \$60 million annually, and encourage a long-term, sustainable solution.
- Support a method to waive debt, forgive loans, or otherwise bolster "stressed" communities.

### PERS/TRS CHANGES

- Support amendments to termination studies and penalties for leaving PERS/TRS.
- Support the development of a pathway to decrease overall unfunded liability.
- Oppose any cost shift of the State "on behalf" payment over 22%, or any other changes that haven't been negotiated and agreed to by municipalities.

### FISCAL POLICY

- Support agency and programmatic efficiency and right-sizing, but oppose cost-shifting to municipalities and eliminating essential services.
- Support the development of a broad-based tax to increase state revenue.
- Interest rate penalties found in AS 26.45.500(b) should be consistent with market rates.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- Increase tools available for public safety official recruitment and retention.
- Support and strengthen the VPSO program.
- Support state efforts to decrease access to and impacts from opioids.
- Oppose any reduction in state funding of community jails.
- Fund the administrative costs of municipal hosting of E911 systems.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Support increased investment in infrastructure development, which facilitates economic growth.
- Support increased investment in training and workforce development.
- Support state responsiveness to local economic development planning, including local economic diversification and small business development strategies.

## **EDUCATION**

- Support early childhood education, career and technical education, and preparing, attracting and retaining qualified educators.
- Support for accountability and assessment that meets federal requirements and maximizes local control.
- Oppose any reduction in school funding and support investment in infrastructure and deferred maintenance.
- Support amendments to the funding formula removing penalties for consolidation of school facilities within a district.
- Oppose forced consolidation of school districts.
- Oppose the elimination of the school bond debt reimbursement program, and any reductions to previous reimbursement commitments.
- Support a sustainable university system capable of delivering educational opportunities, workforce development, and credible research.

## **FISHERIES**

- Support for appropriately funded DF&G and increased investment in fisheries monitoring, research and outreach.
- Support continued investment in port and harbor infrastructure.
- Support reinstatement of the Harbor Matching Grant program, partially fulfilling the state's obligation for maintenance of harbors transferred into municipal ownership.
- Support an active role in federal fisheries management, and clean water, as well as transboundary negotiations.

## **ENERGY**

- Support for vetting of and investing in energy projects, processes and programs that decrease energy costs.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Support State investment that can be used to match or supplement federal funding.
- Support increases to the State capital budget.
- Support a sustainable ferry system that continues basic, year-round, ferry service to coastal communities.

## **MINERALS**

- Support responsible resource development and the reduction of investment barriers alongside improved environmental risk management.

## **WATER, WASTEWATER AND SANITATION**

- Support increased State investment in maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.
- Support reinstatement of the Municipal Matching Grant program to help municipalities match or supplement local and federal funding.

# Resolutions

## STATUTORY

**2019-04** The Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Legislature to enact legislation requiring disclosures of all real property sales in the State of Alaska.

**2019-07** 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.

**2019-10** The Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation redefining the transferability of limited entry salmon permits by allowing an additional name to be listed on permits to keep permits in rural communities.

**2020-03** The Alaska Municipal League opposes decisions by DOT&PF to increase their indirect rates; and 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.

**2020-05** 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 that the Alaska Municipal League supports counting Federal Impact Aid as part of the local government contribution.

**2020-11** 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.

**2020-21** 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.

## BUDGET

**2019-02** 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).

**2019-03** The Alaska Municipal League support full annual funding of school bond debt reimbursement and state aid for construction in Regional Educational Attendance Areas.

**2019-05** The Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to increase investment in the Renewable Energy Fund; and 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.

**2019-09** The Alaska Municipal League encourages the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature fund a one-time payoff of PERS arrearages.

**2020-01** The Alaska Municipal League supports reinstatement of State funding for the Code Blue program and Local Emergency Planning Committees.

**2020-10** 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.

**2020-18** The Alaska Municipal League considers unacceptable the reductions to funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System in FY20 and the changes to the winter schedule for many ferry-dependent communities; and 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.

**2020-19** 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.

**2020-20** 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 FY21 Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

**2020-23** The Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska Legislature to override the \$5 Million veto of AMHS funding for FY2020.

## **SYSTEMS**

**2019-01** The Alaska Municipal League encourages the Alaska State Legislature to consider the development of a Community Dividend.

**2019-08** The Alaska Municipal League requests that the Governor and Alaska State Legislature increase capacity within the Office of Management and Budget to evaluate costs to communities of State and Legislative budget and legislative actions; and that the Alaska Municipal League encourage consideration of a municipal impact fiscal note to be included in all relevant legislation prior to submission.

**2020-02** 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.

**2020-04** The Alaska Municipal League supports rural law enforcement efforts such as the VPO and VPSO programs; and 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.

**2020-06** The Alaska Municipal League acknowledges and appreciates DEC's new policy to test for and analyze a full suite of PFAS compounds; and that the Alaska Municipal League requests that State and Federal action on PFAS continue to occur, including to establish PFAS compounds as eligible for funding, and set allowable limits and standards for cleanup.

**2020-07** The Alaska Municipal League supports reform to PERS that includes a complete pay-down of the unfunded liability; and 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.

**2020-08** The Alaska Municipal League supports economic, resource and infrastructure development that benefits local governments, the State of Alaska, and Alaska residents.

**2020-09** The Alaska Municipal League supports all and diverse efforts that contribute to a complete count during the U.S. Census.

**2020-12** 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.

**2020-15** The Alaska Municipal League supports the Legislature's efforts toward consensus on the Permanent Fund Dividend.

**2020-17** 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.

## **FEDERAL**

**2020-13** The Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the USDA Forest Service Secure Rural Schools program to include long-term certainty and sustainability of funding.

**2020-14** The Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the PILT funding formula to extend multipliers to smaller population counties (boroughs).

## **REVENUE**

**2019-06** The Alaska Municipal League supports the State's consideration of a broad-based tax; and that the Alaska Municipal League stands ready to work with the Alaska State Legislature to mitigate potential negative impacts, as necessary.

**2020-16** The Alaska Municipal League supports the sustainability of the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) and increased investment in rural infrastructure and affordability.

**2020-22** The Alaska Municipal League supports funding critical coastal infrastructure throughout the state with general obligation bonds; and that the Alaska Municipal League requests the State Legislature approve a coastal infrastructure general obligation bond to be included on the November 3, 2020 ballot.