



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

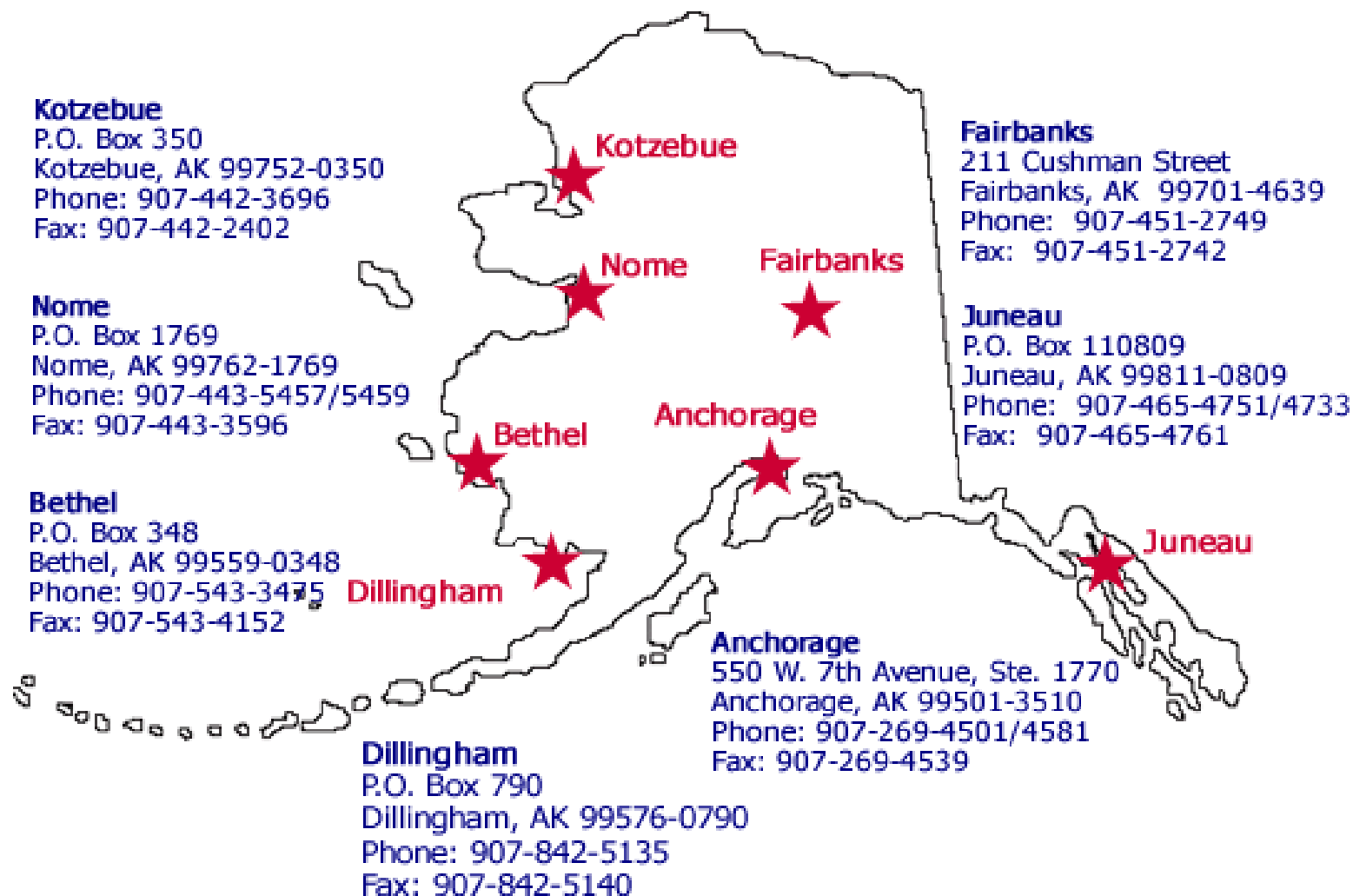
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Division of Community & Regional Affairs**

**Local Government 101:
Introduction to Title 29**

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November 9, 2021**



DCRA Regional Offices





Local Government 101

- **Creation of Local Government in Alaska**
- **Classification of Local Government**
 - **Introduction to Title 29**
- **Division of Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA)**
 - **Questions?**



Local Government 101

Creation of Local Government 1955-56 Alaska Constitutional Convention





Alaska Constitution

Article X Provides:

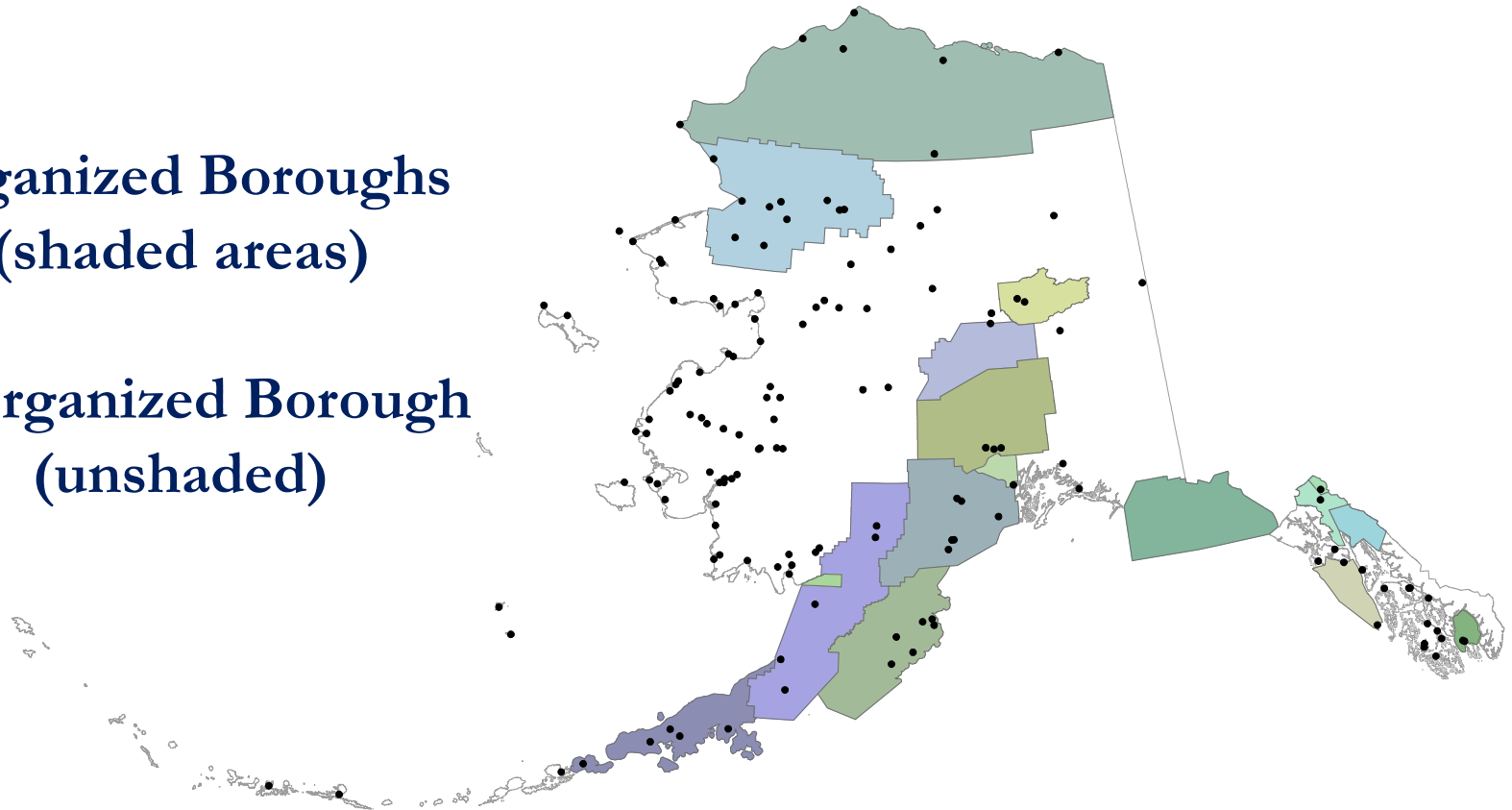
- Maximum local self-government.
- A liberal construction shall be given to the powers of local government units.
- All local government powers shall be vested in boroughs and cities.
- The entire state shall be divided into boroughs; organized or unorganized.
- The governing body of an organized borough shall be the assembly.
- The governing body of a city shall be the council.
- A local boundary commission or board shall be established by law.
- An agency – DCRA – shall be established by law...to advise and assist local governments.



Boroughs and Cities

**Organized Boroughs
(shaded areas)**

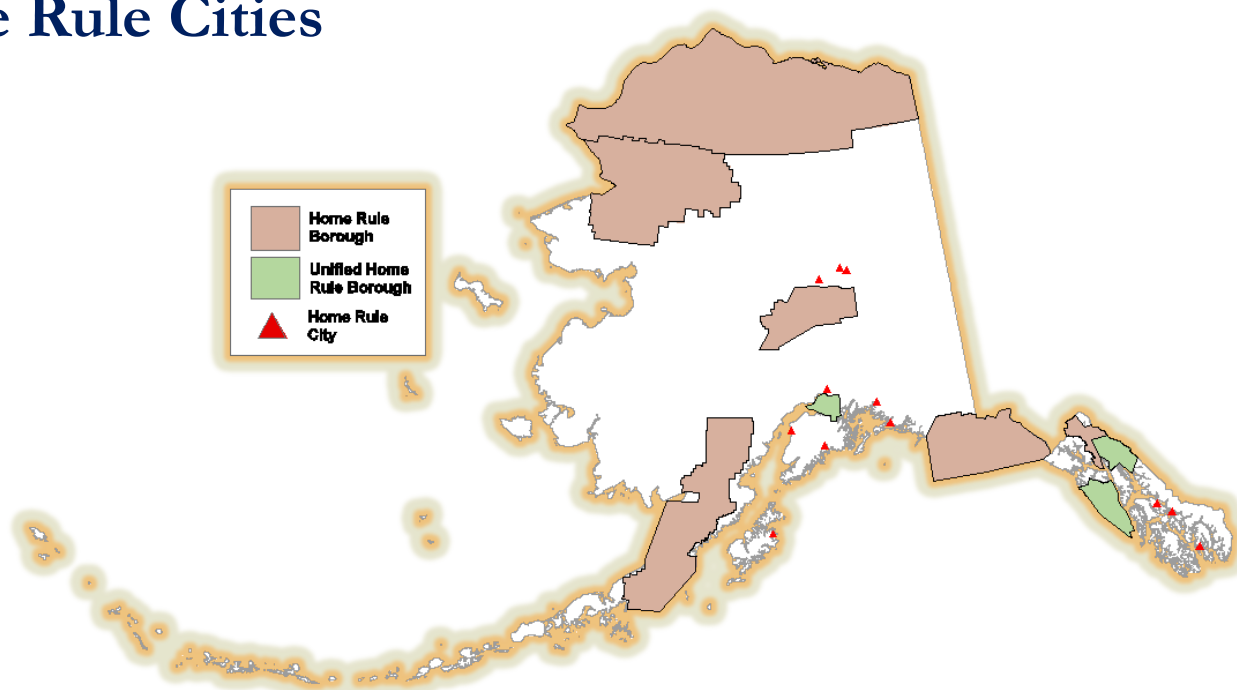
**Unorganized Borough
(unshaded)**





Home Rule

4 Unified Home Rule Boroughs
7 Non-unified Home Rule Boroughs
& 11 Home Rule Cities





Boroughs and Cities

As of today, there are 19 organized boroughs and 145 cities in Alaska.

Home Rule Boroughs (11)

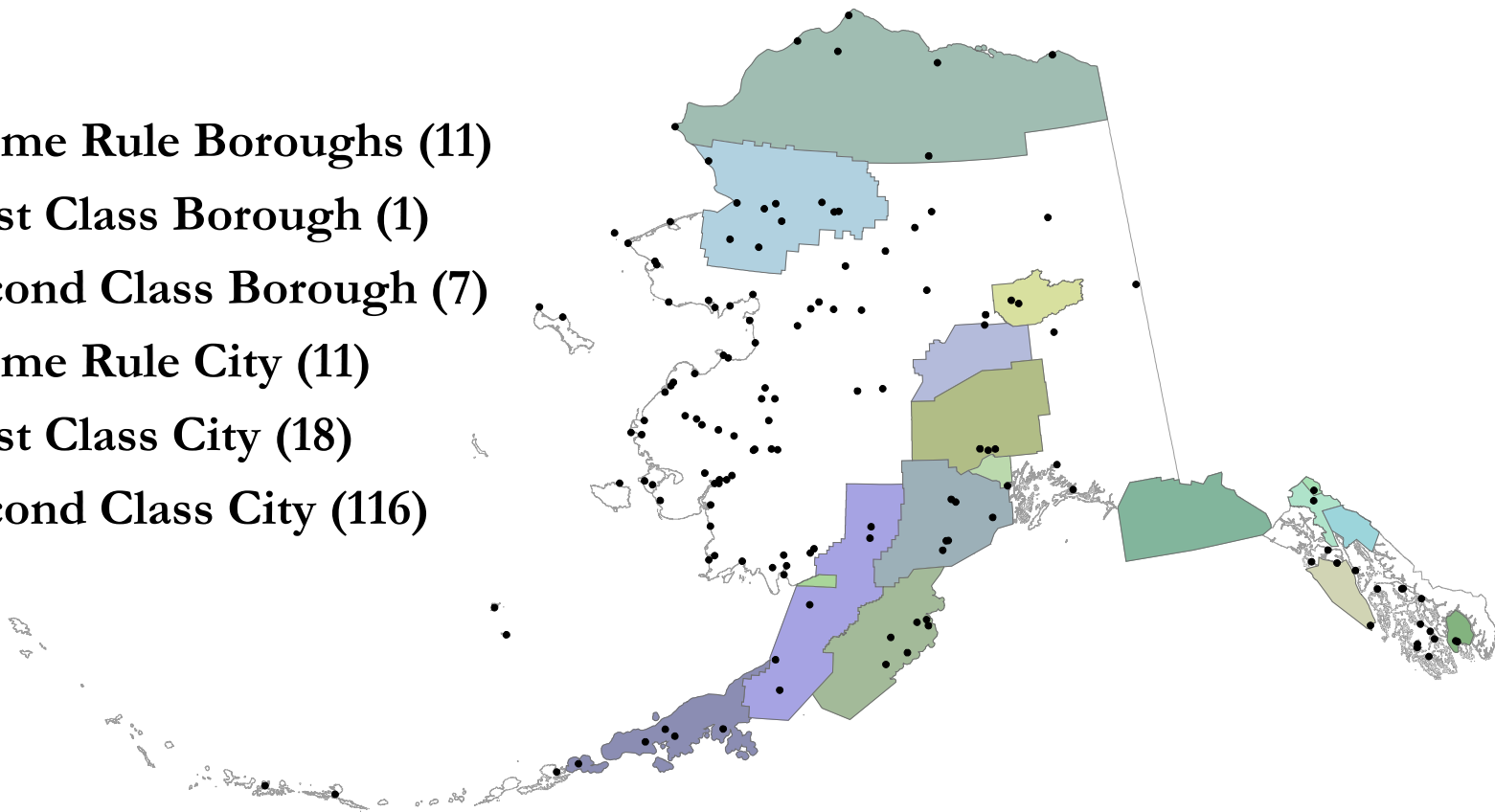
First Class Borough (1)

Second Class Borough (7)

Home Rule City (11)

First Class City (18)

Second Class City (116)





Municipalities

A municipality is any borough, city, or unified local government established and incorporated under Alaska law.





Requirements

All municipalities must conduct regular elections and hold regular meetings open to the public.



Other duties vary based on classification of the municipality and whether it is in an organized borough or the unorganized borough.



Education

Organized boroughs, as well as home rule and first class cities in the unorganized borough, must provide education services.

Education services for 2nd class cities in the unorganized borough are provided by state REAAs.





Planning, Platting, & Land Use Regulation





Taxation

Only boroughs and cities have the power to tax. (Article X)

Boroughs and cities are authorized to collect property, sales, and use taxes. (AS 29.45. Municipal Taxation)

Taxes must be adopted by ordinance. (AS 29.25.010(3))

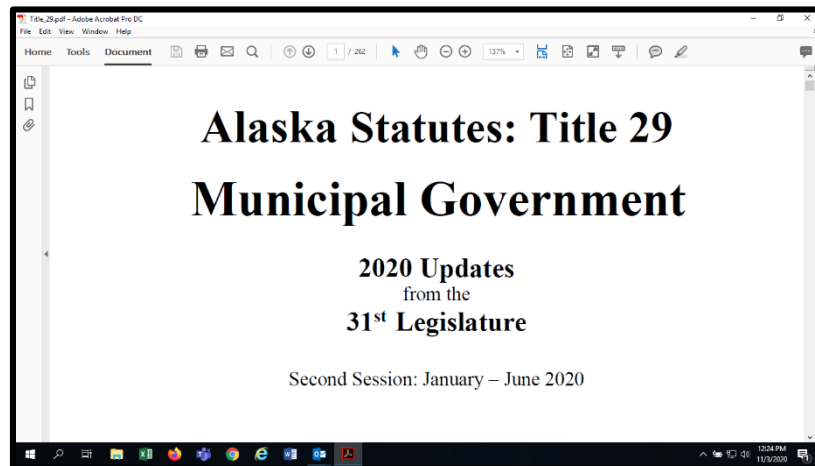
Taxes must be ratified by the voters. (AS 29.45.670)

A borough shall assess and collect property, sales, and use taxes that are levied in its boundaries. (AS 29.35.17(a))

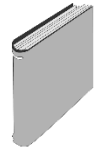


Title 29

Title 29 of Alaska Statutes addresses Municipal Government in Alaska



TITLE 29 TABLE OF CONTENTS



- Chapter 3 The Unorganized Borough (29.03. ...)
- Chapter 4 Classification of Municipalities (29.04. ...)
- Chapter 5 Incorporation (29.05. ...)
- Chapter 6 Alteration of Municipalities (29.06. ...)
- Chapter 10 Home Rule Municipalities (29.10. ...)
- Chapter 20 Municipal Officers & Employees (29.20. ...)
- Chapter 25 Municipal Enactments (29.25. ...)**
- Chapter 26 Elections (29.26. ...)
- Chapter 35 Municipal Powers and Duties (29.35. ...)
- Chapter 40 Planning, Platting, & Land Use Regs (29.40. ...)
- Chapter 45 Municipal Taxation (29.45. ...)
- Chapter 46 Special Assessments (29.46. ...)
- Chapter 47 Municipal Debts (29.47. ...)
- Chapter 55 Municipal Programs (29.55. ...)

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/>



Title 29

Chapter 20: Municipal Officers and Employees

Chapter 25: Municipal Enactments

Chapter 26: Elections

Chapter 35: Municipal Powers & Duties



Governing Bodies

Conflict of Interest Ordinance (AS 29.20.010)

Legislative Power (AS 29.20.050)

Council Composition (AS 29.20.130)

Terms of Office (AS 29.20.150)

Procedures of Governing Body (AS 29.20.160)

Vacancies (AS 29.20.170-.180)



The Mayor

Executive Power (AS 29.20.220)

Election and Term (AS 29.20.230)

Qualifications (AS 29.20.240)

Powers and Duties (AS 29.20.250)

Veto (AS 29.20.270)

Vacancy (AS 29.20.280)



Appointment of Officials

AS 29.20.360

Unless otherwise provided by ordinance, the municipal clerk, attorney, treasurer, and police chief are appointed by the chief administrator. Unless otherwise provided by ordinance, an official described in this section serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority and, if appointed by the chief administrator, must be confirmed by the governing body.



Municipal Attorney



AS 29.20.370

The municipal attorney is the legal advisor of the governing body, the school board, and the other officials of the municipality.

The municipal attorney represents the municipality as attorney in civil and criminal proceedings.



Municipal Clerk



The municipal clerk provides administrative support to the governing body as identified in state law (AS 29.20.380).

The clerk is also typically the first person contacted when dealing with municipal government, when seeking public records, and when a citizen has a concern, question, or complaint.



Municipal Treasurer

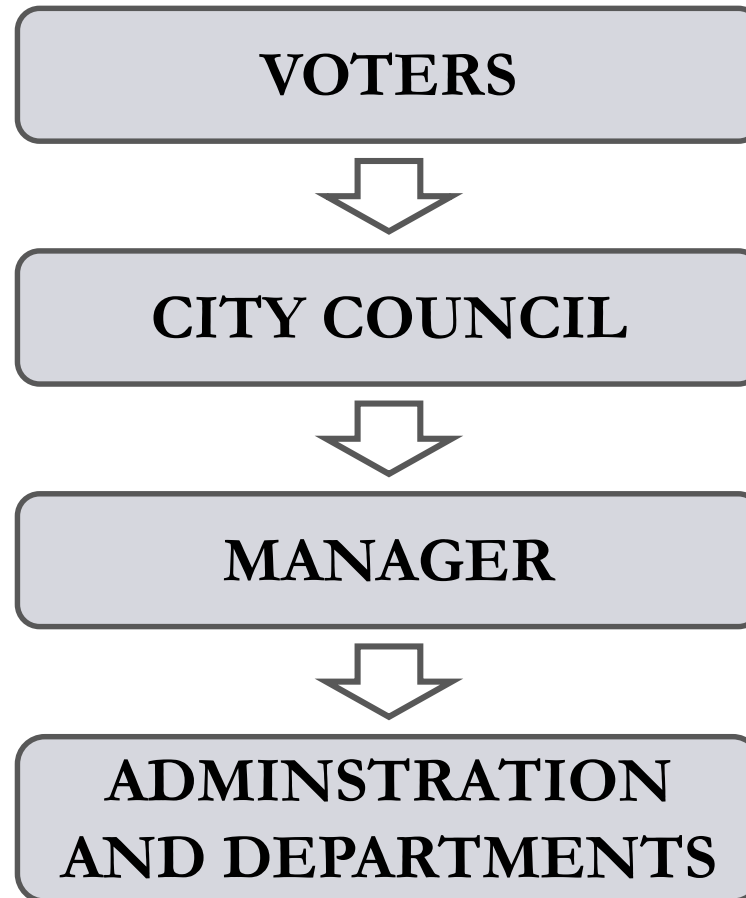
AS 29.20.390



Except as provided in AS 14.14.060, the treasurer is the custodian of all municipal funds, shall keep an itemized account of money received and disbursed, and shall pay money on vouchers drawn against appropriations.



Manager Plan





Manager



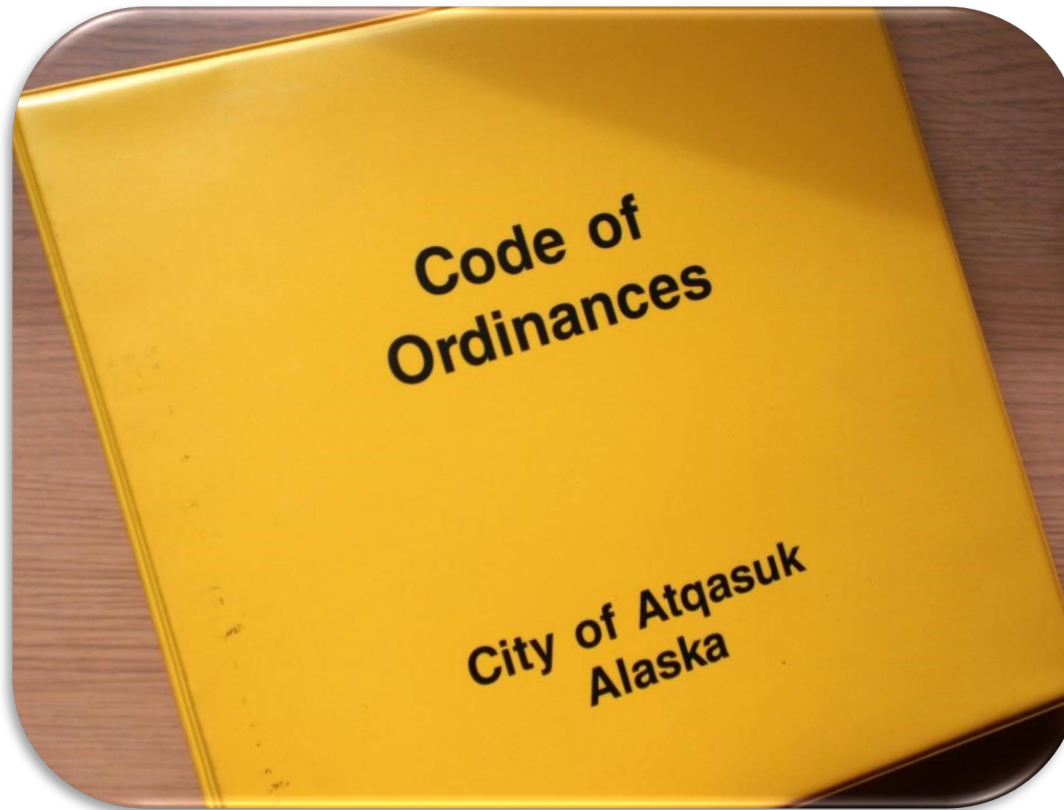


Manager



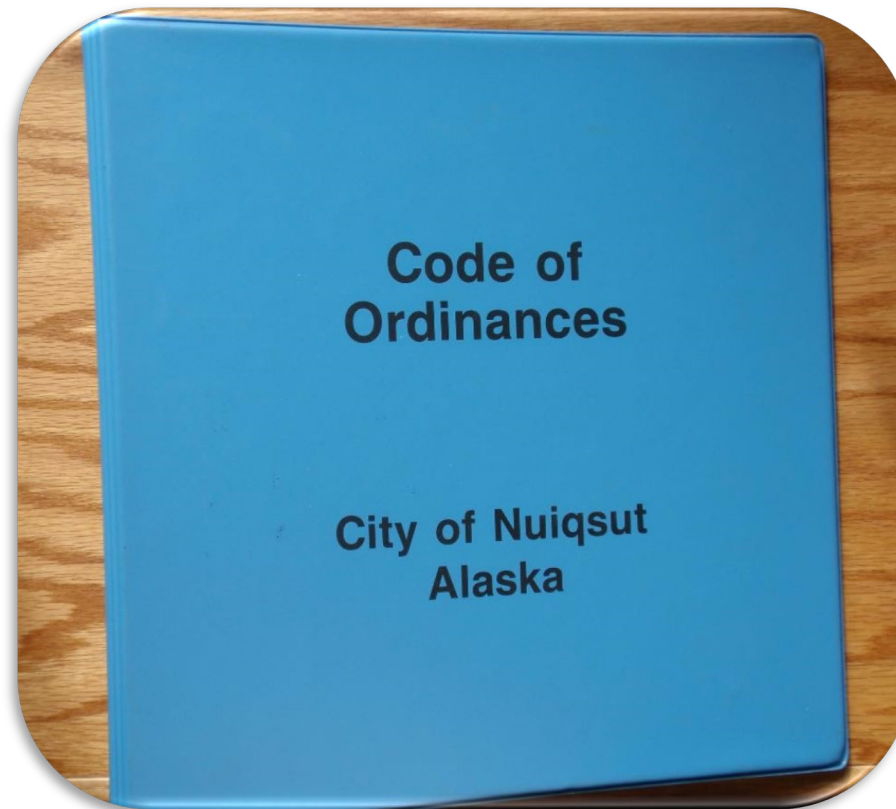


Municipal Enactments





Municipal Enactments





Elections





Powers and Duties

AS 29.35.010 grants all municipalities general powers (subject to other provisions of law) including powers to:

- Establish a municipal department;
- Levy a tax and impose a lien for its enforcement.
- Enforce an ordinance and prescribe a penalty for violation of it.
- Acquire, manage, control, use, and dispose of real and personal property.
- Expend money for a community purpose, facility, or service.
- Regulate the operation and use of a municipal right-of-way, facility, or service.
- Borrow money.
- Provide facilities or services for the confinement and care of prisoners.



Your role

As an elected official, you now have a role in:

- Policy making
- Budgeting and financial management
- Capital projects
- Community planning
- Employment tax compliance
- Local ordinances
- Monthly meetings
- Personnel management
- Public Safety
- Utility management



CAP & RUBA

Community Assistance Program

- Annual application, budget, and certified financial statement or audit.

RUBA Best Practices

- Bi-annual scoring of utility management capacity.
- Eligibility for capital project funding.



DCRA

Additional resources can be found at the State of Alaska, Division of Community Affairs website:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/LocalGovernmentAssistance.aspx>

Alaska Statutes: Title 29

A Primer for City Council Members

RUBA On-line Training Courses (see schedule)



Questions?





Contact Information

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(907) 269-4540

Local Government Resource Desk

(907) 269-8122

ResourceDesk@alaska.gov