

1 By: Assembly Legislative
2 Priorities Committee
3 Introduced: 08/12/2021
4 Amended: 08/12/2021
5 Adopted: 08/12/2021
6

7 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

8
9 RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 29

10
11 A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

12
13 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly identifies and
14 supports the following legislative priorities for 2022:

15
16 **PERS Contribution Rate and strategy to reduce unfunded liability**

17 Maintain the 22% PERS contribution rate as was agreed to by PERS employers and the
18 state in allocating the unfunded liability and to provide certainty of set rates for all
19 employers. There should be focused efforts to develop strategies to reduce the unfunded
20 liability and reduce the overall payout through incentive programs not by adjusting the
21 contribution amount. Options may include buy out provisions.
22

23 **Defining Economic Development within Title 29**

24 Economic development should be defined more broadly for purposes of our powers,
25 including spending revenue to assist local businesses and industries and for property tax
26 exemptions or deferrals. This would allow for more incentives to make it more attractive
27 for trades and businesses to maintain operations in the borough.
28

29 **Support Military Affairs Commission Legislation**

30 Create a commission to provide advice, counsel and recommendation to the Governor,
31 the Alaska Legislature and State agencies on initiatives, programs, and legislation that
32 continue and increase the role that Alaska’s military installations, the National Guard and
33 Reserve play in America’s defense strategy and the economic health and vitality of the
34 State.
35

36 **Government-to-government annexations**

37 Amendment to the annexation statutes that would allow a city within a second-class
38 borough and that borough to agree, by ordinance, to expand city boundaries within the
39 borough through an abbreviated process. Such amendment would allow the LBC to
40 approve such boundary changes provided that no private lots are affected.
41
42

43 **Creation of Enterprise Zones in State Statute**

44 An enterprise zone is a geographic area that has been granted special tax breaks,
45 regulatory exemptions, or other public assistance to encourage private economic
46 development and job creation. The programs may be used to encourage a private
47 company to stay in a neighborhood, expand in it, or relocate to it. The creation of
48 economic enterprise zones is a goal set forth in the FNSB’s Regional Comprehensive Plan.

49
50 **Regulate Broadband as a Utility**

51 The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) regulates various industries based on the
52 need for consistent and safe operations of key aspects of a community and economy.
53 Currently the RCA regulates industries such as Telephone, Electric, Natural Gas,
54 Wastewater, Water and Refuse. Regulating a utility provides a transparent and clear
55 path for development to ensure all areas are provided consistent service and a unified
56 cost structure, in a consistent manner.

57
58 **The State of Alaska should fully fund education to the basic need**

59 Any local contribution would be added to the basic need provided by the state, not
60 deducted from the amount the state would otherwise pay. Removing the required local
61 contribution could incentivize communities to incorporate by no longer penalizing
62 communities but by creating an incentive, to contribute additional funds to education. A
63 new disparity formula would need to be taken into consideration for this change to ensure
64 districts with low tax bases are not left behind.

65
66 **School Funding and Forward Funding Education**

67 Maintain school funding and forward funding of schools.

68
69 **Municipal Capital Project/School Construction Reimbursement**

70 The Fairbanks North Star Borough has partnered with the State of Alaska on municipal
71 capital and school construction projects. The Borough supports full reimbursement as
72 provided for in state law.

73
74 **Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) Program**

75 The HSCMG program has significant and wide-ranging impacts in the Fairbanks North
76 Star Borough and is an exceptionally cost-effective use of public dollars which are passed
77 through to nonprofit recipients providing basic and essential human services to
78 underserved residents.

79
80 **Community Assistance**

81 Support maintaining the community assistance program and considering ways to stabilize
82 the fund and or expand to create consistency. Support a baseline floor of \$60 million
83 annually, and encourage a long-term, sustainable solution.

84
85 **FNSB Approved FY 2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

86 Projects listed in Attachment 1 of FNSB adopted Resolution No. 2021-12.

87 **Loan Authority for Regional Development of residential and commercial**
88 **buildings due to military growth**

89 The Interior Energy Project set a precedent of low to zero percent interest rates and
90 extended payback period to initiate lower energy costs for the Interior. Providing special
91 authorities for state-funded loan programs to incentivize new and renovative building
92 could help the FNSB meet growth demands, exasperated by the planned deployment of
93 military personnel to Eielson and Fort Wainwright military bases.

94
95 **Fund AHFC Home Energy Rebate Program**
96 The AHFC Home Energy Rebate Program has not been funded since 2016. Encourage
97 funding and expand access of AHFC Home Energy Rebate Program and Energy efficiency
98 standards for new and retrofitted construction, including a call center and energy rater
99 certification.


100
101 **Fund the University of Alaska system**
102 The University of Alaska, specifically the Fairbanks campus, is a leading research facility
103 for the Arctic. Alaska makes the United States an arctic nation, and cutting-edge research
104 and innovation is paramount to development of energy systems and climate realizations
105 of the future.

106
107 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
108 North Star Borough supports these legislative priorities.

109
110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly requests the Clerk to
111 distribute a copy of this resolution to the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Alaska Interior
112 Delegation, and the Honorable Governor Dunleavy.

113
114 ADOPTED THE 12TH DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127



118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127

Mindy O'Neall
Presiding Officer

128
129
130

ATTEST:

April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk

128 Yeses: Wilson, Cash, Sanford, Tomaszewski, Lyke, Williams, O'Neall
129 Noes: Lojewski
130 Other: Cooper (Abstained)