

## 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 X 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 X requires that the entire state be divided into organized and unorganized boroughs; and

WHEREAS, Article X 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.