

Anchorage Municipal Charter
ARTICLE II

Bill of Rights

This Charter guarantees rights to the people of Anchorage that are in addition to rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Among rights guaranteed by this Charter are:

(1) The right of initiative; the right of referendum; and the right to recall public officers, as herein provided.

(2) The right of immunity from the creation or alteration of a service area, except upon a vote within the area affected.

(3) The right to establish local community councils to assure maximum community self-determination, exercised in conjunction with others and without infringement upon the rights of other persons.

(4) The right of immunity from sales taxes, except upon approval by a majority of qualified voters voting on the question.

(5) The right of immunity from official actions of the Assembly taken after twelve midnight and before seven o'clock a.m., actual time.

(6) The right to the assistance of a municipal ombudsman in dealing with grievances and abuses.

(7) The right to opportunities in housing, public accommodations, employment, and education without regard to race, religion, sex, color, national origin, marital status, or physical handicap; and the right to an Equal Rights Commission at the municipal level in aid thereof.

(8) The right to a locally directed, on-going planning process that is based upon the community's goals, objectives and policies for the future.

(9) The right — whether as a taxpayer, as a municipal employee, or both — to a comprehensive personnel classification and procedures system created by ordinance and based upon merit.

(10) The right to be heard at public hearings prior to adoption of proposed six-year plans of the school system and the municipality, or approval of the annual budget or any ordinance (except an emergency ordinance as defined herein).

(11) The right — whether as a contractor, as a taxpayer, or both — to competitive bidding for goods and services furnished to the municipality, subject only to exceptions established by ordinance.

(12) The right of immunity from emergency ordinances, unless adopted by affirmative votes of all assemblymen present and voting, or three-fourths (3/4) of the total membership.

(13) The right to have a public record of the actions of the Assembly.

A NEW GOVERNMENT FOR ANCHORAGE

Questions & Answers about the Charter



Dear Resident,

Last February we were elected by you, the voter, to write a Charter, which is a constitution, for a new government in Anchorage. The new government would merge and consolidate the existing local governments into one unit.

We have written the Charter with a lot of help from you and your neighbors at public hearings. We have also had meetings with consultants on law, bonds, taxes, labor unions and other areas, and met with members of city and borough administrations. We studied charters from other cities in the country, as well as state laws and several area wide polls taken to learn what the people wanted included in their new government.

We are people just like you, with a variety of occupations. Our ages range from twenty to sixty. There are five women and six men on the Commission and we have been working long hours with no pay to prepare this Charter for our community.

At this time we would like you to review our work, ask questions and decide for yourself how the new government would affect you. Then, after weighing the information, PLEASE VOTE on September 9th.

This pamphlet has been prepared to answer some of your questions. Please read it. If you want additional information, you may contact us at 529 "I" Street or call 278-1211.

CHARTER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Frank M. Reed, Chairman

Joe P. Josephson, Vice Chairman

Jane Angvik

Jim Parsons

Mary R. Frohne

Richard W. Fischer

Arliss Sturgulewski

Lisa Parker

Shari T. Holmes

Fred Chei, Jr.

Bill Sheffield



Q: DO WE NEED A NEW GOVERNMENT?

A: YES. The needs of people do not follow arbitrary political boundaries. Some of those needs are road maintenance, taxi service, building permits and recreation facilities. The way it is now, with several governments, we are duplicating services. This is confusing and expensive to the taxpayer. With one government, costly equipment, space and personnel can be utilized more efficiently. Residents need deal with only one government unit.

Q: WILL THE NEW GOVERNMENT BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO ME?

A: YES. It will be more responsive to each resident because of COMMUNITY COUNCILS and the office of OMBUDSMAN. You will deal with only ONE GOVERNMENT and the buck stops there!

Q: CAN I BE HEARD BY THIS NEW GOVERNMENT?

A: YES. You can be heard by developing your community council, participating in public hearings, contacting your ombudsman and assemblymen AND BY VOTING.

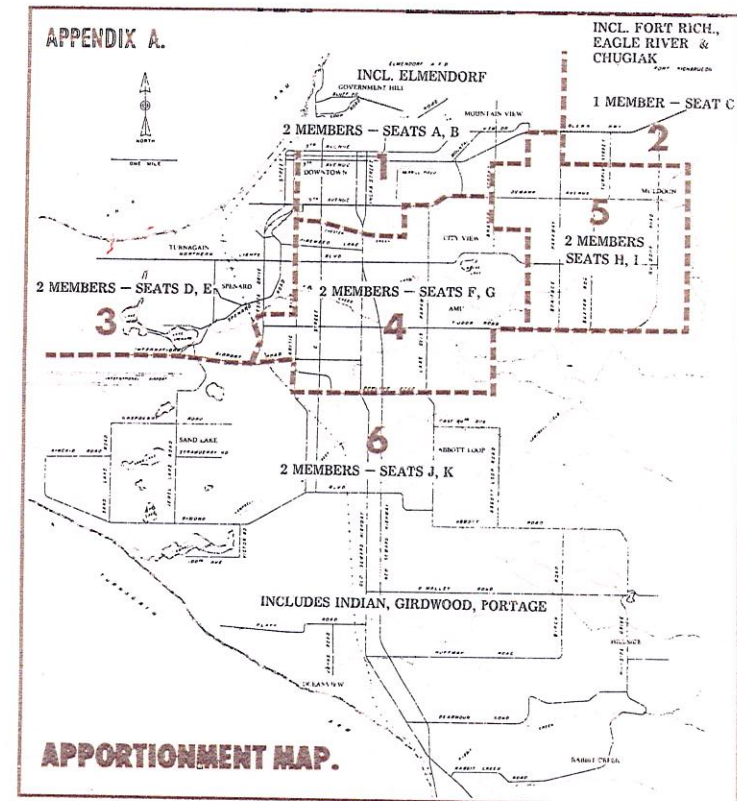
COMMUNITY COUNCILS are groups of neighborhood people who meet together to solve mutual problems with a "town meeting" approach.

THE OMBUDSMAN is the person provided for in the Charter who will cut through the government "red tape" for you. He will go to bat for you in a knowledgeable manner and can save you time in getting your problem solved.



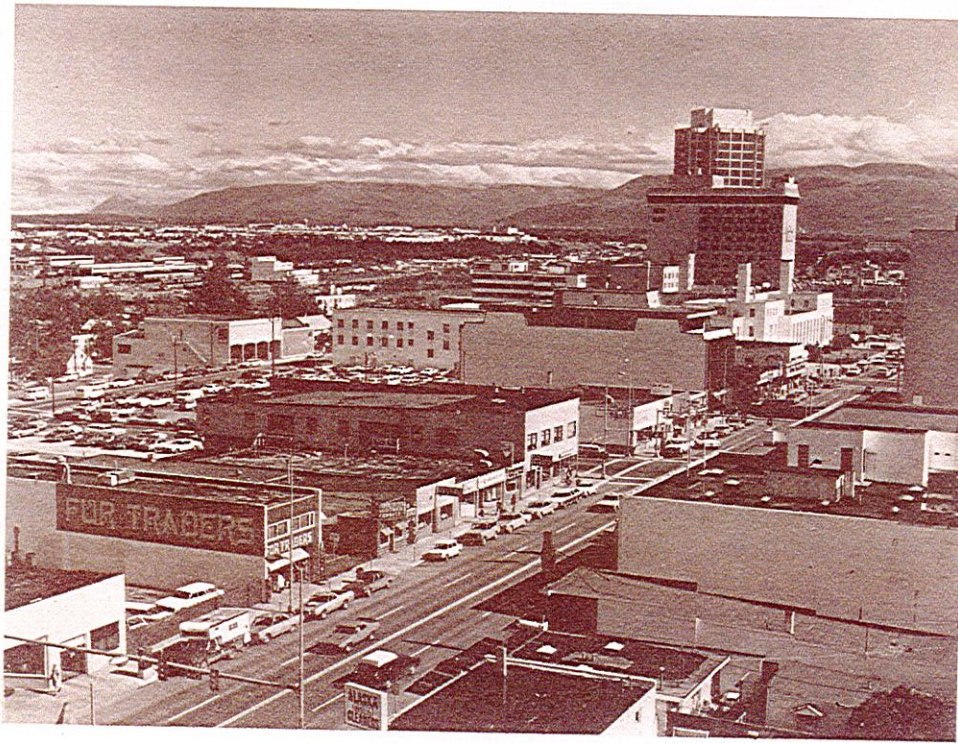
Q: IS THERE AN APPORTIONMENT PLAN IN THE CHARTER?

A: YES. There are five two-member districts and one single-member district for the Eagle River-Chugiak area.



Q: WILL THE ADOPTION OF THE CHARTER PREVENT THE FORMATION OF AN INDEPENDENT BOROUGH IN THE EAGLE RIVER-CHUGIAK AREA?

A: NO. The adoption of the Charter poses NO LEGAL BARRIERS to the formation of a separate Borough in the Eagle River-Chugiak area. The decision rests with the Local Boundary Commission, established by state law, the Legislature and the people affected.



Q: WILL MY TAXES GO UP?

A: TAXES SHOULD REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME. The Charter has not added any more government services. Any future decisions about taxes rests with you and the people you elect, as they respond to your needs and requests for services.

As required by Alaska State Statute, "No area will be taxed to pay for an asset built by another area, unless the assembly finds that the asset benefits the larger area."

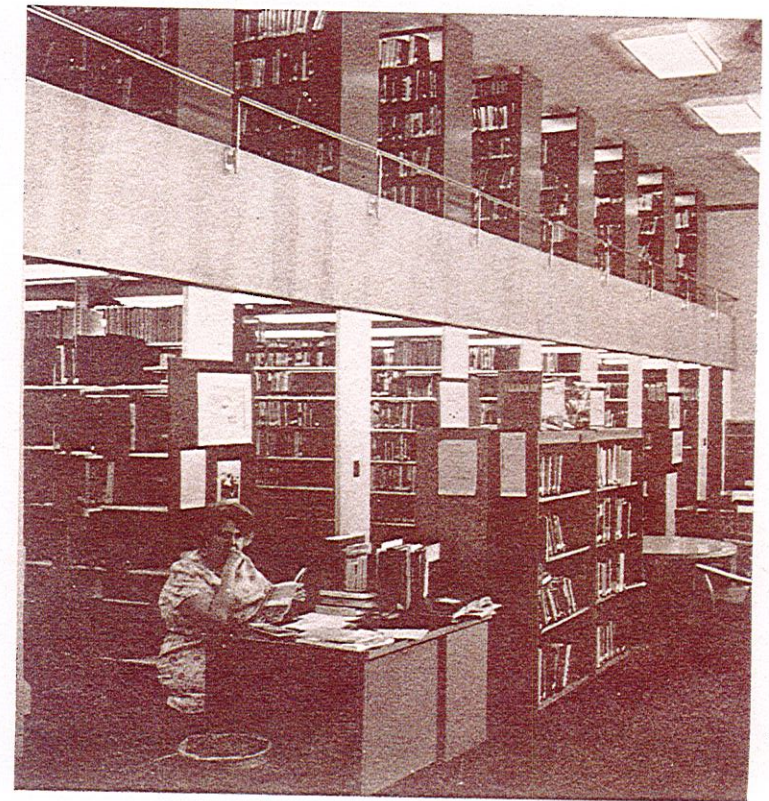
The Charter provides certain protections including NO SALES TAX unless approved by the voters, and NO NEW SERVICE AREA or extension of a service area unless approved by the voters. An assessment district may be created or extended only with the approval of the property owners who would bear more than 50% of the estimated cost of the improvement or service.

Q: WHO WILL BE RUNNING THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

A: The MAYOR IS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE. He must appoint A PROFESSIONAL MANAGER and department heads, who are subject to Assembly approval. The Mayor may attend and participate in the Assembly meetings but he has NO VOTE. He does, however, have VETO POWER over Assembly action. The Assembly may override his veto with eight votes.

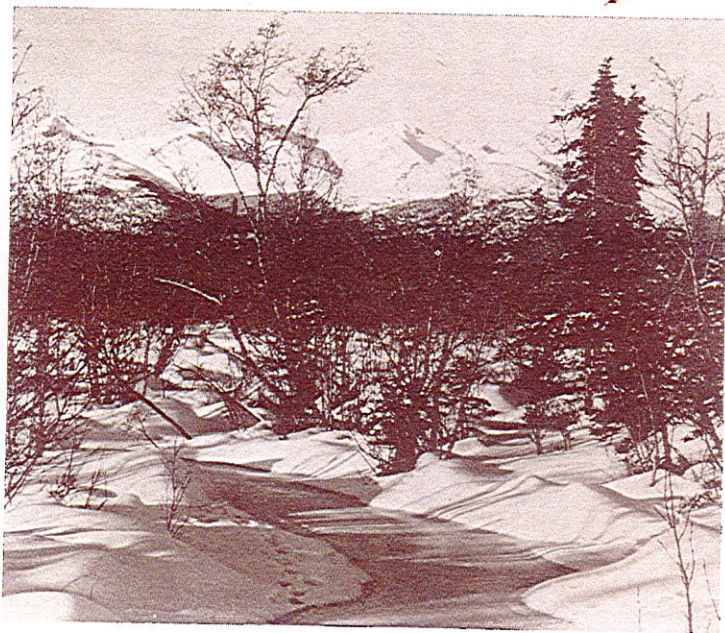
Q: CAN THE MAYOR STAY IN OFFICE INDEFINITELY?

A: NO. The Mayor is restricted to serving only two consecutive three-year terms. He must wait at least one term before he can run for Mayor again.



Q: ARE THE RIGHTS OF THE PRESENT BOROUGH AND CITY EMPLOYEES PROTECTED UNDER THE CHARTER?

A: YES. Employees are protected by the Charter provision which states: "Pension plans, retirement plans and other benefits for current employees under collective bargaining agreements, personnel rules, or other legal or contractual provisions, in effect on the date of ratification of this Charter shall not be diminished by ratification of this Charter."



Q: IF ALL THE EMPLOYEE RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED, HOW WILL THERE BE ANY SAVINGS?

A: The new Mayor must prepare a REORGANIZATION PLAN not later than May 1, 1976. This plan must spell out ways to eliminate unnecessary duplication in the new government. The staff will be reduced as the NATURAL TURN OVER of employees occurs throughout the year. The current annual turn over is forty per cent in the Borough and twenty per cent in the City of Anchorage.

Q: DOES THE CHARTER DO ANYTHING ABOUT LATE NIGHT GOVERNMENT MEETINGS?

A: YES. The Charter prohibits all governmental bodies from making official decisions between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m., except in an emergency. This assures that you can attend and participate in government meetings during REASONABLE HOURS.



Q: CAN THE ELECTED OFFICIALS RAISE THEIR SALARIES?

A: NO. The Charter establishes an independent SALARY COMMISSION. Members of this commission are appointed by the Mayor with Assembly approval. This commission is required to hold public hearings prior to establishing salary rates.

Q: HOW CAN I CHANGE A PROVISION IN THE CHARTER?

A: Any changes in the Charter must be by vote of the people. Proposed changes can be placed on the ballot by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly, or by initiative and referendum.

Q: HOW DOES THE CHARTER AFFECT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

A: The powers and responsibilities of the School Board to run the schools are not diminished by the Charter. SOME SCHOOL BOARD SEATS WILL BE ON THE SEPTEMBER 9TH BALLOT.



Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE UTILITIES?

A: THEY WILL BE OWNED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT. The profits from utilities in the City of Anchorage will be returned to the newly established city service area for five years. A Utility Commission is provided for by the Charter to determine how the utilities will be handled most equitably for everyone.

