

Submitted by: Assembly Ethics and Elections Committee
Chair Hall, Assembly Chair Traini, and
Assembly Members Honeman and
Petersen

Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office
For reading: November 24, 2015

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 12-8-2015

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2015-314(S)

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY DIRECTING THE
2 MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE TO EXPLORE IMPLEMENTING VOTE BY MAIL ELECTIONS
3 IN ANCHORAGE.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes that while local elections directly impact the
6 everyday lives of Anchorage residents, voter turnout in Anchorage elections is typically low and
7 the current election process consumes considerable community resources; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly's Ethics and Elections Committee directed the Municipal
10 Clerk's Office to research ways to increase voter participation by developing sustainable
11 election processes that maximize accessibility and inclusivity while conserving community
12 resources; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly's Ethics and Elections Committee directed the Municipal
15 Clerk's Office to invite community members representing diverse constituencies to serve on a
16 stakeholder group for the purpose of evaluating and soliciting constituent comment about
17 optional election models to better serve Anchorage voters and the Anchorage community; and
18

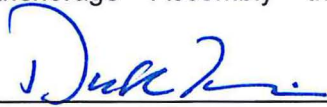
19 **WHEREAS**, after reviewing and considering the research and comments from the stakeholder
20 group and other community members, the Ethics and Elections Committee recognized that vote
21 by mail elections offer voters an enhanced combination of accessibility and inclusivity while
22 optimizing community resources; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, vote by mail election processes are proven to work in some precincts in the Kenai
25 Peninsula Borough, and in numerous jurisdictions nationwide including all elections conducted
26 in Oregon, Colorado, and Washington; and
27

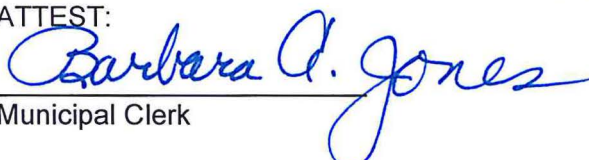
28 **WHEREAS**, under the direction of the Anchorage Assembly's Ethics and Elections Committee,
29 the Municipal Clerk's Office is working to educate and inform the larger Anchorage community
30 by engaging community members in the dialogue about vote by mail elections;
31

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Anchorage Assembly supports the Municipal
33 Clerk's Office as it continues exploring vote by mail elections with a goal to implement the first
34 by mail election in April 2017 as a strategy to increase voter turnout, thus empowering
35 Anchorage residents with a stronger voice in the democratic process and in the decisions that
36 directly impact their everyday lives.
37

38 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 8th day of
39 December 2015.

40
41 
42 _____
Chair of the Assembly

43 ATTEST:

44 
45 _____
46 Municipal Clerk