

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2026-15**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUBMITTING TO THE
QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE A BALLOT
PROPOSITION AMENDING ARTICLE 16 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO
REMOVE OUTDATED LANGUAGE ABOUT THE FORMER ANCHORAGE
TELEPHONE UTILITY.**

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Charter is the founding document of the
Municipality that sets forth residents' guaranteed rights as well as the essential
responsibilities of the municipal government; and

WHEREAS, the people of Anchorage have an interest in having their Charter be up
to date, clear, and accurate; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, provisions in Charter become outdated, for reasons
such as changes in state law or subsequent local ballot propositions; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 16, which addresses municipal utilities, contains
residual language addressing the management and operation of the Anchorage
Telephone Utility, which ceased to exist over 25 years ago, after the voters approved
its sale by ballot proposition at the April 21, 1998 regular election; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 18.01 allows Charter to be amended by a vote of a
majority of the qualified voters of Anchorage voting on a proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance proposes that the obsolete Charter section on the former
Anchorage Telephone Utility be removed, and the question put to voters at the April
7, 2026 election; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Pursuant to state law and the Anchorage Municipal Charter, a ballot
proposition in substantially the following form shall be placed on the ballot and
submitted to the qualified voters of the Municipality at the next regular municipal
election on April 7, 2026.

PROPOSITION NO. ____

**CHARTER AMENDMENT TO REMOVE OUTDATED LANGUAGE ABOUT THE
FORMER ANCHORAGE TELEPHONE UTILITY**

This proposition would amend Anchorage Municipal Charter Sections 16.01
and 16.03 as follows (**underlined and bolded words** are proposed new
words; **~~strikeouts in bold~~** are proposed deletions):

ARTICLE XVI. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Section 16.01. - Municipal utilities.

*** **

~~[(d) This section shall not apply to the Anchorage Telephone Utility.]~~
(Initiative, prop. 32, 10-1-91)

*** **

Section 16.03. - Anchorage Telephone Utility. (Repealed)

~~[(a) The Anchorage Telephone Utility shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of five members. Directors shall serve for staggered terms of five years and are appointed to office by the assembly upon nomination by the mayor or by a member of the assembly and after a public hearing. Exercise of the power of the veto by the mayor shall not extend to actions of the assembly with respect to appointment of directors. In connection with the operation and management of the utility, the board may exercise any power unless provided otherwise in this section, article II of the Charter, or prohibited by state law. Any director may be removed at any time upon a vote of at least eight members of the assembly, or a vote of at least six members of the assembly and concurrence of the mayor given within seven days after the assembly's action.~~

~~(b) The utility shall be operated and compete in accordance with prevailing industry practices and in a manner which will provide a dividend to the municipality.~~

~~(c) The board of directors may incur debt for the utility and may exercise the power of eminent domain on its behalf only with prior approval of the assembly. The assembly by ordinance shall determine the extent to which it will approve the rates, fees and charges imposed by the utility. The assembly may annually appropriate to the general fund any amount of utility revenues in excess of that required to discharge the utility's service obligations, meet its approved capital improvement program, and maintain financial integrity.~~

~~(d) The Anchorage Telephone Utility and its board of directors shall be subject to the authority of the municipal ombudsman as provided by ordinance.~~

~~(e) The compensation for the Anchorage Telephone Utility board of directors shall be determined by the commission on salaries and emoluments in the same manner as provided for elected officials in section 5.08(c) and section 5.08(d) of this Charter.~~

~~(f) The Anchorage Telephone Utility shall operate on the same fiscal year as the Municipality of Anchorage, and shall submit~~

~~its budget to the mayor on the same schedule as that required
of other municipal utilities. The assembly shall have final
approval of the utility budget.~~

~~(g) In addition to any amounts the assembly may appropriate
pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the Anchorage
Telephone Utility shall pay a municipal utility service
assessment if established by the Anchorage Assembly by
ordinance.~~

~~(h) Only the provisions of this section, section 16.02 and article II
of this Charter, and state law applicable to home rule
municipalities shall apply to the utility. The assembly, by
ordinance, shall implement this section to provide for the
independent management and operation of the utility consistent
with this section. Exercise of the power of veto by the mayor
shall not extend to enactment of legislation by the assembly
required by this subsection.]~~

(Initiative, prop. 32, 10-1-91)

Shall the Anchorage Municipal Charter be amended as set forth above?

Yes [] No []

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and
approval by two-thirds of the total membership of the Assembly in accord with
Charter § 18.02. The proposition's amendments shall be incorporated into the Home
Rule Charter for the Municipality of Anchorage and be effective only if certified as
approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting on said proposition at the
regular municipal election of April 7, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 27th day of January,
2026.

Christopher Constant

ATTEST:

Chair

Janie Stum

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 40-2026

Meeting Date: January 13, 2026

From: MAYOR

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE A BALLOT PROPOSITION AMENDING ARTICLE 16 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO REMOVE OUTDATED LANGUAGE ABOUT THE FORMER ANCHORAGE TELEPHONE UTILITY.

Anchorage Municipal Charter is the founding document of the Municipality that sets forth residents' guaranteed rights as well as the essential responsibilities of the municipal government. From time to time, provisions in Charter become outdated, for reasons such as changes in state law or subsequent local ballot propositions.

This ordinance is a housekeeping measure intended to clean up Charter by removing outdated and superfluous references to the former Anchorage Telephone Utility ("ATU"). ATU ceased to exist over 25 years ago, after the voters approved its sale at the April 21, 1998 regular election, but Charter still contains provisions addressing its management and operation. This ordinance proposes removing those provisions to improve Charter's accuracy and clarity.

Because only the voters of Anchorage are empowered to amend Charter, this amendment is proposed for inclusion in the ballot at the April 7, 2026 election.

There are no anticipated economic effects because this ordinance does not require the addition of any new services or processes. Therefore, pursuant to AMC 2.30.053B.1, no Summary of Economic Effects is attached to the ordinance.

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.

Prepared by: Municipal Attorney's Office
Approved by: Eva R. Gardner, Municipal Attorney
Concur: Ona R. Brause, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Concur: Rebecca A. Windt Pearson, Municipal Manager
Concur: William D. Falsey, Chief Administrative Officer
Respectfully submitted: Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor