

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AR No. 2025-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING AND COMMITTING TO THE "DEMOCRACY INNOVATIONS FOR BETTER PUBLIC MEETINGS" PROJECT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE.**

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**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of Anchorage has declared that good governance is one of three priority pillars for her Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly's 2025-26 work plan identifies the promotion of civic engagement as part of good governance, and prioritizes robust and representative public participation in local government; and

**WHEREAS**, the diversity of the Municipality of Anchorage's population and geographic size is an asset to our community, yet presents a challenge to civic engagement and tailored initiatives will help to achieve civic participation goals; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant opportunity for evaluating and enhancing civic engagement in Anchorage has been identified through a potential "Democracy Innovations for Better Public Meetings" project through the National Civic League's Democracy Innovations incubator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) and the YWCA have committed to champion this effort as the local partners who will bring this opportunity to fruition in the Municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Better Public Meetings" process is an iterative collaboration designed to involve stakeholders across the community – including local staff, officials, stakeholders, and residents – in researching, evaluating, reporting, and innovating for stronger democracy at the local level; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project schedule in Anchorage spans 12 months, including a Civic Infrastructure Scan, community-wide survey, Civic Engagement Scorecard implementation, public meetings, facilitator training, mapping processes, piloting of new strategies and tools, and the release and potential implementation of recommendations for improved public engagement with local government, all facilitated by the National Civic League Democracy Innovations incubator; and

**WHEREAS**, this project builds on successful "Better Public Meetings" pilot projects previously undertaken by the National Civic League in Boulder, CO, Mesa, AZ, and Fayetteville, NC; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Civic League has acquired a grant from AAA-ICDR Foundation to bring the "Better Public Meetings" project to select U.S. cities in 2025-26; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the National Civic League recognizes Anchorage's unique size and  
2 demonstrable dedication to civic engagement via our community council model as  
3 a key reason for collaboration on this project; and  
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5 **WHEREAS**, an important selection criterion for this project is the committed  
6 participation and engagement from municipal representatives, particularly elected  
7 officials, as project success depends on their willing involvement; and  
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9 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes the "Better Public Meetings"  
10 project as a valuable opportunity for the community to identify and explore  
11 innovative models of civic engagement, setting the table for more citizen  
12 participation in our local government;  
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14 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**  
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16 **Section 1.** That it strongly supports the "Democracy Innovations for Better Public  
17 Meetings" project in the Municipality and commits to:  
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- 19 1. **Contributing funds** to the project costs, not to exceed five thousand dollars.
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- 21 2. **Identify at least two (2) Assembly Members** to participate on a cross-  
22 sector team that will collaborate with the National Civic League on this  
23 project.  
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- 25 3. **Actively support** the deployment and utilization of a Civic Engagement  
26 Scorecard at meetings of the Anchorage Assembly and community councils.  
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- 28 4. **Give consideration** to all recommendations and innovations that emerge  
29 from the public through the project.  
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- 31 5. **Engage collaboratively** throughout the proposed 12-month project  
32 schedule as individual member schedules permit: participating in research,  
33 attending meetings with the public, piloting new meeting strategies, and  
34 considering implementation of final recommendations to foster more  
35 representative and effective public engagement within the Municipality of  
36 Anchorage.  
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38 **Section 2.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and  
39 approval by the Assembly.  
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41 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
42 of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.  
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44 \_\_\_\_\_  
45 Chair of the Assembly

46 ATTEST:  
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50 Municipal Clerk