

PRESS RELEASE



Annual Review and Update to Anchorage Election Code (Title 28)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2021

Assembly Member Pete Petersen, Chair of the Assembly Ethics and Elections Committee, has announced that the committee has completed its annual review of the Anchorage Election Code, Title 28.

The Ethics and Elections Committee, assisted by the MOA Elections Team, the Election Commission, and Assembly Counsel, held several meetings to discuss and complete its annual review of the Election Code (Title 28), and will introduce an ordinance with proposed amendments at the October 27 Regular Meeting of the Anchorage Assembly. The Assembly has adopted amendments to Title 28 every year but one since 2012.

Due to public interest in elections, Petersen stated that there will be two public hearings on the proposed changes, to be held at the **Regular Assembly Meetings on December 7 and 21**.

The proposed amendments to Title 28 in AO 2021-110 help to clarify the law, address unanticipated issues, and improve election procedures. Proposed changes to clarify and improve current election procedures include:

- A definition is added for the word “tabulate” and several changes are made to provide more clarity regarding the difference between “counting” and “tabulating.”
- Amendments are made to provide consistency within the code that a runoff ballot does not contain a space for a write-in.
- Voters in list maintenance (LM) status in the state voter registration database are added to the list of voters who will not be mailed a ballot.
- The voter assistant oath and requirements are made consistent with the special needs representative oath and requirements.
- The observer section is revised to set a registration period and to clarify observer requirements.
- The Observer Handbook, adopted by reference and included as an attachment to the ordinance, is revised consistent with the changes proposed in this ordinance.
- How write-in votes are adjudicated is more specifically set forth.
- Various sections have minor rewording for clarity and accuracy.

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The Ethics and Elections Committee of the Anchorage Assembly held three public meetings on September 22, September 29, and October 13, to discuss the proposed amendments to the code. The Election Commission, an independent five-member body of community members, also held a public meeting on September 30 to discuss the proposed amendments to the code and adopted a resolution recommending several amendments, which were incorporated into the ordinance.

Additional information, including the proposed ordinance and a “crosswalk” setting forth section by section changes can be found at:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Ethics-and-Elections-Committee.aspx>

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