



## PRESS RELEASE

Chair Suzanne LaFrance | Vice Chair Christopher Constant

### **Assembly Leadership Opposes AO 2022-13 to Make the Municipal Clerk an Elected Position**

**August 22, 2022**

At the Regular Assembly Meeting on Tuesday, August 23, the Assembly will take up AO 2022-13, an ordinance put forward by the mayor that would ask voters to amend Anchorage Charter to make the Municipal Clerk an elected position: [ancgov.info/AO2022-13](http://ancgov.info/AO2022-13)

The Municipal Clerk is responsible for a broad range of municipal functions, including clerking Assembly meetings, overseeing municipal business, running municipal elections, administering select business, liquor and marijuana licensing, coordinating and staffing the Boards of Adjustment and Ethics, and maintaining Assembly records.

Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance and Vice Chair Christopher Constant issued the following statements in opposition to the ordinance:

“A competent, qualified Clerk is indisputably essential to conducting the business of the city,” said **Assembly Chair LaFrance**. “It should be noted that the Executive Board of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks passed a resolution this spring opposing the election of clerk positions for legal and ethical reasons. Without professional credentials and requirements for this position, our clerk’s office will be vulnerable to being run by a partisan politician with no skills or background in running municipal business, and who is beholden to political leaders and campaign donors to retain their position.”

“The proposed ordinance is a solution in search of a problem,” said **Assembly Vice Chair Constant**. “The Clerk’s Office runs efficiently with high ethical standards in service to the public and this proposal could damage that high level of service and proficiency. Given the current events around the mayor’s staffing and human resource practices, he’s not in a good position to make recommendations for how other branches of government should be organized, so we look forward to putting this idea to rest permanently.”

The ordinance, which proposes a change to Anchorage Charter, requires a two-thirds affirmative vote by the Assembly. If passed, the change would be presented to qualified Anchorage voters as a ballot proposition in an upcoming election. Assembly leadership submitted an Assembly Memorandum with their position on the item: [ancgov.info/AM455-2022](http://ancgov.info/AM455-2022)

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