



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM XXX-2020

Meeting Date: December 22, 2020

1 **From: Assembly Members Petersen and LaFrance**

2
3 **Subject: AO 2020-131(S) – AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE**
4 **MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL**
5 **CODE TITLE 28, ELECTIONS, TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY**
6 **PROVISIONS OF THE CODE [CONSISTENT WITH THE**
7 **MUNICIPALITY’S VOTE BY MAIL SYSTEM AND RELATED**
8 **MATTERS].**

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10 After discussion of the original version of this ordinance with the Assembly Members
11 in the Ethics and Elections Committee and a worksession, and receiving feedback
12 from the Election Commission, the sponsors propose the attached S-version for
13 consideration.

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15 The S-version contains the following changes:

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17 1. Changes to the title and whereas statements to more accurately describe the
18 purpose and origins of the ordinance.
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20 2. AMC section 28.10.040 – Changes to the definition of “MUOCAVa voter” to
21 simplify and clarify the concept, along with capitalizing the words that make
22 up the acronym for easier connection to the acronym. The acronym is also
23 changed where used in the title.
- 24
25 3. AMC section 28.10.040 – Changing the definition of “proposition” to match
26 the definition in section 2.50.010.
- 27
28 4. AMC section 28.10.040 – A definition of “valid signature” is added.
- 29
30 5. AMC section 28.10.040 – The definition of “voter declaration” is revised with
31 the assistance of Assembly Counsel to reflect accurately the purpose of the
32 declaration and penalties it invokes.
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34 6. AMC section 28.50.120C.1. – Text is clarified that the voter is to affix
35 sufficient postage, and cross references section 28.50.210B. that requires
36 the Municipality to reject envelopes for certain delivery methods. The
37 Municipality will accept and pay for ballots with insufficient or no postage
38 which are delivered by USPS and charged to the elections mail permit.
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40 7. AMC section 28.50.140A. – An additional instance of the phrase “accessible
41 vote center” is modified to remove the word “accessible.”
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43 8. AMC section 28.50.140A. – The word “ballot” from current code, which was
44 inadvertently deleted from the ordinance, is added as a clerical correction.

AO 2020-131(S)

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- 9. AMC section 28.50.210B.1. - Text is clarified that the Municipality will accept and pay for ballots with insufficient or no postage which are delivered by USPS and charged to the elections mail permit.
- 10. AMC section 28.50.300C.2. – Because identification badges may not be required in all circumstances, the penalty for failure to wear one is clarified to occur only if wearing a badge is required.
- 11. AMC section 28.60.060B. – The phrase “by the qualified voter” is added to provide more clarity regarding who is making the request to receive a ballot by fax or email.
- 12. AMC section 28.60.060G. – “And” is corrected to “or” so that the date of receipt is noted on the fax or email ballot application, as they are separate applications.
- 13. AMC section 28.60.060I. – Because a ballot sent by fax or email may be received by mail or drop box but would still need to be facsimiled, the word “received” is changed to “transmitted.”
- 14. AMC section 28.90.025C. – Subsection C.2. is deleted as redundant to subsection C.1.
- 15. AMC section 28.90.025C.2. – New subsection C.2. (previously subsection C.3.) is amended to clarify the situation in which this type of recount would occur.
- 16. Minor wording changes for clarity and readability.

A section by section summary of the Code changes is provided in the attached Exhibit A crosswalk document.

Prepared by: Municipal Clerk’s Office

Respectfully submitted: Pete Petersen, Assembly Member
District 5, East Anchorage

Suzanne LaFrance, Assembly Member
District 6, South Anchorage, Turnagain Arm, and
Girdwood