

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 4-15-08

Submitted by:

Assemblymembers Traini, and  
Teschke, Gutierrez

Prepared by:

Municipal Clerk

For reading

December 18, 2007

Anchorage, Alaska

AR 2007-300

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING ADOPTION  
OF A CLEAN ELECTIONS SYSTEM IN ALASKA.**

**THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

**WHEREAS**, several former and current legislators have recently been indicted for accepting money in exchange for votes; and

**WHEREAS**, votes taken by these individuals may have cost the state more than \$1 billion annually in unrealized oil tax revenues, revenue that is critical to supporting the operations of our local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, this scandal has undermined public confidence in the integrity of Alaska's elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of a Clean Elections system can help restore public trust in government, eliminate the potential for and perception of corruption, and promote greater accountability to voters; and

**WHEREAS**, under Clean Elections, candidates who demonstrate broad public support and agree to forego private contributions can qualify for public financing of their campaigns; and

**WHEREAS**, Clean Elections is law in seven states and is extremely popular with voters as well as candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, Clean Elections affirms the principle of "one person, one vote" by curtailing the influence of special interest money and enabling citizens of all backgrounds to participate equally in the democratic process; and

**WHEREAS**, Clean Elections opens the door to a greater diversity of candidates who will represent the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, Clean Elections system saves money by eliminating funding for pet projects advocated by special interests; and

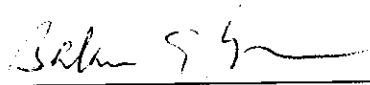
**WHEREAS**, the time has come for Clean Elections in Alaska;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY** that Governor Sarah Palin and the Alaska State Legislature be urged to expeditiously implement a Clean Elections system in Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 15<sup>th</sup> day of Apr. 1, 2008.

ATTEST:

  
Chair

  
Municipal Clerk



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 793-2007

Meeting Date: December 18, 2007

**From:** Assemblymembers Traini and Tesche  
**Subject:** **AR 2007-300 - A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF A CLEAN ELECTIONS SYSTEM IN ALASKA.**

The resolution is modeled on the recent action by the Kodiak Assembly "Supporting Adoption of a Clean Election System in Alaska." Attached is a Kodiak Mirror article that explains that Assembly's action.

Bills for a Clean Elections system were introduced in both houses during the last regular legislative session, in both cases sponsored by one representative and senator from the two major parties. The bills were referred to three committees in each house, so they saw no action this year.

An initiative petition is now being circulated by Alaskans for Clean Elections so that the people have a chance to vote on the issue in November 2008, if the legislature does not act during the forthcoming session. To make it on the ballot, the initiative requires 23,831 valid signatures. To assure acceptance, the goal is to submit 30,000 signatures by the January 15 deadline, the day the legislature convenes. Close to twenty thousand have been obtained towards that goal.

The Clean Elections proposal has received strong bipartisan support. Governor Wally Hickel is an enthusiastic supporter, as is Mayor Jim Whittaker of Fairbanks. Many municipal officials signed the petition circulated at the recent AML meeting in Fairbanks, as did Native regional corporation executives and business people from all over the state.

Respectfully submitted:

Dick Traini  
Assemblymember, Section 4

Allan Tesche  
Assemblymember, Section 1

## **Initiative presents new, clean approach to funding candidates**

*Article published on Monday, December 10th, 2007*

By MISTY MAYNARD

Kodiak Mirror Writer

Supporting an initiative seeking to restore public trust and eliminate the potential for corruption in government, the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly adopted a resolution Thursday during its regular meeting in favor of the Clean Elections initiative.

A similar resolution will be presented to the Kodiak City Council.

The resolution supports the efforts of Alaskans for Clean Elections, a group seeking to put the issue on the ballot next year.

A petition bearing 24,000 signatures statewide is needed to put Clean Elections, a method of funding candidates through state money rather than donations, on the ballot.

Funding for Clean Elections would come from the state's general fund. Dick Ross, a leader in the local effort behind the Clean Elections reform, said one group's estimate is that the state may spend \$5 million per election every year.

A minimum percentage of signatures must come from at least 30 of the 40 House districts. For Kodiak, that percentage equates to 325 signatures.

As of Friday afternoon, Ross said about 225 people had signed the local petition.

Clean Elections is, according to information provided by Ross, "a practical, proven reform that puts voters in control of elections."

Clean Elections reform would eliminate potential conflicts of interest, yet open the door for anyone to run in an election.

"The citizens can either hire these people ... or they can let the special interests hire them," Ross said.

As it is proposed, Clean Elections money would be eligible to candidates running for governor, lieutenant governor, state senator or representative. Each must gather support in the form of signatures and \$5 contributions, ranging from 200 signatures for representatives to 3,000 for governor.

Candidates for representative would be eligible for \$16,000, senate candidates for \$24,000, candidates for lieutenant governor \$150,000, and candidates for governor \$250,000 for primary elections.

For general elections, candidates for governor and lieutenant governor would qualify for \$500,000, senator for \$36,000 and representative for \$24,000.

The resolution approved by the borough cited not only the indictments of former and current legislators, but the votes sold to special interests may have cost the state more than \$1 billion annually in unrealized oil tax revenues, money critical to supporting the operations of local government.

According to the Alaskans for Clean Elections Web site, top VECO executives recently pleaded guilty to bribery, influence peddling and illegally funneling thousands of dollars to Alaska lawmakers.

Former state Reps. Pete Kott and Vic Kohring were convicted on multiple charges relating to the VECO bribery case. Former Rep. Bruce Weyrauch was also indicted and awaits trial.

Kott was convicted earlier this year and sentenced Friday to six years in prison on the charges.

Kohring has also been convicted, and will be sentenced in February.

"This is a civics issue," Ross said. "Who would not be for this?"

Seven states adopted the Clean Elections initiative, as well as two cities.

"They like it, it's gone over real well," said Ross of the systems in place in those states.

The current governor of Arizona was a Clean Elections participant, Ross said.

While the cost may be high, Ross said the state could benefit from having the system in place. For example, the \$1 billion lost by certain legislators' actions could have paid the \$5 million every other year for 200 years.

Ross encourages anyone who would like to sign the petition to contact him, 486-6428.

*"People who have more money should be free to buy more cars, more homes, more vacations, and more gizmos than the rest of us. They should not be able to buy more democracy." - **Bill Moyers***