

# Municipality of Anchorage



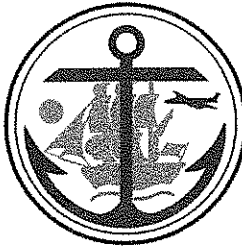
Rick Mystrom  
Mayor

## **Proposed General Government Operating Budget**



# 1999

# Municipality of Anchorage



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*Rick Mystrom, Mayor*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 29, 1998

Dear Residents of Anchorage:

Enclosed herein is my proposed 1999 General Government Operating Budget. I am pleased to report that the budget is \$1.4 million under the tax cap.

The 1999 budget will allow us to continue our efforts to make Anchorage a safer and more livable city. Crime in Anchorage has continued its dramatic decline, our citywide cleanup and beautification efforts have continued to expand, the economy is growing and becoming much more diversified, and our future is healthy. We will work to continue the safer city trend by maintaining the appropriate quality and quantity of Anchorage police officers, keeping our police department connected with the community, keeping the community involved in public safety issues, and keeping up the momentum for a cleaner city. All of these actions work to reduce crime.

As we enter the next century, I believe that quality of life will be the most important economic development force of our foreseeable future. To a larger degree than ever, people will be able to choose where they want to live and do business. I believe they will seek a community that is safe, clean, and offers a healthy lifestyle and businesses will look for communities that can offer their employees a good place to live and raise a family.

Diversification is key to maintaining a stable economy. Anchorage has shown resiliency in absorbing the loss of oil and gas and military jobs over the past several years. Much of the diversification of our economy has been growth in areas such as:

- Air cargo and tourism
- Hotel and lodging services
- Food services
- Fisheries industry
- Retail industry
- Health care
- Communications
- Education

*"City of Lights and Flowers"*

As I have always stressed during my four years as Mayor, the future belongs to the communities that understand the importance of quality of life. That is why it is so important that we continue our progress towards making Anchorage the safer, cleaner, healthier city we all would like it to be. The 1999 budget will allow us to continue our efforts to make Anchorage such a city.

Others around the United States have taken notice of our city.

- Two different national publications have identified Anchorage as having the lowest taxes of any major American city
- The two major bond rating agencies, Standard and Poor and Moody's, have given Anchorage their highest debt ratings based on our financial management and outlook
- The United States Conference of Mayor's just selected Anchorage's drinking water as "the best tasting in the Nation"
- Our Solid Waste Utility recently received the gold medal for best overall landfill operation in America
- Cities around the country are calling our office asking about our "Bridge Builders" and "Parent Network" programs
- *Readers Digest* called Anchorage one of the fifty best places in America to raise a family

I am looking forward to working with the Assembly during the budget deliberations of the next two months. I believe we can continue the steps that we have taken to reach our goal of making Anchorage an even better place to live and raise our families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Mystrom". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "R" and "M".

Rick Mystrom

**1999 PROPOSED**  
**GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET**



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**Rick Mystrom, Mayor**

**1999 PROPOSED  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET  
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**

Rick Mystrom, Mayor

**ASSEMBLY**

Pat Abney	Dan Kendall	Fay Von Gemmingen, Chair
Bob Bell	Kevin Meyer	Charles Wohlforth
Ted Carlson	Joe Murdy	George Wuerch
Cheryl Clementson	Melinda Taylor	

**ADMINISTRATION**

George J. Vakalis.....	Municipal Manager
Mary K. Hughes .....	Municipal Attorney
Thomas C. Tierney .....	Employee Relations Director
Elaine A. Christian .....	Executive Manager

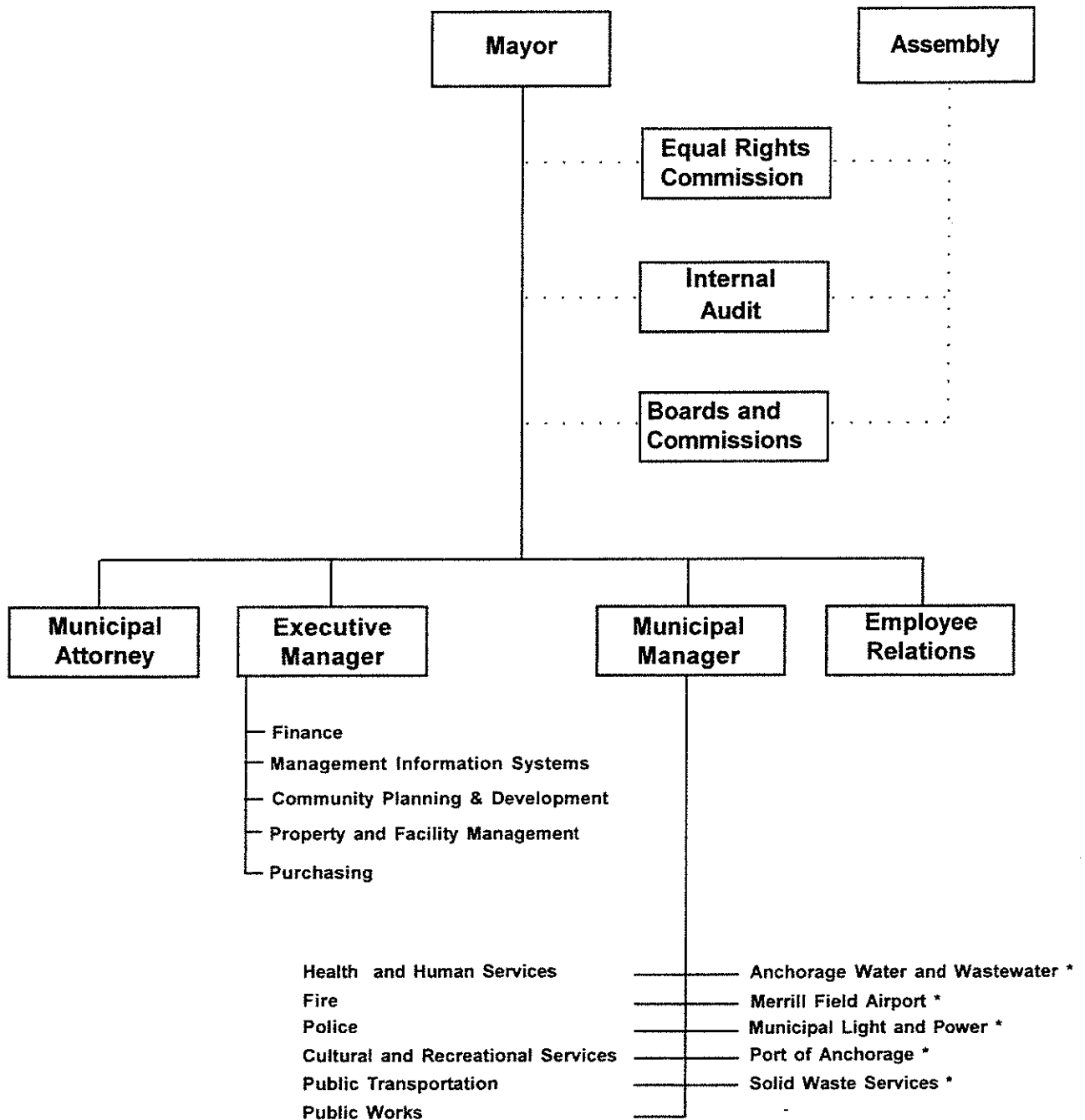
**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET STAFF**

Jeanne Alexander	Rae Foutz	Bruce Holmes
Don Brown	Ben Granade	Dan Moore
Gene Dusek	Neva Harnish	Janell Perkins

# 1999 GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET

## MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

### ORGANIZATION



\* The public utilities publish a separate budget document.

# 1999 Proposed General Government Operating Budget

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