

Municipality of Anchorage



*P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>
David Bronson, Mayor*

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mike Edgington and Briana Sullivan, Co-Chairs
Jennifer Wingard, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

Resolution 2022-13

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT For the Constitution of the State of Alaska

Whereas; Article XIII Section 3 of the Alaska Constitution provides that If during any ten-year period a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot for the next general election the question: "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?", and

Whereas; Alaska's original Constitutional Convention delegates drafted one of the strongest state Constitutions in the nation and it has served our state well for the last 60 years, and

Whereas; Alaskan voters have rejected the proposal of a Constitutional Convention every time in our history, and

Whereas; Article XIII, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution gives plenary power to a constitutional convention to amend or revise the constitution, which could result in a wholesale rewriting of the document with unpredictable and unintended consequences, and

Whereas; Article 13, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution provides that any changes wanted by the public can be accomplished through an existing targeted and transparent amendment process, including ratification by a public vote, and

Whereas; the constitutionally provided process for amendments to our Constitution has been used 40 times, 28 times successfully, and

Whereas; a convention would bring an unprecedented amount of outside special interests and "dark money" to influence the required election of Convention delegates, creating an opportunity to influence the drafting of the new constitution to promote outside interests' own agendas, and

Whereas; the establishment of a convention would create years of economic, legal and regulatory uncertainty, preventing investment in Alaska, and

Whereas; a convention could seek to impede intergovernmental relations between the state, local governments and Tribes, thus thwarting the Alaska Constitution's call for "maximum local self-government" and compacts made between the state and Tribes, and

Whereas; the financial impact to the State coffers of a convention is estimated to include 60 days of support prior to the commencement, 75 days of actual convention, followed by a 30-day wind-down period, a budget of nearly \$17 million is envisioned which would constitute a first-claim on the State Treasury, as stated on Article XIII, Section 3, and

Whereas, Girdwood is a small, unique community, which may not be as recognized in any substantially restructured municipal organization, leading to uncertainty and potentially less control in local governance; and

Whereas, any changes to taxation of property by local and state government would disrupt, and potentially prevent local funding and control of Girdwood services; and

Whereas, Girdwood's natural resources and environment for recreation, tourism and preservation are best secured by existing shared ownership by the citizens through local governmental control; and

Whereas, writing this resolution was recommended by the Girdwood Land Use Committee by a vote of 28 in favor, 0 opposed and 12 abstaining at their Regular Meeting on June 13, 2022; and

Therefore be it resolved that we oppose the establishment of a new Constitutional Convention as unnecessary, expensive and dangerous, with the risks outweighing the rewards, and

Further be it resolved that we encourage voters to oppose the question on the November 8, 2022 ballot.

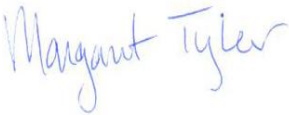
PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 4 to 0 this 20th day of June 2022.



Mike Edgington
GBOS Co-Chair



Briana Sullivan
GBOS Co-Chair



Attest