

PRESS RELEASE



FEDERAL, STATE AND CHARTER REQUIREMENTS PROMPT CREATION OF MUNICIPAL REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In accordance with the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions and the Anchorage Municipal Charter's requirement for the Assembly to assess apportionment of the Municipality's six districts, Anchorage Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance named four Assembly members to a reapportionment committee charged with realigning district boundaries to ensure fair representation.

The Charter states that within two months of adoption of a final state redistricting plan, the Assembly must determine if malapportionment exists, which occurs when data shows that district populations differ significantly in size. Initial data from the 2020 Census and voter approval of a charter amendment in 2020 adding a twelfth member to the Assembly warrants reapportionment.

LaFrance said, "Starting work on reapportionment now while the State's redistricting process is underway will allow more time for the public to participate. This process will be open, fair and transparent."

The "MOA Reapportionment Committee" includes Pete Petersen (District 5), Crystal Kennedy (District 2), Austin Quinn-Davidson (District 3) and Assembly Vice Chair Christopher Constant (District 1).

Constant, who will lead the committee, said, "The voters overwhelmingly approved the addition of a twelfth member to the Assembly, allowing each district to have two assembly members. This addition increases the size of District 1 and proportionally decreases the size of the other five districts. This long-sought Charter amendment will result in equal representation to all residents of the Municipality, though it makes the reapportionment more complex, which may add time to the process. Starting now will allow the process to be completed in a timely manner."

The committee's first step will be to determine a timeline and public engagement plan. All committee meetings will be noticed through the Municipal Clerk and open to the public.

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