

## **ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA**

October 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at or hosted from the  
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers  
Juanita Helms Administration Center  
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit <https://www.fnsb.gov/415/Stay-Connected-with-the-Assembly> or contact the Borough Clerk's Office (907) 459-1401. Masks are requested to be worn in the Assembly Chambers.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- 3.a. Review and approval of draft Resolution No. 2021-TBD. A Resolution Establishing Assembly Positions on Alaska Municipal League's (AML) 2022 Resolutions and Policy Statements. (Sponsor: Legislative Priorities Committee)

Documents:

[Draft 2021 AML Policies Resolution.pdf](#)  
[AML Resolutions.pdf](#)  
[AML Principles and Policy Statements.pdf](#)

### **4. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

### **6. AUDIO FILES - LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

[10-25-2021 Audio Track 1 \(MP3\)](#)

### **7. ACTION MEMO - LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

Documents:

[10\\_25\\_2021\\_LPC\\_Action\\_Memo.pdf](#)

THE AGENDA ITEMS AS LISTED MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE DELETION OF ITEMS OR EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, IF NEEDED.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 –

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ASSEMBLY POSITIONS ON ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE’S (AML) 2022 RESOLUTIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS

WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough is a member of the Alaska Municipal League “AML”; and

WHEREAS, AML is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide organization of approximately 160 cities, borough, and unified municipalities, representing over 98 percent of Alaska’s municipalities; and

WHEREAS, At its 2021 annual meeting held in November, AML is considering and taking a position on its numerous resolutions and policy statements sponsored both by AML and member municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough’s position on Alaska Municipal League’s draft 2022 Resolutions and Policy Statements are as follows:

AML RESOLUTION #2022-01. A Resolution in support of State recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes.

Support		Don’t Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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29 AML RESOLUTION #2022-02. A Resolution commending delegates of the  
30 Conference of Young Alaskans and encouraging consideration of their Resolution packet.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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32 AML RESOLUTION #2022-03. A Resolution expressing concern in the  
33 consideration of a Constitutional Convention, and taking an active role in educating the  
34 public and policy makers about its potential impact.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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35  
36 **AML POLICY STATEMENTS**

37  
38 Municipal Governance (Title 29). Support increased capacity within and  
39 professionalization of State tax assessment. Support improvements to records retention,  
40 public records access, and public notice. Support issuance of a municipal impact fiscal  
41 note within proposed legislation.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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42  
43 Community Assistance and Revenue Sharing. Support a baseline floor of  
44 \$60 million annually, and encourage a long-term, sustainable solution. Support a method  
45 to waive debt, forgive loans, or otherwise bolster "stressed" communities.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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46  
47 PERS/TRS Changes. Support amendments to termination studies and  
48 penalties for leaving PERS/TRS. Support the development of a pathway to decrease  
49 overall unfunded liability. Oppose any cost shift of the State "on behalf" payments over  
50 22%, or any other changes that haven't been negotiated and agreed to by municipalities.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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52 Fiscal Policy. Support agency and programmatic efficiency and right-sizing,  
53 but oppose cost-shifting to municipalities and eliminating essential services. Support the  
54 development of a broad-based tax to increase state revenue. Interest rate penalties found  
55 in AS 26.45.500(b) should be consistent with market rates.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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56  
57 Public Safety. Increase tools available for public safety official recruitment  
58 and retention. Support and strengthen the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program.  
59 Support state efforts to decrease access to and impacts from opioids. Increase state  
60 funding of community jails. Fund the administrative costs of municipal hosting of E911  
61 systems.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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62  
63 Economic Development. Support increased investment in infrastructure  
64 development, which facilitates economic growth. Support increased investment in training  
65 and workforce development. Support state responsiveness to local economic  
66 development planning, including local economic diversification and small business  
67 development strategies.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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68  
69 Education. Support early childhood education, career and technical  
70 education, and preparing, attracting and retaining qualified educators. Support for  
71 accountability and assessment that meets federal requirements and maximizes local  
72 control. Oppose any reduction in school funding and support investment in infrastructure  
73 and deferred maintenance. Support amendments to the funding formula removing  
74 penalties for consolidation of school facilities within a district. Oppose forced consolidation  
75 of school districts. Oppose the elimination of the school bond debt reimbursement  
76 program, and any reductions to previous reimbursement commitments. Support a

77 sustainable university system capable of delivering educational opportunities, workforce  
78 development, and credible research.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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80 Fisheries. Support for appropriately funded DF&G and increased investment  
81 in fisheries monitoring, research and outreach. Support continued investment in port and  
82 harbor infrastructure. Support reinstatement of the Harbor Matching Grant program,  
83 partially fulfilling the state's obligation for maintenance of harbors transferred into  
84 municipal ownership. Support an active role in federal fisheries management, and clean  
85 water as well as transboundary negotiations.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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87 Energy. Support for vetting of and investing in energy projects, processes  
88 and programs that decrease energy costs; reimburse municipal debt or investments  
89 corresponding to and by utilizing PCE savings.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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91 Transportation. Support State investment that can be used to match or  
92 supplement federal funding. Support increases to the State capital budget, including  
93 through a mechanism such as general obligation bonds. Support a sustainable ferry  
94 system that continues basic, year-round, ferry service to coastal communities.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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96 Minerals. Support responsible resource development and the reduction of  
97 investment barriers alongside improved environmental risk management.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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99                    Water, Wastewater and Sanitation. Support increased State investment in  
100 maintenance and infrastructure upgrades. Support reinstatement of the Municipal  
101 Matching Grant program to help municipalities match or supplement local and federal  
102 funding.

Support		Don't Support		No Position		Support With Conditions	
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ADOPTED THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

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ATTEST:

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April Trickey, CMC

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Borough Clerk

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Mindy O'Neall  
Presiding Officer

## Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

2022-02

A Resolution commending delegates of the Conference of Young Alaskans and encouraging consideration of their Resolution packet

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League's mission is to strengthen local governments and as part of its strategic plan recognizes the need to foster the next generation of municipal leadership; and

WHEREAS, AML this year hosted the Conference of Young Alaskans, the fourth such over the last 20 years, and the first focused on municipal government; and

WHEREAS, COYA was attended by nearly 40 young Alaskans, ages 16-25, representing more than a dozen communities; and

WHEREAS, COYA delegates represent Alaska's best and brightest, and clearly demonstrated enthusiasm for and commitment to Alaska's future; and

WHEREAS, COYA delegates spent four days learning about topics relevant to Alaska's local governments and hearing from municipal officials and subject matter experts; and

WHEREAS, over their time together they were tasked with producing a vision and goals for Alaska's local governments, and developing resolutions in support; and

WHEREAS, COYA vision statements may provide inspiration to AML members, inasmuch as COYA delegates envision an Alaska where:

- Environmental and public health, creativity, and intergenerational resilience are perpetually fostered within communities and supported by local and tribal governments; and
- Public safety departments and services work together to promote an environment representative of the diverse communities and cultures across Alaska, ensure the safety and livelihood of all people, and adapt to and meet the needs of local communities; and
- Alaskans thrive in accessible, safe communities where we see ourselves in representative local governments and in education curricula that are rooted in Indigenous values and histories and reflect Alaskans of all races, genders, and abilities; and
- Education curricula include accurate Alaska Native histories that are culturally-competent and trauma-informed from pre-kindergarten through university; and
- Municipal governments shall have successfully invested in and supported the diversification of their economies; and
- Infrastructure and public utilities will serve the basic needs of all Alaska communities and transition to an equitable, climate-adaptive, energy-efficient framework with a long-term plan for maintenance, consumer representation, sustainable funding, connectivity, and innovation
- Local and Tribal governments collaborate in just transition to create and build long lasting climate resiliency; and
- Communities across Alaska shall know what it takes and have access to the resources to be healthy, safe, and fulfilled; and



WHEREAS, delegates produced 24 resolutions that vary in scale and scope, but which may serve as potential actions at the local level; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League issues a commendation of appreciation to delegates of the 2021 Conference of Young Alaskans, and encourages and promotes further engagement within AML and its membership of young Alaska leaders; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that AML commends to all members consideration of the resolutions produced by Conference delegates, adapting and adopting as possible and relevant to the work of municipal governments in Alaska, and that these be shared as well with State and Federal elected officials.

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

2022-01

A Resolution in support of State recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League's mission is to strengthen local governments and its Articles of Incorporation refer to a purpose "To secure general and municipal legislation at the state and federal levels which will be beneficial to the municipalities and inhabitants thereof," and

WHEREAS, these roles place a distinct responsibility on AML to encourage State legislation that fosters intergovernmental cooperation and delivery of services; and

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction of AML's 165 members, incorporated city and borough governments that are political subdivisions of the State, intersect with that of the majority of the state's 229 federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, Tribes possess inherent powers and authorities, including self-governance of internal affairs; and

WHEREAS, Tribes act in the best interest of their tribal members in all areas, including the protection and safety of children, families, and vulnerable members of society; the stewardship of their natural resources; the support and promotion of education and workforce development; and the health and wellness of all tribal members; and

WHEREAS, those functions are complementary to the role that municipal governments and cooperation is mutually beneficial; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Constitution provides for the ability of local governments to enter into intergovernmental agreements, and in many cases there is close cooperation between Tribal and municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, government-to-government collaboration is an important feature of Alaska's governance at the federal level, and in particular through Congress' passing of the Federally Recognized Tribe List Act of 1994, confirming the existence of Alaska tribes; and

WHEREAS, State law and policy has slowly evolved to accommodate this nested governance structure, including through the Alaska Supreme Court (*John v. Baker*, 1999) and the State of Alaska Executive Branch (Alaska Admin. Order No. 300, 2018 and Alaska Department of Law 2017 Opinion – Legal status of tribal governments in Alaska), which recognized the existence of Alaska tribes; and

WHEREAS, the State has failed to fully recognize and include Tribal governments in State law and practice.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls for the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation providing for State recognition of federally recognized tribes, and for the Executive Branch to execute any necessary regulatory changes across Departments; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that AML encourages the State to take action to fully leverage the potential for partnership through activities such as compacting, contracting, and collaboration; and that local governments similarly explore ways in which to strengthen partnerships with Tribal governments.

Submitted by the Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors

## Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

2022-03

A Resolution expressing concern in the consideration of a Constitutional Convention, and taking an active role in educating the public and policy makers about its potential impact

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League's mission is to strengthen local governments, and AML's principles include to support the Alaska Constitution's mandate "to provide for maximum local self-government;" and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Constitution contains numerous provisions that provide for and enhance maximum local self-governments; and

WHEREAS, Art.XIII, sec. 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 voters overwhelmingly rejected the call for a constitutional convention in 1972 and in successive elections held in 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012; and

WHEREAS, Alaska voters will be asked to vote on whether to convene a constitutional convention at the next general election on November 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution's system has been flexible, allowing cities and boroughs to merge when appropriate, and allowing for classes of municipalities, including home rule municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution commits the State to support public education, public health, public welfare, and for the University system; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution provides a statewide court system that relieves local governments of the responsibility for operating county courts, and allows for local prosecutions and defenses when and if a local government chooses to support them; and

WHEREAS, during the more than 60 years since Statehood the Alaska Municipal League has supported Alaska local governments in thoughtfully choosing among the options that the Alaska Constitution has offered them, and in making sure that there is revenue sharing from the State that will support the local governments that people choose to have; and

WHEREAS, where local government is concerned, the Alaska Constitution as written provides a necessary and empowering legal framework within which to exert local control and respond to resident priorities; and

WHEREAS, if voters were to authorize a convention, convention delegates elected at a subsequent election, would have plenary power to change any and all aspects of the constitution for submission to the voters; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous proposals advanced over the years to shift public funding for education from the state to local governments, to alter public retirement programs, modify the selection of judges, alter the taxing power of government and other similar proposals that could fundamentally harm Alaska's local governments.

Submitted by the Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Municipal League that the League recommends that the voters of Alaska vote “No” on calling a Constitutional Convention.

or

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League expresses concern about any campaign for calling a Constitutional Convention, to which the League would enjoin in opposition by educating voters of the value of the Constitution as currently written and the numerous options available to address perceived or real needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages all local governments to work toward correcting any misinformation or misperception as may exist or that develops as part of the election cycle ahead.



2021

## Principles & Policy Statements

Approved by AML members on November 20, 2020.

### Principles

- Support the Alaska Constitution's mandate "to provide for maximum local self-government"
- Support policies that reduce tax burdens and reimburse for State-mandated exemptions
- Support State revenue assistance as an investment in and support for municipal governance
- Support adequate State funding for basic public services and infrastructure
- Oppose unfunded and underfunded State or Federal legislative and administrative mandates
- Oppose any efforts to reduce local revenues and local revenue authorities
- Oppose State or Federal policies that shift responsibilities to local governments without a negotiated agreement that includes adequate and full annual funding

### Policy Statements

#### **MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE (TITLE 29)**

- Support increased capacity within and professionalization of State tax assessment.
- Support improvements to records retention, public records access, and public notice.
- Support issuance of a municipal impact fiscal note within proposed legislation.

#### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND REVENUE SHARING**

- Support a baseline floor of \$60 million annually, and encourage a long-term, sustainable solution.
- Support a method to waive debt, forgive loans, or otherwise bolster "stressed" communities.

#### **PERS/TRS CHANGES**

- Support amendments to termination studies and penalties for leaving PERS/TRS.
- Support the development of a pathway to decrease overall unfunded liability.
- Oppose any cost shift of the State "on behalf" payment over 22%, or any other changes that haven't been negotiated and agreed to by municipalities.

#### **FISCAL POLICY**

- Support agency and programmatic efficiency and right-sizing, but oppose cost-shifting to municipalities and eliminating essential services.
- Support the development of a broad-based tax to increase state revenue.
- Interest rate penalties found in AS 26.45.500(b) should be consistent with market rates.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Increase tools available for public safety official recruitment and retention.
- Support and strengthen the VPSO program.
- Support state efforts to decrease access to and impacts from opioids.
- Increase state funding of community jails.
- Fund the administrative costs of municipal hosting of E911 systems.

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Support increased investment in infrastructure development, which facilitates economic growth.
- Support increased investment in training and workforce development.
- Support state responsiveness to local economic development planning, including local economic diversification and small business development strategies.

## **EDUCATION**

- Support early childhood education, career and technical education, and preparing, attracting and retaining qualified educators.
- Support for accountability and assessment that meets federal requirements and maximizes local control.
- Oppose any reduction in school funding and support investment in infrastructure and deferred maintenance.
- Support amendments to the funding formula removing penalties for consolidation of school facilities within a district.
- Oppose forced consolidation of school districts.
- Oppose the elimination of the school bond debt reimbursement program, and any reductions to previous reimbursement commitments.
- Support a sustainable university system capable of delivering educational opportunities, workforce development, and credible research.

## **FISHERIES**

- Support for appropriately funded DF&G and increased investment in fisheries monitoring, research and outreach.
- Support continued investment in port and harbor infrastructure.
- Support reinstatement of the Harbor Matching Grant program, partially fulfilling the state's obligation for maintenance of harbors transferred into municipal ownership.
- Support an active role in federal fisheries management, and clean water, as well as transboundary negotiations.

## **ENERGY**

- Support for vetting of and investing in energy projects, processes and programs that decrease energy costs; reimburse municipal debt or investments corresponding to and by utilizing PCE savings

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Support State investment that can be used to match or supplement federal funding.
- Support increases to the State capital budget, including through a mechanism such as general obligation bonds.
- Support a sustainable ferry system that continues basic, year-round, ferry service to coastal communities.

## **MINERALS**

- Support responsible resource development and the reduction of investment barriers alongside improved environmental risk management.

## **WATER, WASTEWATER AND SANITATION**

- Support increased State investment in maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.
- Support reinstatement of the Municipal Matching Grant program to help municipalities match or supplement local and federal funding.



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Assembly

assembly@fnsb.gov  
Main: (907) 459-1401  
Fax: (907) 459-1224

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly  
April Trickey, CMC, Borough Clerk

**THROUGH:** Marna Sanford, Chair, Legislative Priorities Committee

**FROM:** Gina Gregg, Research Assistant

**DATE:** October 28, 2021

**SUBJECT: ACTION OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Convened at 12:02 p.m./Adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Members Present:

Jimi Cash  
Leah Berman Williams  
Marna Sanford, Chair

Members Excused:

None

Others Present:

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor  
Jim Williams, Chief of Staff  
Jill S. Dolan, Borough Attorney  
Yuri Morgan, Morgan Partnership, LLC

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## NEW BUSINESS

Review and approval of draft Resolution No. 2021-TBD. A Resolution Establishing Assembly Positions on Alaska Municipal League's (AML) 2022 Resolutions and Policy Statements. (Sponsor: Legislative Priorities Committee)

**-Approved (3-0) to amend as follows:**

- **Update the position of all Resolutions and Policy Statements to "support", except for the Economic Development Policy Statement.**
- **Update Economic Development Policy Statement position to "support with conditions". Add condition "Mayor Ward will propose a resolution and/or amendment to the policy statement in line with FNSB's legislative priority regarding economic development."**



**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Mr. Morgan, FNSB Lobbyist, thanked the committee for the early presentation of legislative priorities this year.

Ms. Williams thanked Chair Sanford for her leadership this year.

Ms. Sanford thanked the committee and staff for the last year and is happy with the changes the committee made to help it operate smoothly and complete things in a timely fashion.