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UPDATED 2025 AML Business Meeting Documents

Sarah King <sarahk@akml.org>

Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 1:09 PM

Cc: Nils Andreassen <nils@akml.org>, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs <Alicia@akml.org>, Carole Triem <carole@akml.org>, Adam Kane <adam@akml.org>

Hello,

Please see attached UPDATED 2026 Draft Resolutions and 2025 Carryforward Resolutions packets, plus other attachments that were sent out earlier.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sarah King

Special Projects Coordinator

Alaska Municipal League

907-790-5378

City Council will
vote on 2026 Resolutions
at the 11-18-25
meeting



From: Sarah King

Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:42 AM

Cc: Nils Andreassen <nils@akml.org>; Alicia Hughes-Skandijs <Alicia@akml.org>; Carole Triem <carole@akml.org>; Adam Kane <adam@akml.org>

Subject: 2025 AML Business Meeting Documents

Good morning,

The AML Annual Business Meeting will be on Friday, December 12th, 2025, at 10:30 AM. The following documents are attached for your review for the Business Meeting:

- 2026 AML Draft Resolutions
- Legislative Review for Membership consideration
- Carry forward Resolutions (part of consent agenda)
- Resolution guidelines
- 2026 Board of Directors Application

The 2026 AML Resolutions will go before the Resolutions Committee on Wednesday, December 10th to be reviewed and acted upon for final recommendation to the AML Membership. If you have any questions about the Resolutions Procedures, please see attached.

The Legislative Review is a list of current legislation for members to consider during the annual meeting. These draft positions are based on current resolutions or AML's position statement or reflect our understanding of how they impact local governments. During the business meeting we will have a lightning round of support/oppose votes on each bill. This will inform AML action during the upcoming legislative session. These positions may change as we learn more or if bills are amended, and do not reflect a final position of AML. Instead, we're trying to understand how members think about them and how we can work to reflect that effectively.

At the business meeting on December 12th, one representative from each member municipality will have the chance to vote on each new draft resolution and bill in the legislative review. With this in mind, review documents with your governing body considering your municipality's position and if any amendments should be made so that your municipality's representative has the confidence and authority to take a position and actively participate in discussions.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the 2025 AML Annual Local Government Conference on December 10-12th. For all information related to the conference, please visit the AML Annual Conference website at <https://amlannual.org/>.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sarah King

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5 attachments

-  **2026 Draft Resolutions - FINAL.pdf**
411K
-  **2025 Carryforward Resolutions.pdf**
649K
-  **Legislative Review - 2025.pdf**
506K
-  **2026 Resolution Guidelines.pdf**
504K
-  **2026 Board Election Application - UPDATED.pdf**
171K

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-01

A resolution calling on the legislature to stabilize K-12 funding by establishing an inflation-adjusted BSA, creating a Base Facilities Allocation for major maintenance, and restoring predictable school bond debt reimbursement

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a constitutional obligation to maintain a system of public schools, and AML members have consistently called for sufficient, inflation-proofed State funding for basic public needs and State obligations, affirming that services delivered locally on the State's behalf should be fully funded by the State; and

WHEREAS, AML's 2025–2026 Principles & Policy Statements urge the State to increase and inflation-proof the Base Student Allocation (BSA), continue a well-funded school bond debt reimbursement program, increase investment in school construction and deferred maintenance, and to increase budget certainty for school districts and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the same AML policy statements explicitly support providing a Base Facilities Allocation to address deferred maintenance and facilities' needs - an approach AML members propose to implement as a dedicated BFA for major-maintenance set-aside to ensure predictable, timely upkeep and safe learning environments; and

WHEREAS, AML members previously adopted Resolution #2023-12 requesting the State to increase and inflation-proof the BSA, establishing organizational intent and continuity on this issue; and

WHEREAS, in April 2025 the Legislature passed HB 69 to raise the Base Student Allocation by \$1,000 per student (≈\$253 million/year), which was then vetoed by the Governor, with lawmakers ultimately failing to override the governor's veto, then passed HB 57 to raise the BSA by \$700 and overrode the Governor's veto of that bill, creating certainty in statute for a year-to-year funding increase; and

WHEREAS, inflationary pressure persists in Urban Alaska (Anchorage CPI-U +2.4% year-over-year as of August 2025), and district officials from across the state have reported that if the BSA had kept pace with inflation it would be about \$1,500 higher than today - eroding real purchasing power in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) reported \$36.19 million (FY24 supplemental) + \$26.57 million (FY25) for the Major Maintenance priority list - only enough to fully fund the first 26 projects - and in the FY26 cycle the Legislature discussed adding \$19 million (Senate) + \$19 million (House), covering only the top nine additional projects, underscoring the depth of unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's K-12 system serves nearly 130,000 students statewide, and predictable capital upkeep is necessary to keep facilities safe, healthy, and open for learning across all districts; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District faced a \$16 million deficit for FY26, with plans that included increasing class sizes by 2.5 students and more than 150 position reductions, illustrating the real-world impacts of formula volatility; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District signaled that up to 120 positions could be cut absent higher per-student funding, further evidencing the statewide strain; and

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WHEREAS, districts are increasingly forced to rely on one-time funds and draws on fund balance to bridge structural gaps; Anchorage School District budget documents explicitly project using fund balance to cover shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, since 2015 a state moratorium has blocked school bond debt reimbursement for new bonds, shifting costs to local taxpayers and delaying needed projects; pending legislation (SB 184) updates statutory dates governing eligibility, further highlighting the need for predictable, tiered reimbursement going forward; and

WHEREAS, DEED's capital program consistently leaves many qualified projects unfunded each year; analyses indicate only about 14% of annual school construction/major maintenance submissions receive funding on average, despite statutory expectations for district preventive maintenance; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty around annual BSA adjustments, deferred maintenance funding, and the on-again/off-again nature of school bond debt reimbursement complicate local budgeting, impede long-term capital planning, and transfer risk to municipalities and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a durable statutory framework - linking the BSA to inflation, creating a protected and predictable facilities maintenance mechanism, and restoring reimbursement predictability - would align State obligations with local implementation realities and voter decision-making;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and Alaska Legislature to enact the following:

1. Enact statute establishing an automatic multi-year BSA escalator tied to a transparent inflation index (e.g., CPI-U or a composite index reflecting education cost drivers), with a reasonable floor and a periodic review clause, to restore and maintain purchasing power and budgeting certainty.
2. Create a dedicated Base Facilities Allocation (BFA) for school major maintenance that is structured with PCE-style safeguards (protected corpus/earnings mechanism, formula-driven distributions, and statutory sweep protection), with:
 - a. Formula allocations based on facilities condition, deferred maintenance backlog, rurality/logistics factors, local contributions, and student counts;
 - b. Annual publication by DEED of each district's BFA eligibility, award, and project list;
 - c. Coordination with REF/SRF and other state/federal capital tools to leverage dollars and accelerate health/safety and energy-efficiency projects.
3. Reinstate and fund school bond debt reimbursement with predictable tiers (e.g., by community cost factors or project type) and clear statutory timelines for application, approval, and payment, so local voters have confidence when considering bonds. Back the intent of SB 184 and codify payment-timing and percentage-certainty to prevent ad-hoc reductions or delays.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature include a municipal and school district implementation impact/fiscal note with related legislation, and that State agencies publish uniform guidance (eligibility, timelines, reporting) to minimize administrative burden and maximize access for small and rural districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML directs its advocacy to support these measures, including testimony, coalition building with education stakeholders, and technical assistance to members preparing bond proposals and facilities plans.

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Resolution #2026-02

A resolution on Railbelt energy reliability and energy affordability and calling for time-bound implementation with local governments as full partners

WHEREAS, Alaska's communities depend on reliable and affordable energy to ensure the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of their residents, and energy insecurity threatens vital municipal services such as emergency response, education, and public facilities; and

WHEREAS, long-term energy planning is critical to maintaining the resilience of the Railbelt region, which faces growing concerns around natural gas supply, increasing costs; and

WHEREAS, local governments are on the frontlines of these challenges and must be active participants in identifying energy needs, evaluating resource options, and shaping solutions that align with community priorities and financial realities; and

WHEREAS, thoughtful coordination among municipalities, utilities, state agencies, and regional stakeholders is essential to ensure a balanced approach that prioritizes public benefit, energy security, and economic development across the Railbelt; and

WHEREAS, attracting new investment in energy production and infrastructure, including natural gas development in Cook Inlet, will require a combination of beneficial policy and reliable market conditions to ensure long-term affordability and energy supply; and

WHEREAS, the Southcentral Mayors' Energy Coalition (Coalition) has been committed to exploring energy alternatives, assessing energy deficits, and advancing policies that reflect the shared interests of Railbelt communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AML, consistent with the goals of the Coalition:

1. Supports coordinated, long-term energy planning that accounts for current and projected needs, the changing natural gas supply, and the need for a diversified energy mix.
2. Urges inclusive and transparent engagement of local governments in all regional energy decisions, including infrastructure planning, energy resource development, and rate-setting processes that may affect municipal services and residents.
3. Encourages investment in alternative and complementary energy options, including storage, renewables, efficiency measures, and distributed energy systems that can reduce dependence on a single fuel source and strengthen community-level resilience.
4. Calls for fair cost allocation and mitigation of financial impacts on municipalities and residential users, especially in scenarios that require major investments in generation, transmission, or backup capacity.
5. Affirms the need for local decision-making and alignment with municipal planning, land use priorities, and economic development strategies.
6. Commits to collaboration and regional coordination through the Coalition, working together to share data, align priorities, and ensure energy solutions are tailored to the unique needs and capacities of each community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML supports and will contribute to advocacy that facilitates municipal participation in state and regional energy forums; supports outreach and communication around local energy priorities; helps identify grant and funding opportunities for energy investments and resilience; and promotes collaboration that leads to cost-effective, community-driven energy solutions.

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Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution 2026-03

A resolution restating AML's position on state fiscal policy and calling for stable services, new revenues, protection of local authority, and a strategy to counter net outmigration

WHEREAS, Alaska's fiscal stability underpins the basic public services that municipalities deliver or rely upon, and state revenue volatility has increased as oil throughput and production have trended downward from historic highs, even as monthly production fluctuates year-to-year; continued dependence on earnings draws from the Permanent Fund now provides over half of the general fund, which heightens the need for disciplined, rules-based budgeting and diversified revenues; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's population grew modestly in 2024, but the state's own long-range outlook anticipates persistent demographic headwinds and potential decline without policy responses that improve affordability, workforce, and opportunity - factors that directly affect municipal economies and tax bases; and

WHEREAS, AML's adopted Principles and Policy Statements call for: maximum local self-government; preserving the municipal tax base and revenue authorities; increasing and inflation-proofing State investment in basic public needs and obligations; another broad-based tax to close the structural gap, in addition to the one required of some local governments for a contribution to public education; continued sustainable draws from the Permanent Fund; and a capital budget that grows with needs, rather than shifting State costs to local governments; and

WHEREAS, AML policy further directs the State to oppose preemption of local sales tax authority; reimburse - or make optional/needs-based - State-mandated exemptions; and ensure any spending cap does not disproportionately harm local governments and school districts while statewide obligations are inflation-proofed; and

WHEREAS, predictable intergovernmental transfers (e.g., Community Assistance, education formula funding) and a sufficient capital budget are essential to municipal planning, deferred maintenance, and economic development; and AML policy urges returning Community Assistance to \$60 million (inflation-indexed) and increasing capital investment; and

WHEREAS, removing barriers and improving service delivery requires efficiencies, shared services, and third-party partnerships - along with reduced administrative burdens and stronger State technical assistance to local governments, consistent with AML policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) reaffirms the following framework for a responsible State of Alaska fiscal policy:

1. Close the Structural Gap with New, Broad-Based Revenues - Enact a broad-based statewide tax calibrated to long-run needs and economic conditions; maintain the statutory Percent-of-Market-Value (POMV) draw discipline; and right-size the unrestricted general fund to reliably fund State obligations and partnership programs on which municipalities depend.
2. Preserve Municipal Taxing Authority and Local Revenues - Oppose preemption of local taxation (including sales and locally levied resource taxes), maintain the structure of the oil & gas property tax, and reject any measure that restricts municipal fees or revenue tools.
3. Remove or Reimburse Mandatory State-Imposed Exemptions - Reimburse the value of all mandatory property tax exemptions (e.g., AS 29.45.030(e) senior/disabled-veteran) or make

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1 them optional/needs-based at local discretion; ensure any changes avoid shifting costs to
2 municipalities.

3 4. Protect Intergovernmental Transfers and Inflation-Proof State Obligations - Maintain and
4 inflation-adjust formula funds and shared-revenue programs (e.g., Community Assistance,
5 education formula/BSA, debt reimbursement) to preserve service levels amid rising costs;
6 pay on time.

7 5. Reject a One-Size-Fits-All Appropriation Limit - Oppose constitutional/statutory spending
8 caps that fail to account for inflation, population shifts, capital needs, disaster response, and
9 intergovernmental transfers to school districts and local governments; any limit must
10 explicitly accommodate these purposes.

11 6. Rebuild the Capital Budget and Tackle Deferred Maintenance - Commit to a multi-year
12 capital program sized to inflation and need - funding transportation, water/sewer, energy,
13 public facilities, and resilience - so municipalities can plan and match federal opportunities.

14 7. Continue Efficiency, Shared Services, and State Footprint Reforms - Reduce administrative
15 burdens; expand shared-service delivery through regional or third-party partners
16 (procurement, engineering, grant management); and deploy State technical assistance that
17 lowers local costs and increases draw-down of federal dollars.

18 8. Target Incentives to Reverse Net Outmigration - Align State incentives with AML priorities -
19 childcare, housing, workforce training, and competitive public employment benefits - to
20 attract and retain residents and employers, acknowledging demographic and migration
21 pressures.

22 9. Respect Local Self-Government and Avoid Cost Shifts - Reject policies that shift State
23 expenses or unfunded mandates to municipalities; require municipal/fiscal impact notes on
24 legislation; and consult local governments early on major fiscal changes.

25 10. Transparency and Stability - Publish clear, timely revenue and expenditure outlooks;
26 maintain predictable disbursement schedules for shared programs; and use multi-year
27 budgeting practices that give municipalities reliable planning horizons; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML urges the Governor and Legislature to work
29 collaboratively on a comprehensive fiscal package in the 2026 session that (a) establishes new
30 broad-based revenues; (b) protects municipal taxing authority and local revenues; (c) inflation-
31 proofs obligations and transfers; (d) rebuilds the capital budget; and (e) implements efficiency
32 and shared-service strategies that reduce total system cost while improving service delivery; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will support this effort by providing non-partisan
34 analysis, facilitating local government input, and publishing options that reflect municipal
35 impacts - including how various revenue structures, exemption reforms, and appropriation-limit
36 designs would affect local governments and residents.

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Resolution #2026-04

A resolution calling for Alaska LNG development to include local benefits and deliver community value

WHEREAS, reliable and affordable energy is foundational to public health, safety, and economic resilience in Alaska's communities, and large energy developments have direct local implications for ports, roads, utilities, housing, and public services; and

WHEREAS, renewed commercial interest and project adjustments have kept Alaska LNG in public focus, presenting both opportunity and risk for Alaska's municipalities; and

WHEREAS, local governments bear front-line impacts from construction and operations - traffic and road wear, port and harbor use, public safety demand, workforce housing pressure, and utility capacity needs - while also shouldering expectations to translate large projects into lasting community benefits; and

WHEREAS, clear, enforceable benefit commitments - developed with host and corridor communities - are essential to align State support with local priorities, maintain public trust, and ensure that if Alaska LNG advances, communities benefit in measurable, durable ways; and

WHEREAS, respect for municipal authority, planning processes, and existing local revenue tools is vital to equitable project development and to sustaining the services residents depend on.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AML supports continued progress toward an economically viable Alaska LNG project and urges the Governor, Legislature, and the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) – and the companies they work with – to condition any State support (financial, statutory, regulatory, or administrative) on adoption of a community benefits structure, especially to include host and corridor municipalities that includes, at minimum, the following:

1. Reauthorize the Municipal Advisory Gasline Project Review Board – This Advisory Board comprised of municipal officials could be instrumental in developing a framework to evaluate the local governmental options that could be adopted to address and mitigate the impacts of new infrastructure associated with the development of the State's North Slope natural gas resources, recommending legislative options to minimize the financial impact to communities in proximity to a North Slope natural gas project infrastructure, and recommending legislative options to minimize the financial impact to communities not in proximity to a North Slope natural gas project. Include municipal representation in negotiations and as part of an ongoing oversight body; public, quarterly reporting on metrics (revenues shared, funds deployed, local hire/apprenticeships, offtake subscriptions, mitigations delivered); and a dispute-resolution and enforcement pathway.
2. Maintain Current Oil and Gas Property Tax – Many communities benefit directly from current oil and gas property taxes, which contribute to their ability to fund education, emergency response, and public infrastructure. No action should be taken to preempt or diminish existing municipal revenue authority.
3. Port, Road, and Public Safety Impact Mitigation Funds – The project and partnership should provide dedicated, multi-year funds for port/harbor improvements, road maintenance and upgrades, traffic management, emergency response, and workforce housing and public

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1 facilities necessary to safely host construction and operations - available before and during
2 peak impact periods. These investments are necessary to meet the needs of project
3 development.

4 4. Skilled-Trades Pipelines & Local Hire – In cooperation with local governments, establish a
5 coordinated workforce plan (with UA, AVTEC, unions, school districts, Tribes, and
6 employers) that establishes registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeship bridges, and local
7 hire targets, with transparent reporting on Alaska resident participation and
8 small/disadvantaged business opportunities.

9 5. Firm Gas Offtake for Public Buildings & Utilities at Transparent Pricing – Identify set-aside
10 firm service off-take options (where infrastructure allows) for municipal facilities and
11 community utilities, with transparent, cost-based tariffing and predictable indexation to
12 enable conversions, efficiency upgrades, and long-term budgeting for essential public
13 services. Determine the extent to which gas offtake can reduce cost of living and the high
14 cost of delivering public services in Alaska, and implement solutions.

15 6. Local Authority & Compliance Safeguards – Ensure an explicit commitment that the project
16 will respect municipal home-rule and general-law powers, local planning and permitting, and
17 will not reduce environmental and safety compliance obligations. Any project-driven local
18 requirements must be funded, with no unfunded mandates or preemption of authority by the
19 State.

20 7. Corridor & Regional Considerations – Include provisions that recognize cumulative impacts
21 across the corridor (construction staging, traffic, workforce logistics), ensuring proportional
22 benefits to non-terminal municipalities, and support collaboration among neighboring
23 communities; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML urges AGDC and relevant State agencies to negotiate
25 these concurrently with commercial agreements – and encourages Glenfarne, 8 Star Alaska, and
26 other companies involved in developing, managing, or delivering Alaska LNG to be receptive to
27 - such that commitments are effective at Final Investment Decision (FID) and funded in advance
28 of peak construction; and to align State infrastructure investments (ports, roads, utilities,
29 housing) with priorities identified by host municipalities; and

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML encourages the Legislature to provide enabling
31 statutes and appropriations necessary to implement these terms without restricting existing
32 municipal revenues or authorities; and to require periodic oversight hearings on performance;
33 and

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will be a constructive partner by convening affected
35 municipalities to define shared priorities, assisting members with workforce and facility offtake
36 readiness, supporting coordinated corridor planning, and providing model agreements and
37 public-facing reporting templates.

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Resolution #2026-05

A resolution calling on DOT's AMHS to implement its 2045 plan by establishing near-term service metrics, capital cadence, transparent performance, and community partnerships.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is a lifeline for many coastal communities - supporting public safety and health access, K-12 and university travel, essential freight, tourism, and regional commerce - and service uncertainty directly disrupts local economies and municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF's AMHS 2045 long-range plan provides a strategic vision, and communities and residents need near-term reliability of service levels, maintenance windows, and vessel replacement in order to plan budgets, events, freight, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, local governments own and operate ports, harbors, terminals, roads, emergency services, and visitor infrastructure that are affected by AMHS schedules, and should be considered essential partners in near- and long-term planning, setting service standards and sequencing capital; and

WHEREAS, transparent, time-bound implementation - paired with public performance reporting - will improve accountability, affordability, and reliability while complementing municipal authority, planning processes, and local revenue tools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) urges the Governor, Legislature, and DOT&PF to adopt the following near-term AMHS implementation framework aligned with the 2045 plan:

1. Establish by statute or policy five-year rolling service goals that set minimum monthly calls by passenger and freight needs, co-developed with local governments, businesses, and Tribes, using criteria that recognizes community conditions, such as modal connectivity, affordability, medical/education needs, freight dependence, and seasonal demand. Publish and update annually, with variance that is documented and communicated to AMHS communities.
2. Publish annually an AMHS Maintenance Windows Calendar (vessels and terminals) that identifies planned out-of-service periods, expected return-to-service dates, and contingency coverage so communities can plan freight, events, and essential travel. Most important is to understand the variables involved, and report on progress.
3. Adopt a fleet recapitalization ladder that sets target replacement/overhaul intervals by vessel class, sequenced over a multi-biennium horizon; pair with a predictable capital program (planning, design, build) so that aging vessels do not create avoidable service gaps. This is especially important for the Legislature to review as part of its deferred maintenance and capital budget planning. Consider including this as part of a broader asset management plan or structure.
4. Enhance efforts and ensure sufficient funding to maintain a published service contingency playbook (replacements, charters, alternate routings, freight bridges) to uphold the service standards during unplanned outages; coordinating with local government administration, emergency managers and harbor masters to execute contingency plans.
5. Work toward and establish route-level, public-facing dashboards showing factors like on-time performance, cancellations (with cause), vessel tracking, capacity utilization,

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1 maintenance availability, customer notification timeliness, and fare/affordability indicators;
2 include quarterly progress against the rolling service standard. This can be shored up with
3 regular communication and community engagement.

- 4 6. Work with stakeholders to maintain or enhance fare policies and discounts that protect
5 resident affordability and access to essential services (medical, education, government
6 travel), with any fuel surcharges or adjustments published through a transparent formula.
7 AML recognizes that rate-setting is a challenging endeavor and iterative process, where State
8 revenue recovery must be balanced with affordability relative to alternative modes of public
9 transit.

- 10 7. Formalize a local coordination protocol that aligns schedule decisions with municipal
11 planning calendars; continues to coordinate with local governments with home-rule/general-
12 law powers, harbor/port policies, and land-use and permitting.

- 13 8. Sequence vessel deployments and capital projects to preserve access across regions; convene
14 regular multi-port coordination meetings to manage seasonal peaks, events, and construction
15 impacts; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML urges the Legislature to align appropriations and
17 reporting with this framework - supporting the capital ladder, requiring dashboard publication,
18 and holding periodic oversight hearings on service standard compliance. This includes
19 aggressively pursuing all potential and available funds, providing the necessary matching funds
20 where required, and ensuring sufficiency of revenues, even while continuing to look for
21 operational efficiencies; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will be a constructive partner by convening member
23 communities to help define community classes and baseline calls, providing feedback on the
24 maintenance calendar and dashboards, and collaborating on grant and capital strategies that
25 improve service and affordability.

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Resolution 2026-06

A resolution addressing compliance with State law by adopting and supporting measures to strengthen property assessment at full market value

WHEREAS, Alaska Statutes (AS 29.45.110) require municipalities to assess property at its full and true market value each year, reflecting what a knowledgeable buyer would pay a willing seller; and

WHEREAS, accurate market-value assessment is vital to fairly distributing the property tax burden and upholding taxpayers' trust in the system; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is one of only a few states with no requirement to disclose real estate sales prices to any public official, resulting in local assessors lacking direct access to the very market data needed to fulfill the state mandate; and

WHEREAS, the absence of mandatory disclosure leads to an incomplete and often unreliable picture of the real estate market, as assessors must rely on voluntary sale notifications, private data sources, and appeals to gather sales information; and

WHEREAS, this data gap disproportionately affects high-value residential and commercial properties, which are less frequently reported and thus tend to be assessed below true market value, shifting tax burdens to other property owners and undermining uniformity; and

WHEREAS, previous calls for full public sales disclosure in Alaska (including AML Resolution 2019-04) have not been enacted due to concerns raised by interest groups, indicating that new approaches are necessary to achieve fair assessment without triggering political opposition; and

WHEREAS, several states have successfully implemented systems for confidential sales price reporting – requiring that sales information be filed with assessors for valuation purposes but kept confidential by law – a model that could enhance assessors' data in Alaska while respecting privacy; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's State Assessor and professional assessment community have endorsed exploring solutions such as limited-access disclosure, data sharing, and improved analytical tools to meet the full-value standard; and

WHEREAS, advances in mass appraisal modeling, data analysis, and inter-agency cooperation now provide new opportunities for local and state governments to estimate market values with greater accuracy even in the absence of publicly disclosed sales (for example, by pooling regional sales data and utilizing income and cost valuation methods alongside the best available sales estimates); and

WHEREAS, ensuring assessment equity may also require policy innovations such as property class differentiation in taxation, which would necessitate state enabling legislation but could help correct imbalances between under-assessed and fairly assessed categories of property, thereby improving fairness in the tax system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) urges the State of Alaska to adopt and support, and for local governments to consider, the following measures to strengthen property assessment at full market value without mandatory public disclosure of sales prices:

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1. Enact state legislation to require the disclosure of real property sales prices to a designated public office (such as local assessors or a state real estate database) with strict confidentiality protections, so that assessors can access actual sales data for valuation purposes. This legislation should ensure the data is exempt from public records and used solely to improve assessment accuracy and equity.
2. Alternatively, facilitate voluntary data-sharing agreements between local governments and real estate industry sources (e.g. MLS systems and realtor associations) to grant assessors access to sales information under confidentiality terms. AML could coordinate a statewide sales data repository where municipalities can securely contribute and access pooled sales data (including information gleaned from voluntary sale disclosures, recorded transfer affidavits, appeals evidence, etc.), thereby broadening the market information available to all jurisdictions.
3. Invest in and deploy modern statistical appraisal tools to bridge the data gap. This includes providing state assistance or funding for advanced CAMA software and training so that every municipal assessor can analyze market trends using the best available inputs (sales, income, and cost data). The State could consider partnering with expert organizations (such as the IAAO or tech firms) to develop Alaska-specific automated valuation models that incorporate regional economic indicators and any available sales proxies. Additionally, consider the use of the income approach for commercial properties by supporting local ordinances or state laws that allow assessors to collect rental and expense data from commercial property owners for more accurate market valuations.
4. Introduce enabling legislation to permit split property tax rates or assessment ratios by property class, such as differentiating between commercial and residential property tax burdens. This would allow municipalities, if needed, to apply a separate mill rate to classes that are demonstrably under-assessed relative to others, in order to correct inequitable tax distribution.

Any implementation of this tool should be grounded in objective analysis (e.g. sales ratio studies) and designed to maintain revenue neutrality while improving fairness (preventing one class of taxpayers from subsidizing another due to assessment inaccuracies). AML will work with the legislature to ensure that such classification authority is consistent with the Alaska Constitution and crafted to address the unique market conditions in non-disclosure environments.
5. Expand the role of the State of Alaska in supporting local assessments at market value. This includes strengthening the State Assessor's Office with resources to provide technical appraisal assistance to boroughs and cities, and to conduct periodic equalization studies that identify disparities in assessment levels between communities or property types; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML and its member municipalities commit to ongoing collaboration in pursuing these solutions. We will share best practices, support pilot programs (such as a trial confidential disclosure program or a regional data cooperative), and engage with stakeholders – including the real estate industry and the public – to demonstrate that these measures can improve tax fairness and transparency without compromising privacy. By taking these steps, local governments and the State can better fulfill the mandate of full-market-value assessment, thereby ensuring that Alaska's property tax system remains equitable, lawful, and worthy of public trust.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-07

A resolution calling for an accurate and full count in the next U.S. Census and calling for a State-Local-Federal partnership to meet community needs

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate decennial Census is essential to fair representation, equitable distribution of federal and state resources, sound local planning, and data-driven decisions across Alaska's municipalities and boroughs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's unique conditions - including remote and roadless communities, seasonal and shift-based workforces, widespread P.O. box addressing, language access needs, harsh weather, and group-quarters concentrations - require tailored outreach, flexible enumeration timing, and strong local engagement to achieve a full count; and

WHEREAS, AML's Principles and Policy Statements call on the State to provide resources and technical assistance that enhance the capacity of communities, and to foster municipal-Tribal collaboration, both of which are integral to a successful complete-count effort; and

WHEREAS, AML policy supports closing Alaska's digital gaps by improving access to affordable, high-speed broadband and supporting short- and long-term strategies for broadband and cellular coverage, which directly aid self-response options, community kiosks, and digital outreach during the Census; and

WHEREAS, the State's commitment to provide resources and support for municipalities to better access grant opportunities aligns with micro-grant programs that help communities hire local coordinators, translators, and enumerators and to conduct culturally appropriate outreach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) encourages every member municipality and borough to prepare for the upcoming U.S. Census by:

1. Establishing a local Complete Count Committee (CCC) (or joining a regional/Tribal CCC), designating a local Census lead, and adopting a Census Outreach Plan that budgets for translation, senior outreach, remote-site logistics, and group-quarters coordination.
2. Updating local data ahead of enumeration by participating fully in address and boundary programs (e.g., LUCA/MAF-TIGER updates, BAS), verifying group-quarters and seasonal housing lists, and coordinating with school districts, utilities, housing authorities, and Tribal partners.
3. Expanding self-response access, including pop-up response centers/kiosks at libraries, city halls, schools, and clinics; leveraging local media and trusted messengers; and aligning outreach with cultural calendars and subsistence/work seasons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges the State of Alaska (Governor's Office, DCCED, DOA, DOLWD, DEED, DHSS, DOT&PF) to:

1. Stand up a State Complete Count Office to coordinate interagency actions, provide toolkits, and convene regular briefings with municipal and Tribal governments.
2. Fund local outreach through pass-through micro-grants to municipalities, Tribes, and community-based organizations for CCC staffing, translation/interpretation, youth and elder engagement, and transportation for remote households.

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

- 1 3. Support address modernization by assisting communities with E-911 addressing, GIS
2 address-point creation, and MAF/TIGER updates; provide technical assistance and
3 software/training to small jurisdictions.
- 4 4. Recruit and retain local enumerators, including differential pay for remote duty, travel/per
5 diem support, and partnerships with workforce programs and the University/AVTEC to build
6 a statewide "Census-ready" hiring pool.
- 7 5. Coordinate Remote Alaska operations (with Tribes, boroughs, and communities) to align
8 enumeration timing and logistics with winter/spring access windows and local events, and to
9 ensure culturally appropriate language access.
- 10 6. Expand digital access for Census response, including pop-up Wi-Fi hotspots and public
11 kiosks, leveraging ongoing State broadband investments and planning committees.
- 12 7. Provide legal and technical support for boundary/annexation updates, group-quarters
13 enumeration, and post-enumeration review processes appropriate to Alaska's needs; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML urges the U.S. Census Bureau and federal partners
15 to:

- 16 1. Adapt operations for Alaska, including flexible enumeration schedules; robust local hiring;
17 language services (translation and interpretation with Alaska Native languages); expanded
18 group-quarters protocols; and village-based logistics support.
- 19 2. Fund cooperative agreements with the State and local/Tribal governments for outreach,
20 translation, and rural logistics; provide early, predictable grant windows sized to Alaska's
21 travel and shipping realities.
- 22 3. Improve address-file and feedback tools (MAF/TIGER) and training (e.g., GUPS), simplify
23 submission for small governments, and create a dedicated Small-Jurisdiction Help Desk for
24 Alaska.
- 25 4. Ensure strong post-enumeration remedies, including timely Count Question Resolution and
26 group-quarters review windows, with clear guidance tailored to remote and seasonal housing
27 contexts; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will develop and maintain a Census Readiness
29 Toolkit, host training and peer exchanges, coordinate with Tribal organizations and community
30 partners, and advocate for resources that enable every Alaska community - large and small,
31 roaded and remote - to achieve a full and accurate count.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-08

A resolution requesting legislation to clarify the nonprofit property tax exemption

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League (AML) works to strengthen local governments and improve the condition of communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments and charitable nonprofits work together to meet public needs, with nonprofits often providing services that reduce the burden on government and maximize the impact of public funds; and

WHEREAS, nonprofits are economic drivers of employment, leveraging resources both time and money into local government budgets and communities and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 29.45.030(a)(3) currently exempts from general taxation property used exclusively for nonprofit religious, charitable, cemetery, hospital, or educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, stable and predictable property tax rules for nonprofits enable both local governments and charitable organizations to plan effectively, foster collaboration, and ensure that resources are directed toward mission-driven community benefit rather than administrative or legal disputes; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have faced ambiguity in interpreting the extent to which nonprofit property qualifies for exemption, particularly in cases of partial use, incidental use, revenue generation, or leasing arrangements; and

WHEREAS, in Fairbanks the Fairbanks North Star Borough partially revoked the charitable property tax exemption of Victory Ministries' Camp Li-Wa after discovering portions of the property were being rented to the general public, leading to litigation and remand for more detailed factual findings; and

WHEREAS, in that same case the Supreme Court criticized the lack of clarity in the assessor's factual findings and jurisdictional process for appeal, highlighting the need for clearer statutory direction in tax exemption decisions; and

WHEREAS, in Kodiak, a Superior Court ruled in favor of the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA), exempting most of its holdings (clinic, wellness center, child advocacy center, and other buildings) from property tax, a decision currently under appeal, illustrating the unsettled nature of exemption law in Alaska and its potential statewide implications; and

WHEREAS, in Nome, a related dispute involves the Norton Sound Health Corporation (a tribal nonprofit health organization) over property tax exemption status, as the City of Nome maintained that certain properties were ineligible, and the issue is now before higher courts; and

WHEREAS, these Kodiak and Nome cases have drawn widespread municipal and tribal amicus support because their outcome may set precedent affecting municipalities' ability to enforce or challenge exemptions statewide; and

WHEREAS, the lack of statutory clarity has resulted in inconsistent application across jurisdictions, legal disputes, and challenges for both local governments and nonprofit organizations seeking to comply with the law; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League supports legislative changes that provide
2 municipalities with clear guidance, protect the integrity of the property tax base, and respect the
3 essential public service roles that nonprofits play in Alaska communities; and

4 **WHEREAS**, AML proposes clarifying amendments to AS 29.45.030, including:

- 5 • Defining charitable nonprofits as 501(c)(3) organizations as a first step in the determination;
- 6 • Enabling local governments to further define charitable activity in order to determine exempt
7 status consistent with purposes that align with advancing the public good and serving those
8 otherwise unable to afford services;
- 9 • Requiring spatial apportionment for properties partially used for non-exempt purposes;
- 10 • Allowing mission-related income generation (e.g., grants, donations, earned revenue) to
11 remain consistent with exempt status;
- 12 • Establishing rules for leased property based on the status of the lessee nonprofit;
- 13 • Maintaining exemption for properties under construction or reconstruction for exempt
14 purposes, with accountability measures; and
- 15 • Clarifying that incidental or vitally necessary uses remain exempt; and

16 **WHEREAS**, such clarifications will help ensure consistency, fairness, and transparency for both
17 municipalities and nonprofit organizations while preserving local taxing authority.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League recognizes the
19 importance of a clear, statewide definition of “exclusive charitable use” to ensure fair and
20 consistent application of exemptions, and encourages the State and local governments to work
21 collaboratively with the nonprofit sector, through the Foraker Group, to achieve this goal; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State
23 Legislature to adopt amendments to AS 29.45.030 that clarify nonprofit property tax exemption
24 standards consistent with AML’s position; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML supports statutory language ensuring that
26 exemptions are applied fairly, consistently, and in a manner that balances municipal fiscal needs
27 with recognition of the vital role of nonprofit organizations in Alaska communities, and that
28 hereby AML affirms the value of strong partnerships between local governments and nonprofits,
29 and acknowledges that stable, predictable tax rules benefit both sectors and the communities they
30 serve.

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-10

A resolution calling on DOT&PF to advance fair, transparent, and locally-driven programs and decisions

WHEREAS, AML supports competitive transportation programs that are fair, transparent, and data-informed, with public-facing documentation of criteria, scoring, and how projects are ranked and selected; AML further supports the role of area/regional planners to inject local knowledge early in evaluations; and

WHEREAS, robust local and regional engagement - including letters/resolutions of support, proactive technical assistance to rural applicants, and consultation through Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) - helps align project scopes with community plans and overcome capacity barriers in small jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, AML encourages DOT&PF to recognize and prioritize high-need and underserved areas (e.g., persistent-poverty, rural, and vulnerable road-user hot spots) through explicit scoring criteria and clear definitions tailored to Alaska's context; and

WHEREAS, clarity about the respective roles of the State and MPOs in suballocated programs, and MPO flexibility to apply locally appropriate evaluation criteria (consistent with federal requirements), strengthens collaboration and keeps decisions close to affected communities; and

WHEREAS, final selections made centrally should follow an objective framework, documenting any adjustments to preliminary scores and offering opportunities for outside input or observation to bolster confidence in outcomes; and

WHEREAS, clear maintenance & management (M&M) expectations, templates, and duration standards are essential so sponsors understand long-term responsibilities and can right-size commitments to capacity; and

WHEREAS, matching-funds policy should be transparent and equitable - acknowledging existing State policy on local match while utilizing BIL flexibilities (e.g., hardship/average-share provisions) and ROW credit tools to reduce barriers in disadvantaged and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, user-friendly application platforms ("Hub"), hands-on planner assistance, strong linkage to local plans, and treating guidance as a living document with debriefs and updates will improve accessibility and program quality across DOT&PF initiatives; and

WHEREAS, improvements should be sought across statewide transportation programs that include Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AML urges DOT&PF to extend the following program practices across statewide transportation programs (e.g., competitive or prioritization processes):

1. Ensure that project scoping discussed with local governments stays consistent, and if managed by DOT&PF ensures that MPOs and non-metropolitan local governments are coordinated with and have a role in decision-making.

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2. Ensure a transparent process for reprogramming STIP projects, where cost increases result in deprioritizing a project or require moving funds from one project to another, and include either public notice or some oversight tool to help in determination of final decision.
3. Publicly post program criteria, weighting, scoring rubrics, decision procedures, and post-award score summaries/debriefs to uphold a fair, transparent, and consistent process statewide.
4. Require (or encourage) local endorsement and consistency with adopted local/tribal plans; provide proactive rural TA during early concept phases; leverage RPOs and other regional bodies for outreach/advisory roles.
5. Add measurable “risk/need” scoring (persistent poverty, rurality, safety risk) and define Alaska-specific high-need criteria with municipal input.
6. Affirm MPO autonomy to adopt locally appropriate evaluation criteria within federal guardrails, with transparent Local Control Plans developed collaboratively and posted publicly.
7. Adopt an objective PEB-style framework (or equivalent) across programs: document any score adjustments to meet program goals, offer optional outside briefing/observation, and publish a rationale for the final slate.
8. Include AML or local government representative as part of PEB decision-making process.
9. Provide M&M templates, define duration/standards, and identify where State technical support can assist small sponsors.
10. State plainly when local match is required and how it’s calculated; apply BIL match flex (e.g., hardship or program-average provisions) for disadvantaged communities; promote ROW credit and eligible in-kind strategies.
11. Expand planner-assisted entries in the Funding Hub; weight “in local/tribal plans” in scoring; and treat guidebooks as living documents with post-cycle debriefs, accessibility (Section 508), and corrected links/citations.
12. Where local capacity is scarce, allow exceptions to any internal caps on State-sponsored projects so worthy projects aren’t left behind;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML will be a positive partner by: (a) offering training and technical assistance on the Funding Hub and program requirements; (b) helping DOT&PF define “high-need” criteria and hardship-match policies; (c) supporting RPO pilots and MPO coordination; and (d) convening post-cycle debriefs with members to inform continuous improvement.

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

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Resolution #2026-11

A resolution supporting facility maintenance workforce development to build Alaska's public-sector technician pipeline and reducing deferred maintenance

WHEREAS, Alaska faces a multi-billion-dollar backlog of deferred maintenance across public facilities, including an estimated \$2.4 billion at the State level (with the University of Alaska accounting for ~63% / \$1.5 billion), while local governments confront substantial, but under-documented, needs of their own; and deferred upkeep increases operating costs and risks service disruptions in clinics, utilities, schools, and critical public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the current public-sector facilities workforce is too small and aging - about 4,044 general maintenance and repair workers statewide (public + private) with modest projected growth and significant retirements ahead - leaving municipalities and tribes, especially in rural Alaska, struggling to recruit and retain qualified technicians; and

WHEREAS, rural communities often rely on a single generalist (or none) to maintain multiple systems, face high turnover, and must wait for itinerant crews - conditions that exacerbate deferred maintenance and increase long-term costs; and

WHEREAS, existing training is fragmented and unevenly accessible, with capacity limits and geographic barriers; while past efforts like the Rural Alaska Maintenance Partnership (RAMP) created statewide facility maintenance technician standards and curricula, the coalition ended when project funding lapsed, leaving a coordination gap despite strong foundations to build upon; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a recognized, statewide credential and a clear career ladder for Facility Maintenance Technicians (FMTs), combined with the absence of a comprehensive municipal facility-condition and maintenance-needs dataset, hinders workforce planning, funding prioritization, and targeted training investments; and

WHEREAS, proven models exist to emulate - e.g., circuit-rider support like the Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) program for water/sewer, successful regional trainings, and apprenticeship pathways - that can be adapted to building facilities with sustained coordination and investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor, Legislature, and State agencies (DCCED, DOLWD/AWIB, DEED, AEA, ADEC) to partner with AML, the University of Alaska, AVTEC, tribal and regional organizations, and federal funders to establish a Statewide Facility Maintenance Workforce Initiative with the following components:

1. Reconstitute "RAMP 2.0" under an institutional home - Convene a standing Facilities Maintenance Workforce Working Group to update and adopt the FMT standards, align curricula across providers, and coordinate delivery statewide.
2. Create a recognized FMT credential and registered apprenticeship - Establish a multi-level FMT certification (Level I-III) endorsed by AWIB and a Registered Apprenticeship template that municipalities and tribes can adopt, with wage progressions and reciprocity across employers.

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- 1 3. Expand regional and mobile training (“circuit-rider” model) - Fund itinerant instructors and
2 short, intensive modules (e.g., boilers, controls, electrical troubleshooting) delivered in hub
3 communities, paired with online theory and on-the-job mentoring.
- 4 4. Stand up a statewide public-facility data project - Conduct a Public Facilities Asset &
5 Condition Survey and maintain an “Infrastructure Health Index” for municipal and tribal
6 facilities to quantify backlog, guide workforce sizing, and target funds.
- 7 5. Incentivize hiring, training, and retention - Create a Maintenance Workforce Grant/Match for
8 municipal apprenticeships, tuition support/loan forgiveness for FMTs serving in Alaska
9 public roles, and authorize a small training set-aside in capital appropriations to build the
10 workforce that will maintain new assets.
- 11 6. Pilot regional shared-service maintenance teams - Launch regional maintenance teams
12 (borough/tribal consortia) to rotate through multiple communities, perform preventive
13 maintenance, and mentor local hires - modeled on RMW success.
- 14 7. Elevate asset management and preventive maintenance - Embed asset-management practices
15 and preventive maintenance policies in local governance and procurement, with templates,
16 training, and technical assistance for small communities; and
- 17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will convene partners for an annual Alaska Facilities
18 Maintenance Summit, maintain a resource hub for practitioners, and assist members in launching
19 apprenticeships and adopting the FMT credential - so that Alaska’s public infrastructure is
20 protected by a strong, locally rooted maintenance workforce.

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

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Resolution #2026-12

A resolution calling on Congress to restore & replace FEMA mitigation programs and speed up public assistance for Alaska communities

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipalities and boroughs face frequent, high-cost disasters across vast, roadless regions, and reliable federal programs for mitigation and recovery are essential to protect public health, safety, and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, FEMA's pause and transition away from the competitive BRIC program has disrupted the cadence of pre-disaster mitigation funding just as communities are planning resilience projects and updating hazard mitigation plans; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive federal reform under consideration (including the proposed FEMA Act of 2025) would modernize mitigation and recovery - e.g., formula-based pre-disaster mitigation with rural set-asides, faster estimate-based Public Assistance with obligation clocks, procurement parity for local governments, small-disaster block grants, environmental streamlining, and public dashboards - changes that are well-suited to Alaska if implemented with capacity support and Alaska-specific flexibility; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's smallest municipalities, Tribes, and unorganized communities require technical assistance, simplified applications, predictable timelines, and the ability to pool services (e.g., regional cost-estimating) to successfully access and administer federal disaster funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) urges Congress and the Administration to enact legislation and administrative actions that:

1. Reinstatement multi-year pre-disaster mitigation (as a successor to BRIC/HMGP) with a predictable annual formula, a meaningful rural/remote set-aside, a preserved Tribal set-aside, and a minimum 50% pass-through to local governments, paired with Direct Technical Assistance for small jurisdictions and streamlined, consolidated applications.
2. Speed up Public Assistance (PA) by codifying statutory obligation clocks (e.g., 90-day approval of certified estimates) and timely disbursement, authorizing advance/progress payments and management cost flexibility for small applicants, enabling direct grants to local governments (where capacity exists), maintaining an inflation adjustment, and recognizing procurement parity so Alaska municipalities can use their own procurement rules consistent with federal standards.
3. Activate small-disaster block grants for multi-community rural events, with state or designated intermediary administration, distribution plans that reference local hazard mitigation plans and capital programs, and an enhanced cost share for frontier states to reflect extreme logistics.
4. Invest in local capacity and planning by funding every Alaska community's hazard mitigation plan (or multi-jurisdictional regional plans) on an accelerated timeline; allowing longer plan cycles or phased updates for small communities; and explicitly making shared-service models eligible (e.g., regional engineering/estimating benches and grant administration pools) under PA/HMGP management costs.
5. Make mitigation incentives feasible for Alaska by implementing building-code incentives with functional-equivalency options and state/engineer attestations that reflect

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1 Arctic/permafrost conditions, so small communities without formal code enforcement can
2 still qualify for enhanced cost shares when they build to resilient standards.

- 3 6. Increase field presence and transparency by strengthening FEMA's Alaska Area Office
4 capacity, expanding technical assistance to rural communities, and maintaining public IA/PA
5 dashboards that show application status, obligations, disbursements, and reasons for delay;
6 and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State of Alaska (DHS&EM and partner agencies)
8 should pre-position implementation to take full advantage of federal reforms by: (a) organizing a
9 statewide pre-approved mitigation portfolio with at least one project per borough/census area to
10 unlock enhanced cost shares; (b) establishing on-call estimating teams and cooperative contracts
11 communities can use to meet estimate-based PA requirements; and (c) preparing a small-disaster
12 block grant playbook for rapid, equitable distributions in multi-village events; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that nothing in these reforms should shift costs or unfunded
14 mandates to municipalities, preempt local authority, or restrict local revenue tools; rather,
15 reforms should reduce complexity, speed reimbursements, and expand mitigation - particularly in
16 communities that lack the fiscal capacity to bridge federal delays; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will be a constructive intergovernmental partner by
18 coordinating member input on federal rulemaking, sharing model applications and procurement
19 templates, facilitating pooled technical resources (estimating, grant management), and tracking
20 dashboard performance to elevate bottlenecks affecting Alaska communities.

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

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Resolution #2026-13

A resolution urging the State to accelerate housing delivery with a state-local fast lane for infrastructure and modular approvals

WHEREAS, Alaska faces a persistent housing shortage that local governments experience daily through constrained supply, rising costs, and project delays tied to subdivision, utility, and site-readiness bottlenecks; and

WHEREAS, AML's Principles call for maximum local self-government, preservation of the local tax base, and State resources and technical assistance that enhance community capacity - standards that should guide any housing fast-lane approach; and

WHEREAS, AML policy further supports State actions that help municipalities access grants and remove barriers of cost, timing, match, and complexity, and to recognize and address aging transportation, energy, and water/sewer infrastructure that directly affect housing delivery; and

WHEREAS, recent legislative attention to housing underscores an urgent need to convert policy intent into near-term, on-the-ground delivery without preempting local plans, revenues, or public processes; and

WHEREAS, modular/pattern designs, predictable infrastructure financing, and coordinated State-local permitting can shorten timelines and lower costs while maintaining safety, environmental, and building-code compliance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) urges the Governor, Legislature, and relevant State agencies (DCCED, AHFC, DEC, DOT&PF, DOA) to adopt the following Housing "Fast-Lane" package:

1. One-Stop Permit Concierge (State-Local Fast Lane) - Establish a single navigator and consolidated application for subdivision, utility extensions, access/ROW, DEC approvals, and related reviews with parallel processing and published service-level timelines. Local comprehensive plans, zoning, and standards remain controlling; State assistance is additive, not preemptive.
2. Statewide Pre-Approved Modular "Pattern Book."- As a step toward reducing the costs of construction, consider pre-approving standard residential designs that meet Alaska snow, wind, seismic, and energy codes. Municipalities could opt in by resolution; local review could be focused on site-specific items (foundation/soils, utilities, flood/erosion, historic/design overlays). Target an expedited 15-30 day local check for pattern-book submittals.
3. Infrastructure Readiness Fund (IRF) - Authorize and capitalize an IRF to advance water/sewer, roads, sitework, and power/telecom that unlock buildable lots. Allow repayment from lot sales, PILOTs, tap/connection fees, and participation agreements, and enable braiding with federal formula/competitive funds to close gaps.
4. Public Developer Model - With Local Support - Enable a State or local public development entity (or interlocal authority) to assemble land, entitle, deliver horizontal infrastructure, and procure pattern-book units - paired with planning/PM technical assistance and start-up operating support for small communities. This shall not restrict municipal revenue tools and shall avoid cost-shifts to municipalities.

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- 1 5. Empower Local Housing Authorities - Incentivize municipalities to form local housing
2 authorities (or join regional/interlocal authorities) that complement AHFC and Tribal housing
3 - including shared procurement, compliance services, and project management - so that
4 delivery capacity exists statewide.
- 5 6. Guardrails: Respect for Local Government - The fast lane shall not preempt local planning,
6 zoning, design standards, or public involvement; shall not restrict municipal revenues
7 (property/sales/excise, impact/utility fees); and shall not impose unfunded mandates. All
8 environmental, safety, and building-code requirements remain in force.
- 9 7. Transparency & Accountability - Publish a public Housing Delivery Dashboard tracking
10 permit timelines, IRF deployments, units enabled, affordability outcomes, and geographic
11 equity; include annual debriefs to improve processes; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will support implementation by: (a) providing a
13 Housing Fast-Lane Toolkit (model resolutions, pattern-book adoption steps, IRF repayment
14 templates); (b) convening a Local Housing Authorities Cohort; and (c) offering training on
15 subdivision/utility sequencing, modular procurement, and grant/loan packaging - consistent with
16 AML's role to enhance municipal capacity.

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Resolution #2026-14

A resolution urging the Federal and State governments to mitigate the impact of federal cuts to public media, libraries, schools, rural health, and public assistance and calling for renewed Federal and State investment

WHEREAS, Alaska's communities rely on a fabric of federally supported services - public media, libraries, K-12 programs, rural health care, and public assistance - that are especially critical in a vast, high-cost, and largely roadless state; and

WHEREAS, Congress' 2025 rescission of major Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) funds has left Alaska stations facing layoffs, service reductions, or possible closure, with Alaska outlets publicly warning of severe impacts and launching emergency appeals; these stations are essential for emergency alerts and rural news; and

WHEREAS, federal library support through the IMLS "Grants to States" (LSTA) program provides core capacity to Alaska's library system; in FY2024 the Alaska State Library received \$1,276,792 in federal LSTA funds to advance access, literacy, and statewide services that reach rural and tribal libraries; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's community health centers served 110,513 patients in 2023 across 195 delivery sites - 96% located in rural areas - and depend primarily on federal grants and Medicaid to keep doors open in remote communities; and

WHEREAS, federal Impact Aid and related K-12 supports are significant in Alaska; recent reporting shows districts eligible for large awards (e.g., \$21 million in Lower Kuskokwim, \$17 million in Anchorage) within an Alaska total around \$119 million, underscoring the consequences of federal reductions or delays for school operations; and

WHEREAS, food security programs also constitute a substantial lifeline: in FY2024, SNAP supported ~68,700 Alaskans and brought an estimated \$250.8 million in benefits into the state economy - aid that is especially vital in rural areas with high food prices; and

WHEREAS, connectivity for schools and libraries depends on the federal E-Rate program and state coordination, which together help offset Alaska's extreme broadband costs and maintain educational access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) urges Congress and the Administration to:

1. Restore and/or sustain federal investments in public media (CPB), libraries (IMLS/LSTA), K-12 supports (Impact Aid, Title I, E-Rate), Head Start/Early Learning, rural health (HRSA/CHC grants, IHS), and core safety-net programs (SNAP/WIC), with stability and multi-year certainty.
2. Provide rural set-asides and Alaska-appropriate flexibilities to reflect high logistics costs, sparse infrastructure, and unique service delivery models (e.g., regional/tribal consortia).
3. Maintain timely obligation and disbursement for grants and benefits, with public dashboards and small-jurisdiction technical assistance so local governments can plan and avoid cash-flow crises.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the event of sustained federal disinvestment, the State of Alaska should enact a Community Services Stabilization Package that:

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1. Establishes a Public Media Bridge Fund to preserve emergency communications and rural news while federal CPB support is unresolved;
2. Provides LSTA-match and gap grants to keep statewide library services, interlibrary loan, and small-library operations whole;
3. Creates a Rural Health Continuity Fund to stabilize community health center operations during federal grant disruptions;
4. Shields schools from abrupt federal shortfalls (e.g., temporary Impact Aid backstops and broadband continuity for E-Rate-dependent connections);
5. Ensures food security continuity through targeted state supplements or logistics support if federal nutrition benefits are cut or delayed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these measures must respect municipal authority, avoid restricting local revenue tools, and not impose unfunded mandates; state assistance should flow in partnership with local governments, tribes, and regional organizations to reflect local plans and priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML will coordinate member input, compile Alaska-specific impact data across the above sectors, and advocate jointly with statewide partners so that every community - large, small, urban, rural, and remote - retains access to the essential services that underpin health, education, information, and civic life.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-16

A resolution calling on the Legislature to modernize Alaska's Public Employee Retirement System with local-option participation, State on-behalf contributions, and actuarial guardrails that protect municipalities

WHEREAS, AML's Principles and Policy Statements affirm that the State should fully fund services delivered locally on its behalf and oppose cost-shifting to municipalities, including opposing any shift of the State's on-behalf payment (over 22%) and calling for active reductions of PERS/TRS unfunded liabilities and eliminating termination study/late payment costs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Constitution establishes that membership in public retirement systems is a contractual relationship and that accrued benefits shall not be diminished or impaired, underscoring the need for clear guardrails when plan designs change; and

WHEREAS, the State has historically exercised sole administrative control over actuarial methods/assumptions and investments, and past blended accounting practices commingled employer contributions so one employer's actions affected others' liabilities; and

WHEREAS, between 1994–2006 these effects were compounded through RRA policies (transfers, reallocations, and rate setting), while municipalities paid what was required, contributing to today's legacy liabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 statutes were amended recognizing State responsibility for most unfunded pension/health liabilities, setting a 22% PERS employer cap (12.56% TRS) and State on-behalf payments above the cap, with a fixed 25-year amortization; and in 2014 the Legislature added \$1 billion and extended amortization to 2039; and

WHEREAS, the re-amortization increased total State funding for PERS/TRS by about \$2.73 billion through 2039 and increased other non-State employer funding by about \$2.529 billion, reinforcing the need to protect municipalities from added liabilities; and

WHEREAS, actuarial assumption changes (inflation $\approx 3.12\% \rightarrow 2.50\%$, total return $8.00\% \rightarrow 7.38\%$, payroll growth $3.62\% \rightarrow 2.75\%$), smoothing, and layered amortization, combined with a four-year lag between experience and changes, have mitigated volatility but also not been aggressive enough at increasing liabilities for all employers; and

WHEREAS, for example, in FY23 higher-than-assumed salaries produced an estimated \$94 million liability loss and larger-than-expected PRPAs added about \$366 million in liability; and

WHEREAS, current structures show full actuarial rates of roughly 27.67% for PERS ($\approx 22\%$ employer + 6.33% State) and 31.33% for TRS ($\approx 12.56\%$ employer + 18.77% State), underscoring the importance of preserving a clear on-behalf framework; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's employer mix is highly skewed - 77 smallest employers $\approx 1\%$ of payroll, 64 of 165 cities/boroughs participate - so a realistic offramp and risk management are essential for small and remote communities; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 salary floor produced about \$6 million in impacts across listed employers in FY21, illustrating how unresponsive the system is to changing dynamics of employers, which also has the perverse incentive to continue growth of payrolls and staffing; and

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

1 **WHEREAS**, delinquent employer balances in FY18–FY21 totaled \$26,596,459, and tools like
2 termination studies and 11–15% interest on past-due payments can trap communities as
3 “prisoners of PERS”; and

4 **WHEREAS**, other constraints - the salary floor, retiree-hiring limits that add liability, and
5 barriers to paying down debt - further restrict right-sizing and local flexibility; and

6 **WHEREAS**, proposals to add Social Security would add roughly +6% of payroll and affect 27
7 local governments, all school districts, the University, and housing authorities - impacts that must
8 be evaluated to avoid unintended employer and employee liabilities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, peer-state tools such as Oregon’s Employer Incentive Fund (25% match for side
10 accounts), rate pooling, member redirect, work-after-retirement flexibility, salary limit, and
11 district UAL funds demonstrate portable, guardrailed ways to manage UAL and stabilize rates.

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Municipal League urges the
13 Governor and Alaska Legislature to enact retirement legislation and administrative reforms that:

- 14 1. Provide a local-option path for municipalities and school districts to opt-in to participate in a
15 reformed defined-benefit or hybrid tier, paired with State on-behalf contributions so
16 employer rates do not create or increase municipal unfunded liabilities; avoid cost-shifting to
17 local governments.
- 18 2. Require prospective actuarial valuations before employer elections; adopt employer-rate
19 caps, automatic risk-sharing (employee rates/benefit accruals), closed-period amortization for
20 legacy UAL, and no retroactive benefit increases without identified funding, to decrease
21 overall PERS/TRS UAL and protect local budgets.
- 22 3. Preserve the State on-behalf payment and clarify that the State covers costs above the
23 municipal employer cap associated with any new tier, preventing municipal cost shifts.
- 24 4. Provide reciprocity, reasonable vesting, service-credit purchase options, DC→DB transfer
25 windows or default lifetime-income options within DC, and pooled administration that
26 reduces small-employer barriers; pair with technical assistance for Tier 4 employees.
- 27 5. Eliminate or reduce termination-study fees and late-payment penalties where actuarially
28 immaterial; standardize employer election timelines and templates.
- 29 6. Include with any retirement legislation a municipal implementation impact and fiscal note,
30 published prior to effective dates, so local governing bodies can make informed decisions;
31 and

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML will support members with model
33 ordinances/resolutions, peer learning, and testimony to advance these changes, ensuring that any
34 retirement reform strengthens recruitment and retention without adding municipal unfunded
35 liabilities.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-17

A resolution calling for a state-federal-local partnership for predictable, community-ready decisions to respect local authority while accelerating permitting

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council have entered into an agreement to coordinate FAST-41 implementation and accelerate, improve transparency of, and add predictability to major project reviews; and Alaska's municipalities - who plan, zone, permit, tax, provide utilities and emergency services, and bear near-term impacts - must be active partners in any fast-track approach; and

WHEREAS, AML - supported by the Denali Commission - has launched a Local Government Capacity, Resilience, and Community Development initiative (planning framework, governance report, and toolkit) that can be aligned with the State-Permitting Council effort to prepare municipalities for early, continuous, and effective engagement on FAST-41 projects; and

WHEREAS, the MOU framework and AML's initiative together create an opportunity to formalize municipal engagement protocols, capacity-building, and timely information sharing (e.g., FIN templates, Dashboard updates) so local planning processes are respected and communities can meaningfully shape siting, mitigation, and benefits; and

WHEREAS, proposals to shorten review timelines must not truncate or preempt municipal authorities or planning cycles (comprehensive plans, land use and platting, rights-of-way, ports/harbors, utilities, hazard mitigation, capital budgeting), and must provide resources so small jurisdictions can participate without unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, predictable schedules, scoped reviews, and early issue-spotting - paired with clear municipal points of contact, data sharing, and transparent milestone tracking - can both accelerate high-quality decisions and improve local outcomes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) urges the Governor, the Department of Natural Resources (OPMP), and the Federal Permitting Council to incorporate the following Local Partnership Principles into FAST-41 implementation and any similar accelerated processes:

1. Fast-track tools will recognize municipal home-rule and general-law powers and align with adopted comprehensive plans, zoning/platting, port and utility policies, hazard-mitigation and transportation plans, and local timelines for public notice and deliberation.
2. Establish a Municipal Engagement Protocol that begins before FIN submission and continues through NEPA/state permits, with clear comment windows aligned to municipal meeting calendars and a single municipal POC per community.
3. Maintain a project dashboard (state/federal) that posts schedules, milestones, data inventories, socioeconomic baselines, draft analyses, and response-to-comment matrices accessible to local governments.
4. Provide technical assistance and funding for small and rural municipalities to participate (staff time, travel, translation, independent review), and offer reasonable cost-recovery mechanisms when local staff support state/federal processes.
5. Require Local Impact & Benefits Statements addressing workforce housing, public safety/EMS, utilities capacity, transportation, subsistence/public access, and revenue/fiscal

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

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1 effects, with mitigation and monitoring commitments co-developed with the host
2 municipality.

- 3 6. Coordinate across projects and jurisdictions to manage cumulative effects and infrastructure
4 sequencing, using regional workgroups where appropriate; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML recommends the State and Permitting Council take
6 the following implementation steps in partnership with municipalities:

- 7 • Name AML as the municipal liaison under the MOU framework for outreach, schedule
8 coordination, and two-way information flow with member governments.
- 9 • Include AML in project-identification discussions so locally significant projects are surfaced
10 early for FAST-41 consideration.
- 11 • Co-develop a Local FAST-41 Plan that maps municipal decision points, model timelines,
12 engagement checklists, and standard conditions for common impact areas (traffic, housing,
13 utilities).
- 14 • Stand up a Municipal Technical Advisory Group to OPMP/PERMITS Council to review
15 schedules, flag local conflicts, and suggest mitigation/benefits commitments aligned with
16 local plans; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AML commits to being a positive partner by:

- 18 • Publishing a Permitting Readiness Toolkit (templates for resolutions, comment letters,
19 meeting calendars, local permitting checklists) and delivering training/webinars on FAST-41
20 and state permitting.
- 21 • Issuing plain-language briefs that translate Dashboard updates and key milestones for local
22 officials and the public.
- 23 • Supporting regional coordination among municipalities to synchronize schedules and share
24 technical resources.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-18

A resolution addressing local government access to affordable property insurance

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League (AML) represents the unified voice of Alaska's 165 cities, boroughs, and unified municipalities; and

WHEREAS, local governments across Alaska are required to maintain adequate property insurance coverage in order to responsibly manage public assets, protect taxpayer investment, and ensure continuity of critical services; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have few financial resources and limited tax bases, resulting in difficulty affording rising insurance premiums and deductibles; and

WHEREAS, insurance markets in Alaska are further strained by geographic isolation, a limited pool of insurers willing to underwrite rural municipal property, and increased risks associated with climate impacts, natural disasters, and aging infrastructure, which drive up costs; and

WHEREAS, timing of State of Alaska financial support, including Community Assistance payments, often occurs later in the fiscal year (September or October), while local governments are required to pay property insurance premiums in July, creating cash flow challenges; and

WHEREAS, this timing mismatch forces municipalities to choose between delaying critical payments, borrowing at unfavorable rates, or drawing down limited reserves; and

WHEREAS, smaller and rural communities, in particular, face disproportionate challenges, as they often lack access to affordable credit or local banking services, and cannot spread risk across a large base of taxable property; and

WHEREAS, ensuring timely, affordable access to property insurance is essential to the financial health, resilience, and stability of Alaska's municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the State of Alaska to explore solutions that support municipalities in meeting their property insurance obligations, including:

1. Establish a state-backed revolving loan fund, bridge loan program, or advance payment mechanism to provide municipalities access to Community Assistance funds earlier in the fiscal year, aligned with insurance premium deadlines.
2. Explore state guarantees to lower premiums, improve access to coverage, and provide more stability in the insurance market for local governments.
3. Provide targeted state financial assistance or grants for the smallest and most resource-limited municipalities to ensure no community is left uninsured due to affordability.
4. Pursue statutory or regulatory changes that allow municipalities to use state funding more flexibly or predictably for property insurance obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports collaboration between the State of Alaska, Public Entity Pools such as Alaska Public Risk Alliance, insurance providers, and municipalities to identify long-term strategies that ensure sustainable, affordable, and timely access to property insurance for all local governments in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

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- 1 2. Calls on USPS, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other relevant federal
2 agencies to avoid policy or operational changes that would reduce service levels, increase
3 costs disproportionately, or destabilize rural supply chains, and to consult with Alaska
4 local governments, carriers, shippers, and the State of Alaska prior to any proposed
5 adjustments affecting Bypass Mail.
- 6 3. Requests Congressional oversight and, as needed, clarifying legislation or report
7 language to sustain the program's statutory footing, ensure cost-effective contracting and
8 operations suited to Alaska's conditions, and provide budgetary support adequate to
9 maintain reliable, affordable delivery of essentials.
- 10 4. Supports data-driven transparency from USPS on Bypass Mail rates, volumes, costs, and
11 service performance, so that local governments and residents can understand and plan for
12 impacts.
- 13 5. Directs that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Alaska's Congressional Delegation,
14 the Postmaster General, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, and the Governor of
15 Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-19

A resolution in support of continued federal operation of Alaska's Bypass Mail Program

WHEREAS, AML's guiding policies and principles include to ensure equitable, reliable access to essential services for rural and remote communities; support federal programs that sustain Alaska's year-round community viability and economic development; promote cost-effective intergovernmental solutions that recognize Alaska's unique geography and logistics; and oppose federal actions that would reduce service, increase disparate costs, or destabilize rural supply chains without full consultation with Alaska stakeholders.

WHEREAS, Alaska's Bypass Mail is an Alaska-only classification of parcel post that allows palletized shipments from a single seller to a single recipient to travel directly by private air carriers to off-road communities, "bypassing" postal facilities—an arrangement designed to ensure basic goods reach rural Alaska at affordable rates; eligibility includes palletized, shrink-wrapped orders with a minimum weight of 1,000 pounds.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has recognized the Bypass Mail process in federal handbooks and contracting practices, reflecting that the program is integral to Alaska's logistics and not replicated elsewhere in the nation.

WHEREAS, independent analyses and USPS OIG reporting have long documented how the program moves bulk essentials directly to rural recipients via air carriers, functioning as a lifeline in roadless regions by reducing handling and keeping delivered prices lower than they would otherwise be.

WHEREAS, potential USPS operational or policy changes discussed in 2025 prompted concern that Alaska's Bypass Mail could face disruption or erosion, despite its unique statutory and practical role for rural communities; estimates put the USPS cost associated with the program at approximately \$133 million in 2022.

WHEREAS, in 2025 USPS signaled or implemented adjustments affecting packages and consolidators as part of broader network changes, adding uncertainty for shippers and communities dependent on Bypass Mail's continuity.

WHEREAS, multiple Alaska news outlets reported 2025 rate increases for Bypass Mail (on the order of ~9.4% in July 2025), with grocers and residents warning that higher transport costs directly raise food and household prices in rural Alaska.

WHEREAS, Bypass Mail underpins local commerce and quality of life across hundreds of communities off the road system, and its stability is essential to maintaining affordable access to food, medicine, and basic goods year-round.

WHEREAS, Congress has previously acted to structure and protect Alaska's rural mail and cargo framework (e.g., Rural Service Improvement Act and related statutory provisions) recognizing Alaska's unique transportation realities and need for dependable air service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AML:

1. Urges the United States Congress and the Administration to maintain and fully support the Alaska Bypass Mail program as a distinct, federally managed service essential to the health, safety, and economic well-being of Alaska's rural and remote communities.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-20

A resolution supporting full state funding for school bond debt reimbursement and addressing shortfalls impacting Alaska municipalities.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League (AML) recognizes the importance of State support for school bond debt reimbursement in maintaining affordable property taxes and ensuring adequate educational facilities across Alaska municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the State's commitment to reimburse existing school bond debt is essential for the fiscal stability of local governments and the well-being of Alaska's communities; and

WHEREAS, recent reductions in school bond debt reimbursement funding have resulted in significant budget shortfalls for municipalities, placing an increased financial burden on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature's increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) was not accompanied by corresponding support for school facility funding, further exacerbating the challenge for municipalities to meet educational infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, AML policy supports equitable and reliable State partnership in funding educational facilities, as outlined in the AML Position Statement on school funding and municipal fiscal health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and Legislature to:

1. Include full funding for existing school bond debt reimbursement in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 State budget;
2. Address shortfalls from FY 2026 to ensure municipalities are made whole; and
3. Maintain the State's commitment to school facility funding as a critical component of Alaska's educational and community infrastructure.

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-21

A resolution in support of raising the maximum available Harbor Facility Grants to \$7,500,000 annually for eligible projects.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 291 established the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program on July 1st, 2006 in which the total amount of grant money made available to a municipality was limited to not exceed \$5,000,000 in a fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant is the single most significant funding tool available to Alaskan Harbormaster to plan, maintain and recapitalize port and harbor infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, testimony from a legislator advocate stated “SB 291 would establish the municipal harbor facility grant fund to which the Legislature would make an annual appropriation from the watercraft fuel tax account and from the state portion of the fisheries business tax. Both sources come from the marine industry so harbor users would generate the revenue for the program”.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 291 was envisioned to cap the funds that can be used per community per year at \$5 million so that a large community couldn't take all the available funds in any given year. The expectation is that communities would establish, maintain, and run an enterprise fund into perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities continue to require substantial municipal financial investment to maintain and for capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, construction, shipping and mobilization costs to remote portions of Alaska have outpaced the national consumer price index since the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI calculator indicates that \$5M in July 2006 when the Senate Bill 291 was enacted would be inflated to \$7,511,000 as of July 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AML urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to amend AS 29.60.800 raising the maximum Harbor facility grant fund award to \$7,500,000 per eligible project.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ASSOCIATION HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-22

A resolution supporting full funding (\$18,186,535) for the Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 27 State Capital Budget.

WHEREAS, the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the harbor facilities in Alaska are ports of refuge for ocean going vessels, and serve as essential transportation hubs to coastal Alaskan communities for supplies, trade in goods and services and connections to the world market for our exports and imports; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

WHEREAS, in response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation in 2006, supported by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program (AS 29.60.800); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities utilizes a beneficial administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the Anchorage, Kake, Kodiak, Petersburg, Unalaska, and Wrangell have committed to contribute half of their project cost in local match funding for FY2027 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, completion of these harbor facility projects is dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, during the last seventeen years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded twice; and

WHEREAS, a survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ASSOCIATION HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

1 **WHEREAS**, given that Alaska is a maritime state and that our harbors are foundational to both
2 our way of life and the economy of this great State it is in the public's best interest to maintain
3 this critical infrastructure by using State, Local and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial
4 harbor moorage infrastructure statewide.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that AML urges full funding by the Governor and
6 the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the
7 FY 2027 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity
8 among Alaskan coastal communities.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ASSOCIATION HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION: BUSINESS MEETING ACTION:

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2026-23

A resolution requesting assistance from the Alaska Municipal League to Address Alaska Police Standards Council Recertification Requirements for Police Chiefs in Rural Alaska

WHEREAS, the City of King Cove (City) is seeking assistance from the Alaska Municipal League to help address the issue of Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) recertification requirements for Police Chiefs in rural Alaska;

WHEREAS, the City understands, respects, and supports the authority and responsibilities of APSC to certify qualified law enforcement personnel throughout Alaska;

WHEREAS, however, King Cove, like other small, rural Alaska cities have a difficult time recruiting and hiring qualified law enforcement personnel;

WHEREAS, King Cove was recently able to identify and hire a law enforcement officer (i.e. Policy Chief) with 35 years of law enforcement experience, including DEA service and international assignments, but our new Chief has not served in a standard patrol officer role within the past five years;

WHEREAS, because of this five-year “gap” in his law enforcement career as a patrol officer, current APSC criteria requires him to attend the traditional 16-week academy before recertification can be approved;

WHEREAS, King Cove, and other rural Alaska police departments lack sufficient resources and depth of personnel to cover for a Chief being absent for the 16-week recertification Academy; and,

WHEREAS, APSC may waive certain requirements for police chiefs and officers with equivalent out-of-state certification of federal experience, but the 5-year gap rule is currently a firm regulatory barrier.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the King Cove City Council respectfully requests AML’s assistance to help us address these issues and develop an advocacy with APSC regulatory revisions to: 1)expand recognition of federal service to assist I fulfilling current, or amended, APSC requirements; 2) codify rural/community Police Departments hardship waivers; and 3) provide some regulatory flexibility in resolving this issue;

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, the King Cove Council encourages more appointments to the APSC board that reflect real-time, rural municipal concerns on this matter of APSC certification criteria; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, the King Cove City Council hereby offers and directs our city’s administration to actively engage and participate in this process in any manner that can potentially result in the needed modifications to the current APSC regulations to help our city and other rural Alaska Police Departments.

SUBMITTED BY: CITY OF KING COVE COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:

BUSINESS MEETING ACTION: